Autism Networks

EMORY AUTISM CENTER – MONARCH PROGRAM

What are Autism Networks?

Autism Networks have been established in different regions of the state to create local "autism experts" for school districts. The Monarch Program Staff provide frequent and ongoing training to Autism Network participants on practices, such as how to conduct classroom observations and provide effective feedback to teachers. More intensive training on evidence-based practices, case study discussion, and other collaborative activities occur during quarterly Autism Network meetings.

In addition to meetings, Autism Network participants also receive individualized coaching sessions directed by EAC Staff with each members' learning needs in mind. These sessions include co-observations and analysis of teachers' classrooms, district related case study discussions, and differentiation of content delivered within large group meetings.

Who can be part of an Autism Network?

- General and Special Education Teachers
- Speech and Language Pathologists
- Special Education Administration
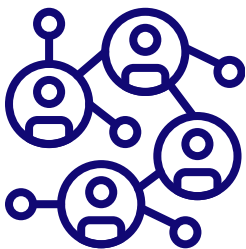- School Psychologists

Current Partnerships:

The Monarch Program has maintained partnerships with multiple school districts and Georgia Learning Regional Systems (GLRS) over the last several decades resulting in the formation of Autism Network cohorts. Currently for the 2023-24 school year, partners that have active Autism Network cohorts supported by Monarch Program Staff include:

East Central GLRS	South Central GLRS	South GLRS

How are Autism Networks structured?

A "train the trainer" approach is implemented to support Autism Network participants in sharing their autism-related expertise and knowledge within their school district.
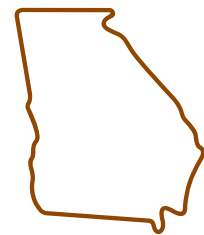
Year 1

1. ANPs gain experience co- observing in a colleague's classroom with Monarch Program Staff, thus allowing them to learn about how to analyze strengths and weaknesses of programming

2. ANPs become familiar with the EAC Classroom Checklists and how they can be used to identify strengths and weaknesses of programming in a classroom

3. ANPs learn about Monarch Program Staff's 4-step coaching/consultation model

Year 2

1. ANPs practice observations in classrooms

2. ANPs utilize EAC Classroom Checklists to support classroom observations and analyze programming with guidance from Monarch Program Staff

3. ANPs utilize Monarch Program Staff's 4-step coaching/consultation model with guidance from Monarch Program Staff
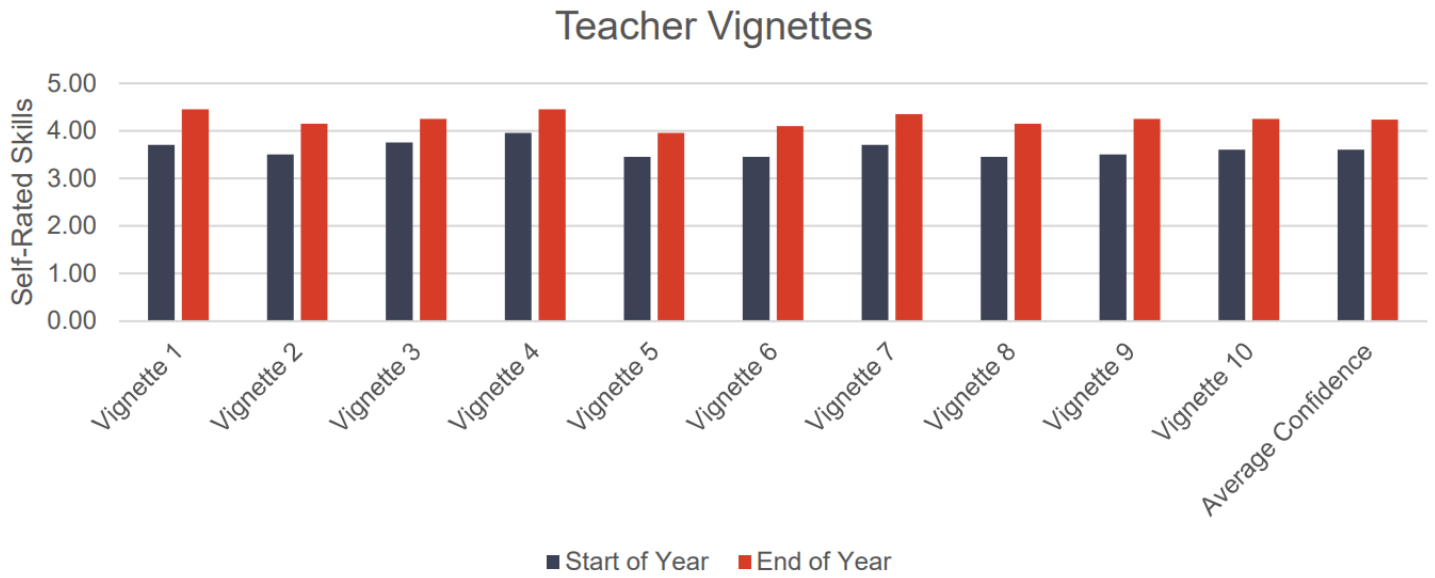
Year 3

