



## Fundraising Ideas for High School Teams

### **Bake Sale:**

Have everyone from your team bring in individually priced baked goods to sell. Choose a time and location where many students will be present, such as in a major hallway between classes or during lunch. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

### **Battle of the Bands:**

Round up a group of bands willing to play for charity and ask them to publicize it to all of their fans. Find an appropriate space at your school, or ask a local restaurant if they can host the event for you. Ask if they'll contribute a portion of food and beverage sales if you bring a lot of people into their establishment. Sell most of your tickets in advance so you can accurately plan for the event. Make advanced ticket sales slightly cheaper than your door price to entice people to purchase tickets early. Secure a local celebrity, radio personality, or student or faculty leader to serve as your emcee. Try to have a gift certificate or prize donated by a local business that you can give to the winning band. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

### **Bowl-a-Thon:**

A bowling fundraiser can be a really fun way to raise money for your team. Simply rent a group of lanes or the entire building from a bowling alley, and start soliciting teams. Before purchasing lanes, ask the bowling alley if they will donate some or all of the lanes to you. Charge an entry fee for participants and spectators. You can even set it up tournament style or have donated prizes awarded for most strikes, lowest score, or even most gutter balls! [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

### **CandyGrams:**

A CandyGram is candy bar or gift bag of candy with a note attached that you can sell to your fellow students. When students buy the CandyGrams, they write a note to the person they're buying it for, and the CandyGram is then delivered to that person during a designated time. It's a really fun way for people to give holiday gifts to their friends, and it can be a really easy way to fundraise for your team! [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

### **Carwash:**

Pick a busy location for your carwash such as a gas station or your high school parking lot. Make sure your location has exterior water access and that you have permission to use the space and water. Make signs to promote the event, gather your team members and supplies, and then you're ready to go! [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

### **Concessions at Local Events:**

This can be a day of fun for your team while earning donations at the same time! Contact your local sports teams, especially at the high school and college level, and get on their list of concession stand volunteers. You typically have to sign up far in advance because this is a popular fundraiser. Bring your team members and assign everyone to different tasks such as grilling burgers, making soft pretzels, handing out drinks, and being cashiers. After the game, your team will receive a certain percentage of the day's total. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

**Dance-A-Thon:**

Participants will pay for a night of dancing! The event can vary in length from 4 hours to a full 12 hours and should include a variety of music, performers, and food. Prizes can be awarded for best dancers or those who dance for the longest time. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

**Host a Sleepover Party for Younger Students:**

Host a sleepover party for elementary school students. This is a fairly inexpensive event because you can order pizza, make desserts, do makeovers, play games and watch movies. If parents know that your funds are benefiting autism, they will often be willing to pay more money than you think. You can do a backpack drop to advertise to parents and spread the word to others. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

**Jeans Day:**

Get school approval to host a jeans day or a casual day. Make sure to advertise the event by posting fliers on bulletin boards, sending out emails to students and teachers, or handing out fliers to students as they leave for the day before the actual event. On jeans day, ask teachers to collect the money from students who are dressed down. Recommended amounts are around \$2 or \$5, but check with your school before setting an amount.

**Odd Jobs for a Fee:**

Do you like to baby-sit, pet-sit, walk dogs, or do yard work? Advertise that your proceeds will be donated, and offer your services to your teachers, family members, and neighbors. You can do these odd jobs on your own or as a team. For example, your entire team could offer to do yard work for a family one morning. You will be amazed by how much people are willing to pay for your services if they know that it's benefiting autism.

**Pancake Breakfast:**

Prepare breakfast before the school day begins or host this event on a weekend if that's more convenient for your team. Make sure to advertise it to all students, faculty, staff, and their family and friends. Also promote your event in your community newsletter and place fliers at local sporting events and throughout your community. Make everyone aware that proceeds will benefit Autism Speaks, and charge each person a designated amount per meal. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

**Penny War:** This fundraiser is perfect for any school team! First, all participants need to divide into teams. A good way to divide into teams is by classroom or grade level. Each team should decorate and personalize their container. Participants should put pennies (positive points) in their own containers, while placing silver coins and paper money (negative points) in the competing teams' containers. There should be a set date for the end of the competition, and the team with the most positive points at the end wins. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

**Photo/Artwork Contest:**

This is a great way for aspiring photographers and artists to display and show off their work. Ask for submissions from your fellow students and set up their pictures like an art show. You can either make it a funny photo contest, or you can set it up where the most creative piece of art wins. In order to raise money, make it a juried art show, and everyone in the school can participate by voting. Place a jar, can, or box in front of each picture in which people can place coins or bills to vote for their favorites. Make sure to set up your contest in a major space such as a dining hall, a gathering space or a main hallway. Leave the display set up for at week or two until the contest is over. The winner will be the one with the most money in their jar at the end of the contest. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

**Puzzle Piece Campaign:**

Sell Autism Speaks puzzle pieces for \$1 and display them in a prominent location such as in the assembly hall, main hallway, or cafeteria. Turn this into a contest between classes or grade levels to see who can sell the most puzzle pieces around school. The winning group could then receive a small prize such as a pizza party during lunch hour. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

**Video Game Tournament:**

Have someone bring in a gaming system and set it up in a classroom during a free period. Wii Bowling tournaments are popular, as are Guitar Hero or Rockband tournaments. Each participant pays to play in the tournament (recommended donation is between \$5-\$10 depending on the ages of the participants). A tournament bracket should be created and participants will move forward in the tournament as they win each round. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

**Contact your local Autism Speaks office for step-by-step instructions about how to host each of the fundraisers or if you want materials to display at your event such as brochures and Walk Now for Autism Speaks banners.**