

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to share my experience with my kiddo who has an IEP and the lack of services for her and others like her on IEPs. During this educational year with the current situation of the state and country she was forced to do "distance learning". Her school did the best they could to help her with her goals HOWEVER, her goals aren't ones that can be met over a computer screen nor did she use all of her educational potential while sitting in front of a computer trying to learn to the best of her ability. She has an amazing teacher and school district but putting it simply: she didn't do as well then as she is now attending in person instruction. Her goals are being met and she is succeeding! Her teacher has told me the kid she saw online is NOT the same as the classroom version of her. She said she is blown away by the progress she has made in the classroom in face to face instruction.

This is just ONE example of how the current restrictions have affected and allowed my child to struggle educationally when it didn't need to happen. She missed over half a year to work on her educational goals as well as social/emotional.

The schools can only do so much and most genuinely do try to do the best they can but with kids who need more assistance-they have been forgotten and held back from reaching the fullest potential during this educational year with the covid19 situation due to the restrictions.

I am grateful for the ability for her to meet in person now and work on goals- but this has set her back and was unnecessary. I ask the committee and legislature to help prevent this from happening again so our most vulnerable students don't suffer and pay the price.

-Josey McKee