



## INDIANA UNIVERSITY

INDIANA INSTITUTE ON  
DISABILITY AND COMMUNITY

Dear Colleagues:

With recent leadership changes at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community (IIDC), I want to send a brief update about some of the recent shifts underway at the Institute, as it relates to autism services in schools.

The IIDC has a long-standing commitment to supporting schools, students with autism, and their families through its network of seven centers. By way of the Indiana Resource Center for Autism (IRCA), under former director Dr. Cathy Pratt's leadership, the IIDC has been fortunate to have several successful programs addressing the needs of these constituents, and we intend to continue offering these in the future. Programs such as the School Mental Health Initiative and intensive district autism support will shift to the Center on Lifelong Learning (CELL), under the leadership of director Dr. Sandi Cole. This will ensure the continuum of supports continues to be available to school systems.

The IIDC also recognizes the critical need to extend our reach, to ensure students with autism, their families, school systems, and professionals from all corners of the state have access to and can benefit from the educational and technical assistance resources of the IIDC. Under the direction of current director Dr. Rebecca Martínez, the IRCA has been charged with building out a comprehensive capacity-building and leadership program to skill up and support all schools across the state in implementing best practices in educating kids with autism. Over the upcoming months, IRCA will begin sharing and implementing a new school-based intervention. Over time, it is our intention to scale this up across the entire state.

We know the work you do in this state is challenging. By expanding the array of services aimed at supporting schools and professionals, our goal, like yours, is to improve educational outcomes for Hoosier students with autism. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you as we undergo this expansion. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Nord', is located below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Derek Nord  
Director, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community  
Indiana University