

THE HOPEWELL REGIONAL PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

- The Hopewell Regional Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders serves students with autism through a program for preschool and elementary students. These students reside in Dinwiddie County, Hopewell City, Petersburg City, Prince George County, and Sussex County.
- While the Regional Program has been in place for more than ten years, discussions regarding a partnership with a private school (Faison School) began in 2006.
- The grant and locally-funded partnership have now been in place since the 2007-08 school year. The local school divisions provide funding for teachers, teacher assistants, and related services personnel. The grant funding covers the costs associated with the classroom consultants (including some materials and supplies) who are employed through the Faison School.
- Consultants provide support in the classroom by modeling and demonstrating both academic and behavioral intervention strategies for teachers, assistants, and related service personnel.
- Consultants provide additional professional development opportunities for staff and support for parents on Fridays.
- Program benefits:
 - Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders are educated with typically developing peers, to the extent appropriate, as determined by the IEP Committee.
 - Staff members are prepared to implement Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) in the classroom.
 - Staff members are prepared to assess students and maintain individualized data.
 - Parents can receive the training required to support the classroom methodology when the student is in the home environment.

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