ANNOUNCEMENT

Autism Awareness Restricted Account Distribution

General Description:

H.B. 327 Autism Awareness Support Special Group License Place authorizes an autism awareness support special group license place. This bill:

- Creates an Autism Awareness support special group license plate for programs that create or support autism awareness programs;
- Requires applicants for a new plate to make a $25 annual donation to the Autism Awareness Restricted Account;
- Creates the Autism Awareness Restricted Account;
- Requires the superintendent of public instruction to distribute funds in the Autism Awareness Restricted Account to certain organizations that provide programs that create or support autism awareness programs;
- Grants the State Board of Education rulemaking authority to make rules providing procedures for an organization to apply to receive a distribution; and
- Makes technical changes.

Due Dates:

March 15: Announcement of availability of funds. **2014 amount available: $10,000.**
June 5: Application due to Utah State Office of Education.
July 1: Distribution of funds to recipient.
June 30: Evaluation and final report due to USOE.

How the funds are to be used:

- Autism education and public awareness of programs and related services in the state.
- Enhance programs designed to serve individuals with autism.
- Provide support to caregivers providing services for individuals with autism.
- Pay for academic scholarships and research efforts in the area of autism spectrum disorder.
- Issuing or reordering autism Awareness Support Special Group License Plate decals.

Eligibility Criteria *(supporting documentation required):*

1. Organization qualifies as being tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
2. Organization promotes access to resources and responsible information for individuals of all ages who have, or are affected by, autism or related conditions.
3. Organization is an independent organization that has representation from state agencies and private providers serving individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families in the state; Included representation of (1) national and local autism advocacy groups, as available, (2) interested parents and professionals, (3) does not endorse any specific treatment, therapy, or intervention used for autism.