

When we fail to protect students and staff...



Monica from Burns pays the price.

“I started working with a student who was diagnosed with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and was on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This student was on the highest spectrum of TBI, with PTSD and a victim of sexual abuse, creating a complicated situation that my district had never dealt with before.

“He is a big kid, at 250 pounds and over 6 feet tall. I learned the hard way that saying NO would trigger him. When triggered he would step on my feet, kick at my shins, pinch, pull hair, spit, bite, punch and poke me with sharp pencils. He stepped and stomped on my feet so many times over the years that I have ingrown toenails on my big toes. Many times I was grabbed and

even sexually assaulted. I was put in headlocks so he could hug me, smell my hair and kiss it.

“He was always truly sorry after the incidents and felt badly about himself. He did not want to be like this. But the emotional and physical toll this has taken on me is immense. I still have nightmares. I also live with extreme guilt because after I left, the student hurt two other paraprofessionals so badly they both have permanent shoulder damage.”

- Monica McCanna
Special Education Assistant
Harney County School District

In a scientific survey of 1,988 educational employees from 106 Oregon school districts

63%

of staffers attacked by students suffered anxiety symptoms

A Member's Union
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WORK SHOULDN'T HURT