



Autism and Tertiary Behavior Supports  
[www.ksdetasn.org](http://www.ksdetasn.org)

**Clinical Diagnosis of ASD vs. Educational Identification of Autism**

<b><i>Clinical Diagnosis of ASD</i></b>	<b><u>Educational Identification of Autism</u> (Eligibility)</b>
Based on set of criteria: DSM-5	Based on federal law and state law
Used in medical and private settings	Used ONLY in public schools-doesn't follow student after graduation/aging out
May be determined by an individual or team	Must be determined by a team

An educational identification of Autism is NOT the same as a *clinical diagnosis of ASD*. A *clinical diagnosis of ASD* does not automatically translate into eligibility for special education under the identification of Autism.

A *clinical diagnosis of ASD* allows the individual to access Home and Community Based Services (e.g., Autism Waiver, Adult Services through the local Community Developmental Disabilities Organization (CDDO)). In order to receive accommodations/modifications at the post-secondary level, an individual must identify themselves as a person with a disability to the correct department. A clinical diagnosis is REQUIRED in order to access these services.

An educational identification of Autism is one of 13 categories of disability for eligibility for special education. Each category of disability is defined in the Eligibility Indicators document at [www.KSDE.org](http://www.KSDE.org). Using Autism as an educational identification explains how best the individual learns. It goes away when the student graduates/ages out of services.

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