Autism is easily among the most misunderstood of all human conditions which poses daily challenges for educators and students alike. Have you ever asked, "Why do kids with autism do that?" The simple truth is students with Autism have several different behaviors that we, as educators, find difficult to understand because we cannot fully comprehend what it's like in the mind and body of someone on the spectrum. This highly informative webinar will focus on identifying the traits and characteristics of autism, development and implementation of proactive strategies to help manage sensory processing issues and meltdowns and the similarities and differences between same aged males and females with ASD.

**Presenter(s):**

**Donna Nielsen**, graduate of NEA ESP Leaders for Tomorrow, NEA ESP Conference Presenter, Training graduate of Hands In Autism (an affiliate of Indiana University and Riley's Children's Hospital), Certified School Bus Driver Trainer, Certified Grief Support Group Facilitator, Grandmother of an Autistic Grandson, Retired NEA and ISTA Board of Director and a Retired 30 year Professional School Bus Driver.

**Mickey Brady**, graduate of NEA ESP Leaders for Tomorrow, NEA ESP Conference presenter, 28 year Professional Bus Driver and Certified School Bus Driver Trainer, Training graduate of Hands in Autism (an affiliate of Indiana University and Riley's Children’s Hospital), Crisis Prevention Institute certified trainer in non-violent crisis intervention, certified True Colors trainer.
INTENDED AUDIENCE:
NEA affiliate leaders, staff, members and partners. All interested parties are welcome. You are encouraged to forward this invite to your partners, leaders and other team members.

FACILITATOR(S):
Lisa Connor, NEA Sr. Program/Policy Analyst
Jessica Brinkley, NEA Sr. Program/Policy Analyst

Questions? Contact Jessica Brinkley at jdbrinkley@nea.org.
For more ESP professional development opportunities visit www.nea.org/esppd.