

**State of Michigan
State Board of Education**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
AUTISM AWARENESS**

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education and the Michigan Department of Education are committed to educating all children and fostering all children's abilities to achieve their unique potential; and

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder represents a broad range of conditions that vary widely from mild to severe, and is characterized by unique social interactions, non-standard ways of learning, keen interests in specific subjects, inclination to routines, challenges in verbal and non-verbal communication, and particular ways of processing sensory information; and

WHEREAS, autism is four times more likely to occur in boys than in girls, and is reported to occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined that approximately 1 in 59 children is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, early intervention affords the best opportunity to support healthy development and deliver benefits across a lifespan to improve learning, communication and social skills, as well as underlying brain development; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 62/132 on December 18, 2007, to designate April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day, to be observed every year; and

WHEREAS, many organizations and foundations are working to create and promote opportunities for people with autism through advocacy, education, economic opportunities, and humanitarian efforts; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education recognizes that each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges and encourages autism awareness through educational efforts that seek to support people with autism and their families.

Adopted February 11, 2020