



## ASD Quick Facts

- 1 in 150 births(1)
- 1 to 1.5 million Americans(2)
- Fastest-growing developmental disability
- 10 - 17 % annual growth
- Growth comparison during the 1990s(3):
  - U.S. population increase: 13%
  - Disabilities increase: 16%
  - Autism increase: 172%
- \$90 billion annual cost(4)
- 90% of costs are in adult services(4)
- Cost of lifelong care can be reduced by 2/3 with early diagnosis and intervention(4)
- In 10 years, the annual cost will be \$200-400 billion(5)
  - Autism Society of America
- GIRLS VS. BOYS: Autism often strikes boys more often than girls – roughly four times more common in boys. Statistics being 1 in every 150 children that makes it 1 in every 41 males. -TACA

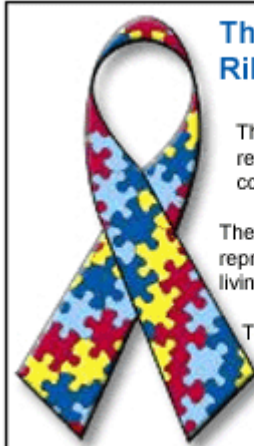


## HEART in the Making . . .

The Virginia Department of Education's T/TAC presented the opportunity to all school systems within the state to submit an application to participate in the Autism Train the Trainer Model.

Requirements for application:

- 5 member team including a special education teacher and a parent of a student with ASD
- Attend 6 days of intensive training on how to train others on information
- Related to research-based best practices for students with ASD
- Commitment to provide training, collaboration, and consultations to teachers, parents, administrators, support personnel.



### The Autism Awareness Ribbon:

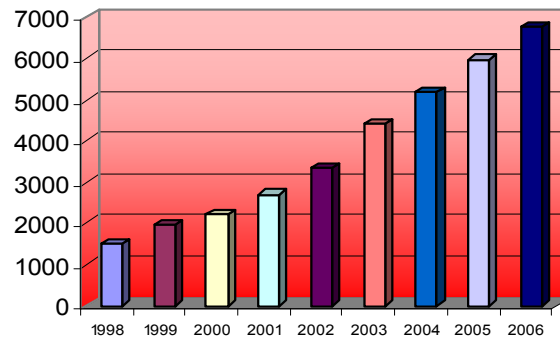
The puzzle pattern of this ribbon reflects the mystery and complexity of autism.

The different colours and shapes represent the diversity of those living with this disorder.

The brightness of the ribbon signals hope - hope through research and increasing awareness in people like you.

## Children Enrolled and Identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Virginia Public School Systems, Ages 3 to 22



**For general information, consultation or training requests:**

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**Visit us online at:**  
[www.wise.k12.va.us/sservices/heart](http://www.wise.k12.va.us/sservices/heart)



Wise County Public Schools'

**Helping Expand  
 Autism Awareness  
 Resource Team**



*This never ending  
 journey will take you  
 deep into new territories  
 of the heart."*

*Author Unknown*

## Defining Autism

Autism is a developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age three, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

## On the Spectrum . . .

### What does it mean to be "on the spectrum"?

Autism is a spectrum disorder, which means it manifests itself in many different forms. A diagnosis can range from mild to severe, and though children who have it (i.e. are on the spectrum) are likely to exhibit similar traits, they're also as individual as the colors of a rainbow, each one managing a grab bag of symptoms. While one child may rarely speak and have difficulty learning how to read and write, another can be so high-functioning he's able to attend classes in a mainstream school. Yet another child may be so sensitive to the feel of fabric that all tags must be cut off before he wears a piece of clothing, while his friend who's also autistic may not have any sensory issues at all.

# The Goal of HEART

The goal of HEART is to implement effective educational supports and programming for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders so that each student will learn at an individualized pace to maximize their potential.

We will provide education, encouragement and resources to those involved in the lives of these students in order to promote a caring, nurturing environment where flexibility and high expectations are maintained.



[www.wise.k12.va.us/sservices/heart/](http://www.wise.k12.va.us/sservices/heart/)



## Services

- Group presentations
- Faculty and Staff training
- School and parent consultations
- Resource library and web resources
- Share classroom strategies
- Provide support and encouragement

## Contact Information

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**For resource library materials, and support:**

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**"When you have worked with one child with Autism , you have worked with ONE child with Autism."**