

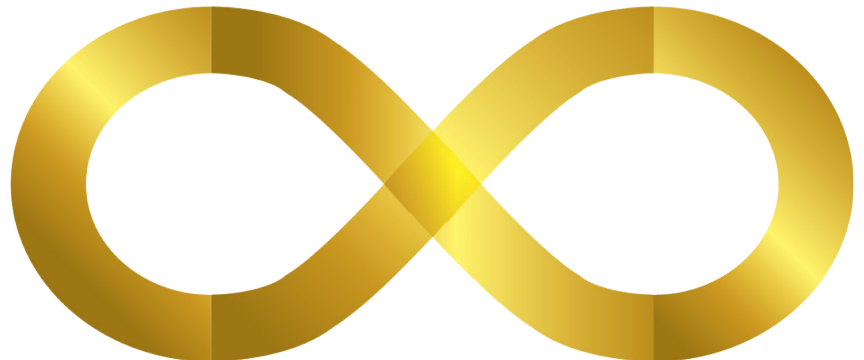


AFFIRMATION, INCLUSION, EMPOWERMENT, AND ACCOMMODATION

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

This **Autism Awareness** month, the SOESD Autism Department has moved beyond “awareness and acceptance” and toward “affirmation, inclusion, empowerment, and accommodation”. We are actively learning from Autistic individuals and aligning our practices with what they’ve taught us.

The gold infinity symbol was chosen by the autistic community because the first two letters of autism and autistic are “Au” which is the chemical symbol for gold. The infinity symbol represents infinite possibilities of personality, function, traits, challenges, skills, and potential.



We have created a Glossary of Neurodiversity Affirming Terms. In an effort to amplify Autistic voices, the majority of these resources were created or written by Autistic individuals. **Glossary of Neurodiversity Affirming Terms.**



A quick note about identity-affirming language. **We’re hearing from the majority of autistic adults that autism is a part of their identity** that they don’t need to be separated from. Join us in embracing the word Autistic to help reduce the stigma.



Want to know how you can be a fantastic, genuine, and helpful ally to the autistic community? Give this 12-minute **Podcast** a listen.



It’s hard to describe autism to people who aren’t autistic—Check out this tool to help you better understand how the brains of Autistic children and students are wired differently-**Show us your Brain.**