

## VCU Autism Center of Excellence

Virginia Department of Education



1

## What is the Vision?

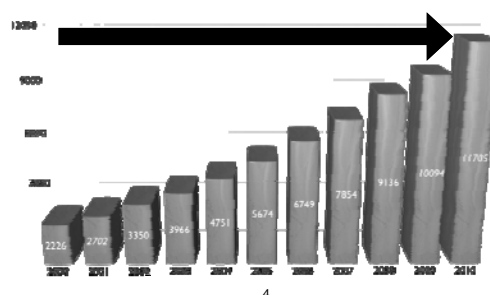
- \* Virginia will be a national leader in effectively preparing students with ASD to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve positive post school outcomes
- \* College ready
- \* Career ready
- \* Ability to self advocate
- \* Actively engaged and responsible citizens of their communities
- \* Independent to the maximum extent possible

## Why are you here?

- \* 1 in every 100 school age children are diagnosed with Autism
- \* 1 in every 66 boys are estimated to be diagnosed with Autism
- \* Autism can be accurately diagnosed in infants as early as 18 months
- \* Autism is now the 4th largest primary disability category on the Dec 1, 2010 child count
- \* Definitive research about early and intensive supports leading to improved outcomes

3

## ASD Child Count (2000-2010)



4

## Why are you here?

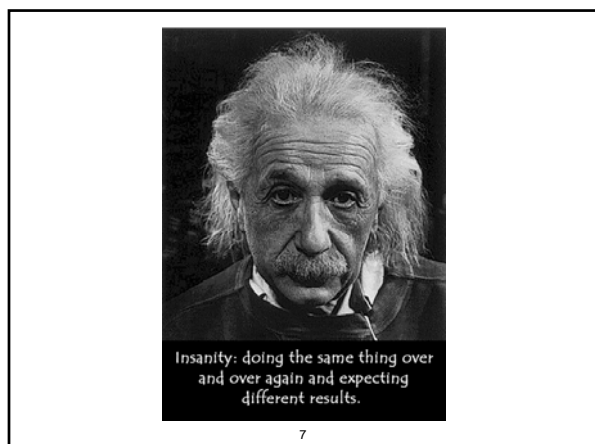
- \* More than 80% of adults with Autism between 18 and 30 still live at home (Easter Seals)
- \* There is an 81% unemployment rate among adults with Autism (CARD)
- \* 78% of families are unfamiliar with agencies that could help them (CARD)
- \* At least 500,000 children with Autism will become adults during the next decade, and they will need homes, jobs, friends and a future

5

## JLARC Report on Autism

- \* All 21 recommendations directly or indirectly involved VDOE
- \* 5 out of the 21 JLARC recommendations are directed at VDOE
  - \* Recommendation 6 - Early intervention
  - \* Recommendation 8 - Guidelines for schools
  - \* Recommendation 9 - Model Individualized Education Program and generalization of skills
  - \* Recommendation 10 - Transition guidelines
  - \* Recommendation 11 - Improve service delivery and build local capacity

6



7

## VDOE Commitment to Excellence

- \* 1.4 Million Dollars in Grant Funding - Annually
- \* Build local capacity
- \* Leverage our existing Technical Assistance structures
- \* Take a strong leadership role in enhancing collaborative partnership
- \* Study and commit to solve gaps in services
- \* Internal VDOE leadership for Autism

8

## VDOE Strategy

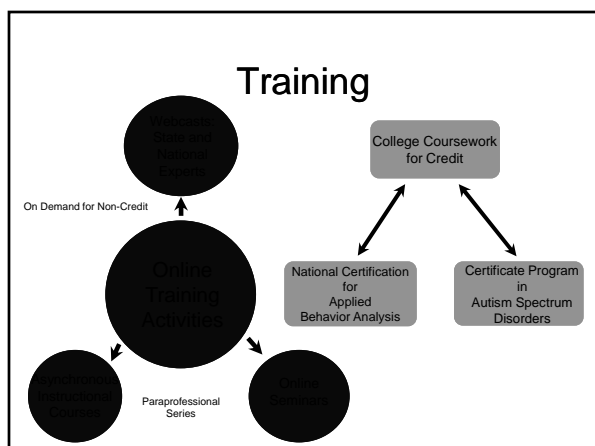
- \* Develop a PREMIER technical assistance, professional development and educational research center for Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Commonwealth of Virginia

9

## Technical Assistance Model

3 Year Cycle of Support

10



## So What is the Answer?

12

## Why Me?

- \* Each of you represents key stakeholders
  - \* Leadership Role
  - \* Variety of perspectives - home, school, community and service delivery systems
  - \* Strong beliefs on how and what type of supports should be provided
  - \* Public, private, and non private interests
- \* We can't fix the system without a strong coalition
- \* Doing the "same" will collapse the system at all levels
- \* We have a perfect storm - advocacy, legislation, and leadership

13

## What We Need from You

- \* Solutions to fix systemic gaps
- \* Ideas for collaboration
- \* Strategies for improved delivery of ACE services
- \* Help us reach out to other stakeholder groups
- \* Assist us to close the research to practice divide
- \* Help us in dissemination efforts

14