

This study looked at how children with autism in the Netherlands go to school since 2014, when a new law for inclusive education was introduced. This law encourages children with special educational needs, like autism, to go to regular schools. The researchers expected that more children with autism would go to regular schools. But surprisingly, the number of children with autism in regular schools slightly decreased. Boys and children with autism who have lower intelligence, other conditions, or behavior problems went more often to special schools. Younger children with lower intelligence more often moved from regular to special schools, while older children with higher intelligence more often moved from special to regular schools. The chance of moving from special to regular schools did not change much, but the chance of moving from regular to special schools was higher just after the law change and then went down. The new law for inclusive education has had little impact on where children with autism go to school. This means that improvements are still needed in the education system to make sure all children with autism are in a school where they can learn well and feel happy. It is important to keep evaluating and adjusting the education policy so children with autism get the right support and are in the right school. More attention is needed for the needs of these children and good cooperation between special and regular schools to provide a support network. This can help better understand what children with autism need for a successful time at school.