



Autism Society of America's Guiding Principles

The ASTV follows the Autism Society of America's Guiding Principles, as these are the foundation of our beliefs, shared values, and guidelines on how we conduct our organization in pursuing its mission.

- We **provide services** without regard to a person's age, race, religion, sexualorientation, income level, gender and other disabilities or level of need on the autism spectrum.
- We provide families, professionals and individuals living with autism with **opportunities to participate** in our governance, on our committees, and as staff members.
- We **partner with others** to advance the well-being of all living with autism. We will collaborate with other organizations and agencies towards the mutual goal of assisting anyone affected by autism.
- We promote **individual choice** and **self-determination** of individuals living with autism, aided by parental and guardian advocacy, when such advocacy is appropriate.
- We recognize a person living with autism can and should be able to **maximize their quality of life** and oppose any denial of their opportunities.
- We **oppose any discrimination** and harm directed towards individuals living with autism and their families.
- We are **transparent, responsible and accountable** to those we serve, those who support us, and the general community in our **stewardship of funds**.
- We assure the **confidentiality of our services** – and adhere to required confidentiality laws and regulations pertaining to such services.
- We strive to ensure our programs, services, and decisions are **outcome-driven**.
- We **maintain independence** from political partisanship and commercial interests.
- We **support data and evidence-based analyses** of options informed by broad knowledge of education, research, medical, government, business and program experiences.
- We support an **options policy** and provide information on options so individuals can exercise **freedom of choice** in their decision-making.