

Understanding strengths, needs, barriers and enablers to autistic students' success



Aim

To understand influences on autistic students' learning, wellbeing, and engagement at school.



What we did

An online survey, focusing on strengths, needs, barriers, and enablers.



Who took part

64

parents and caregivers

37

educators

33

allied health practitioners

“Overall, our findings highlight the importance of a strengths-based approach that acknowledges and harnesses the strengths and talents of autistic students.”



What we found

We heard that **student strengths** were linked to two key areas:



1. Personality traits
 - kindness
 - compassion.



2. Thinking and reasoning skills
 - creative problem-solving skills
 - passion and interest in school subjects.

The two key **student needs** described were:



1. Classroom supports and adjustments
2. Ensuring students' social needs were adequately met.

Enablers and barriers were raised across three key areas:



1. Understanding of autism
2. Supportive staff and peer relationships
3. Individualised support.

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What this means

It is important for parents and caregivers, educators, and allied health professionals to:

- understand autism
- foster supportive relationships at school
- use understanding of each students' strengths and needs to individualise supports to enable autistic students' educational success.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the autistic consultants and our autistic and autism community research partners for the collaboration that actioned, promoted, supported, and translated this research. Most importantly we would like to acknowledge and give thanks to the participants in the Removing Educational Barriers in Australian Schools (REBAS) empirical research – the parents, students, siblings, educators, and allied health who gave their time, trusted us with their valuable contributions and shared their stories with the researchers.



Who did the research



Find out more

This snapshot summarises part of the white paper, Removing Educational Barriers in Australian Schools. Download the white paper and executive summary on the Autism CRC website:

autismcrc.com.au/reports/REBAS

A video version of this summary is also available on the Autism CRC website:

autismcrc.com.au/video/REBAS

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