

## Why the Autism Independence Project?

The Autism Independence Project is a crucial step in providing autistic individuals with the resources they need to lead fulfilling and independent lives. This program aligns with the Special School District's mission to support student independence.

## About the Special Education Foundation

The Special Education Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to assist students with disabilities in St. Louis County in achieving success in ways not supported by tax dollars.

The Foundation aims to empower students with disabilities by giving them the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.

Today, SSD serves almost 22,000 students with disabilities in SSD schools and 22 district classrooms, **including approximately 16% of students (3,400+) who are on the autism spectrum.**



## Get In Touch

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### ENROLLING NOW

Scholarships available  
based on financial need &  
student benefit



### Increased Comfort at School

*"Previously, Jaedon preferred sitting outside the classroom. Now, he confidently joins his classmates and even responds to their questions. What a major milestone in his social development!" ~Aniecia, mother*



Special  
Education  
Foundation 

## AUTISM INDEPENDENCE PROJECT

Improving self-sufficiency &  
increasing social skills

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[www.sef-stl.org](http://www.sef-stl.org)

## Apply Today!

iSocial's remote group therapy model equips individuals with vital social skills, helping them form meaningful relationships and thrive in everyday interactions.

Through carefully designed workshops, iSocial fosters the development of communication and professional skills, enhancing their ability to succeed in educational, workplace, and community settings.

The Special Education Foundation is embracing neurodiversity by partnering with iSocial. The program encourages participants to take pride in their unique abilities, helping to build a more inclusive world where students with autism can lead independent, fulfilling lives.

## How it Works

### ● **Student Identification**

Students are identified by SSD educators based on their needs and interests. Students must have internet access and be capable of basic computer functions, with a strong foundation in verbal skills.

### ● **32 Sessions for 16 Weeks**

Led by licensed professionals, iSocial brings together cohorts of 6 students with similar needs. Students engage in fun and interactive workshops, fostering communication and social development.

### ● **Proven Results**

With support from 8 university studies, iSocial has demonstrated success in increasing communication skills, social motivation, and engagement. Participants experience measurable improvements in their ability to interact with others.



## A Father's Change of Heart

Kensley's father had long been skeptical about any program's ability to help his daughter.

***"For eight school years, he was always pessimistic," Kensley's mother recalled. "He would say things like, 'This won't work,' 'She can't improve,' or 'She won't change.'"***

Despite his doubts, everything changed after Kensley began iSocial. For the first time, her father acknowledged her progress:

***"I can really see the improvement in Kensley, and I'm very proud of what she's accomplished."***

For Kensley's mother, this was a profound moment, and it marked a turning point for their family.

