

Autism Fact Sheet - Middle & High School

“If you’ve met one person with autism, you’ve met one person with autism.”

– Dr. Stephen Shore, professor and self-advocate

- Autistic individuals have unique ways of communicating, interpreting language, and interacting with others.
- Every person with autism is different in what they like, what they are good at, how they learn, and the things that might be hard for them.
- The most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) indicates that 1 in 44 children in the United States are identified as being on the spectrum.
- Autism is seen in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Autism can look different across genders.
- The primary characteristics associated with autism include:
 - differences in social communication and interaction
 - restricted and/or repetitive patterns in behavior and interests
- The autism spectrum is not linear; an individual's support needs can occur in any combination and range in severity.
- Some people with autism use verbal language to communicate, and others do not. Just because someone uses alternative ways of communicating, doesn't mean they don't have things to say or share.
- Autistic people like to have friends and desire social interaction, they just may show that interest in a way that is different than their neurotypical peers.
- Things like bright lights and noises bother some kids with autism because their bodies and brains are more sensitive to processing sensory information.
- It is really important to celebrate and embrace neurodiversity - how can you help do this in the communities you interact and engage with?