

# **AUTISM & AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP FAST FACTS**

PROMOTING · EQUAL · ACCESS · TO · QUALITY · EDUCATIONAL · OPTIONS

## **FAST · FACTS · ABOUT · AUTISM**

- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are complex, lifelong, neurobiological disorders that involve impairments in communication, social, and behavior domains. These symptoms can range from very mild to severe.
- ASD includes three diagnoses: Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder- Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS).
- Up to 1 in 110 students in the United States is diagnosed with an ASD, the nation's fastest-growing serious development disability.
- Despite long waiting lists for diagnoses, the number of students in Ohio diagnosed with an ASD rose by 19% in the last year.
- ASD crosses all racial, ethnic, and social lines. It is four times more common in boys than girls.
- Characteristics of an ASD can be detected as early as 6 months old.
- There is no cure for an ASD.

## **EDUCATION-RELATED · IMPLICATIONS · (AUTISM · SOCIETY · OF · OHIO)**

- The measured intelligence of students with an ASD varies widely. Even students with a high IQ can still experience significant learning problems and benefit from accommodations in the classroom or in testing situations.
- The most difficult problems relate to the students' inability to recognize and respond to the behavior and communication of others. For example, students with an ASD may not see the "big picture" or recognize all of the cues in their environment.
- Delay in social skills, or anti-social behavior may be symptoms of an ASD.

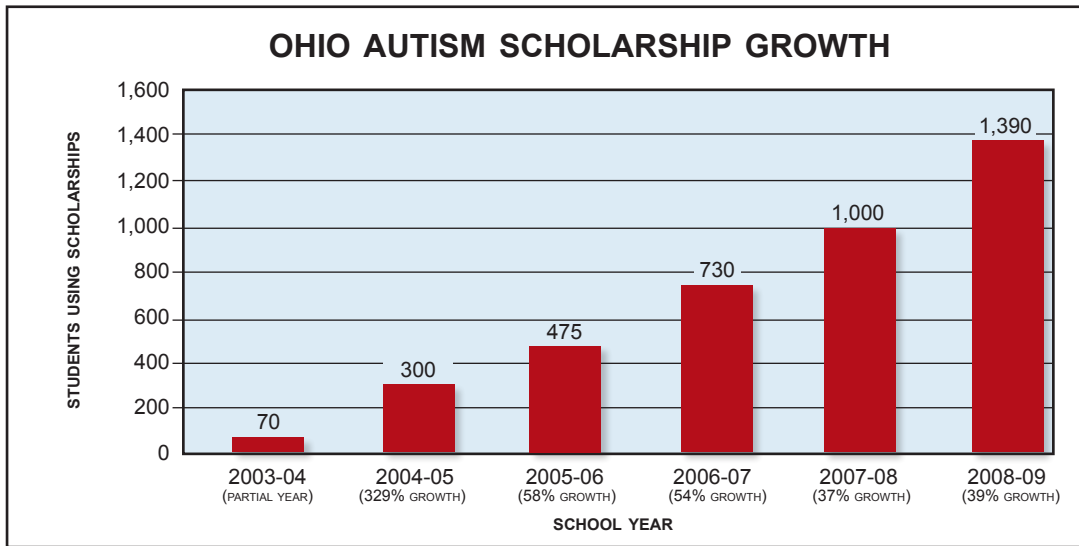
## **EDUCATIONAL · BEST · PRACTICES · FOR · STUDENTS · WITH · AUTISM**

- Early intervention is critical to gain maximum benefit from existing therapies and has a huge impact on a student's educational trajectory.
- There is no single treatment protocol for all children with an ASD, but most individuals respond best to highly-structured behavioral programs. (Autism Speaks)
- Individualized programs often include several components, such as speech therapy, social skill development, and behavioral therapy. No single option fills the needs of everyone with an ASD. (Autism Society of Ohio).

## **THE · OHIO · AUTISM · SCHOLARSHIP · AND · OUTCOMES · FOR · STUDENTS**

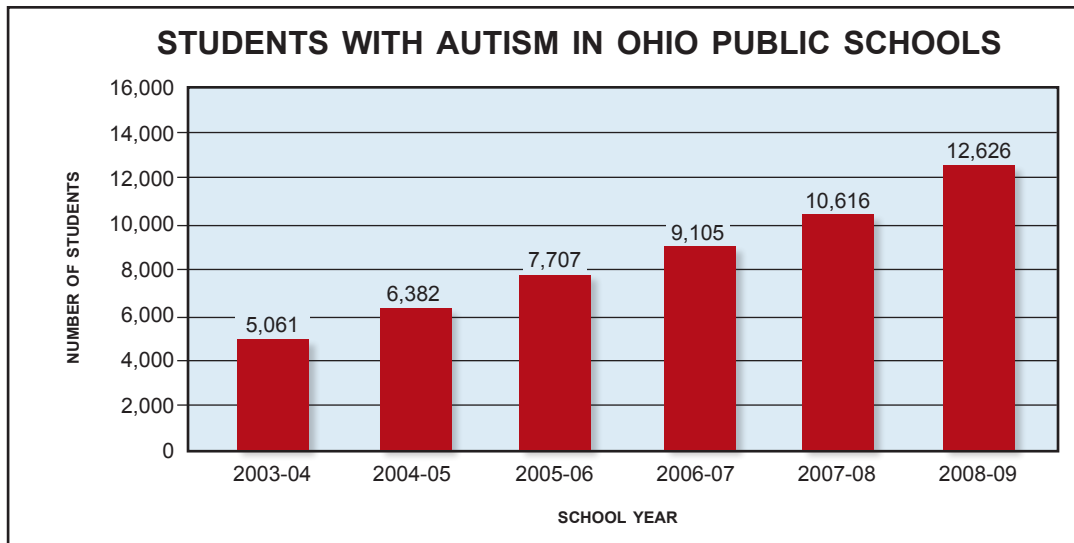
- Created in 2003 to address individual learning needs, preschool and school-age children diagnosed with ASD are eligible, which allows for critical early intervention.
- Allows parents to choose from more than 200 service providers and private schools to find the right program for their child.
- Worth up to \$20,000 per year, which is more than \$10,000 less than what public schools receive for students with an ASD.

1,390 • STUDENTS • USE • OHIO • AUTISM • SCHOLARSHIP



Data from the Ohio Department of Education

12,626 • STUDENT • WITH • AUTISM • ATTEND • OHIO • PUBLIC • SCHOOLS



Data from the Ohio Department of Education

STUDENTS WITH AUTISM	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
CHARTER SCHOOL	234	538	615	822	999	1,156
TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL	4,828	5,844	7,092	8,283	9,617	11,470
STATEWIDE TOTAL	5,062	6,382	7,707	9,105	10,616	12,626
PERCENT STATEWIDE GROWTH	27%	26%	21%	18%	17%	19%

Note on table: Until the 2008-09 school year, preschoolers with an ASD were not counted individually so precise counts were not available.



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