1. Monarch Program Staff provide on-going district level support to ANPs as the ANP independently provides coaching to colleagues

2. ANPs disseminate knowledge gained from participation in the network through district wide professional development sessions and/or other projects
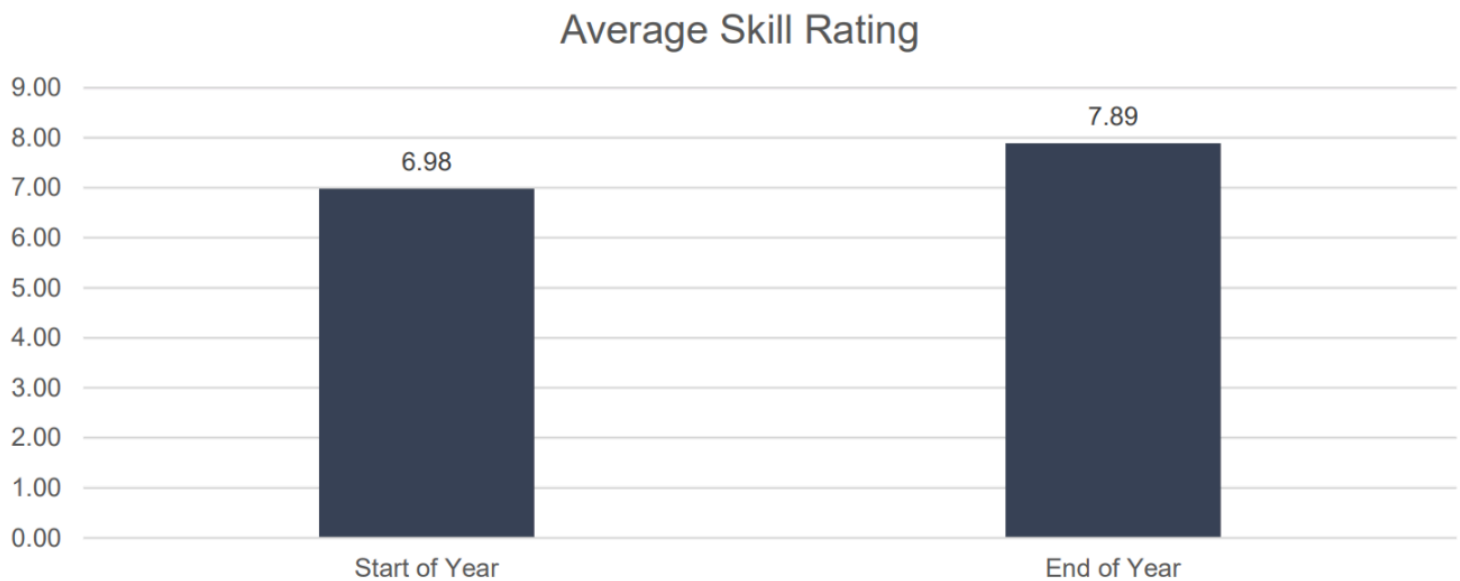
Evaluation:

The Autism Network participants are asked to complete a pre and post survey to collect data on their growth from receiving specialized training and on-going coaching support from the Emory Autism Center during each academic year. Below is an example of evaluation efforts that were done for the 2021-2022 academic year for one of our partnership locations.

The survey asked participants to rate their feelings consulting with a teacher given 10 various vignettes. Participants utilized a Likert scale with 1 indicating a lack of almost all skills and abilities needed and 5 indicating the participant possesses virtually all skills and abilities needed.

The survey also asked participants to rate their level of confidence regarding various practices and skills that may be used during the consultation process. Participants utilized a Likert scale with 1 indicating not at all confident and 10 being extremely confident.

For further questions contact Dr. Sally Delgado - sally.delgado@emory.edu