We studied how to best support educators who have students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in their classrooms to use practices that research has shown to be effective.

We developed MAAPS to provide support around the goals that educators and parents said were most important for students. Then research team members used collaborative coaching with educators to help them create plans that would address these important goals in the classroom.

Educators found MAAPS to be “easy to understand, feasible...useful and effective.” Students whose educators worked with the MAAPS program had better outcomes in terms of academic participation, social skills, and behaviors as compared to students whose educators did not use MAAPS.

It is important that students and educators have access to supports that let them address student needs on an individual basis. This project identified one possible way to make that happen.

Repeat this process with more students and educators to make sure it works with other groups. Find ways to sustain the coaching procedures without the need for research staff.

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