Preparation for transition is critical for individuals on the spectrum. Most individuals benefit from knowing what to expect when change occurs. When transitioning from one school year to the next, it is a good idea to prepare individuals, teachers, related service professionals, and support staff prior to the transition. When students arrive on the first day, classrooms and staff should be ready to seamlessly implement and continue successful programming and strategies. This need for preparation is also necessary for similar life transitions, such as starting a new job or moving to a new community.

Preparing Teachers

To prepare teachers, it is important to consider how much training and experience teaching staff has with ASD and whether teams exist within your school and district to support programming. Training on autism and evidence-based practices builds a foundation of knowledge. Individual-specific information gives teachers the ability to predict and respond to the needs of their new student.
☐ Provide Training
- Identify needs for evidence-based practice implementation
- Build Teams for support
- Consider building-wide needs
- Prepare all teachers, not just lead teacher/teacher of record

☐ Meet with Autism Leader/Consultant and Special Education Teacher
- Schedule a Transition Meeting
- Establish a regular touch point with team members
- Clear communication method between contacts (web, email, phone)

☐ Provide IEPs
- Share FBA/BIPs with staff for consistent implementation
- Include accommodations
- Remember medical training and emergency plans

☐ Share Student Information and Portfolios
- Complete All About Me Sheet (or similar)
- Include Assessment Data
- Save work samples
- Provide actual visual systems, tools, and photos used