

Dear Lawmakers,

I have worked with disabled students for at least 15 of the 17 years in the Hermiston school district. In this time I have been bitten, scratched, head butted, lips split open, and thumb joint destroyed.

Years back I was working with a kindergarten student that would try to attack other students and had problems staying in her seat. I had been pulling this student out of class to a quiet work space to learn what was expected classroom work, and behavior for a few months. She was doing class work and was starting to interact with other classmates. When working at her table one morning she got upset grabbed a pair of scissors reached across the table and tried to stab another student. I grabbed her hand then removed her from the classroom. While out in the hallway she grabbed my left thumb and pulled it backward, while laughing. She was restrained with her attempting to hit, bite, and scratch. After calming her down we went to the special education room where we could talk about what happened and get her calmed down so that she would be able to ride the bus home. After she left I went to the doctor and found that she had torn the tendons and connective tissue in my left thumb first joint area. I have since had to have reconstructive surgery on the joint. I will never be able to use that thumb or joint again without pain.

I also now have nerve damage in the neck from a student head butting me. I live with pain and numbness because SAIF can't prove what is wrong with me.

Educational Assistant

Hermiston School Dist.