

To Lawmakers:

In the 12 years that I have worked in the school system first as a teaching assistant and later as a Para Professional I have been privileged to work with a variety of students, some with special needs.

The most dangerous student I worked with would attack people. She wasn't allowed out with the main student body. Do to a lack of communication skills it was difficult to understand why and thus when she would attack. I was given training at the beginning of the school year on how to defend myself if all else failed. This student did attack me at least three times. I was targeted by the student many more times and needed to break eye contact in order not to be attacked, the other Para Professional figured out about breaking eye contact. After the brief lessons on self defense at the beginning of the year, no refresher courses were held to keep what you learned fresh in your mind. This student required two adults at all times due to the unpredictability of her actions. She would hold you hand nice one moment the scratch or bite you the next.

Sincerely,

Para Professional

Baker School District