

This letter is in response to the denial from Lebanon school district to enroll my son in Baker Web Academy. We were dragged through the appeal process and after almost a month past our appeal, checking our emails daily denied and forced to start home schooling the best we can. We are searching for an education for him that suits his needs and the unique needs of our family. Baker Web Academy supports and accommodates an alternative education plan for our situation, which public school is unable to do. They provide and support the flex ability needs to do in house learning with a curriculum that doesn't require everyday online access and no matter where we are. We do have access to internet and are able to download work and meet with teachers, but to do so on a daily basis is a hardship rather than a benefit. We have a remote property that supports our family business. We spend a lot of time there during school hours. There is no access to online services at the property and we plan on frequently being there in the future. This makes public school options impossible. We also travel frequently which makes daily online schooling impractical. As regards to the zoom learning the teachers work really hard to do what they can, but we feel little is achieved in that time every day. He has tested 99th percentile in his reading and math but has a hard time being adequately challenged and loses interest as it is not at his personal pace with kids bouncing around on the screen, talking out of turn and the teachers using much of that time dealing with it to get back on task. He is a bright student and we want to push him academically as far as he wants to go. Baker Web Academy accommodates our schedule, desired curriculum, pace, and supports the opportunities available to my son for non classroom based learning experiences. This gives our family the ability to do what we need to do while delivering an enriching curriculum full of opportunities outside the public school system. Education is of high importance to our family and we want him to succeed. He has many opportunities outside of school to have incredible experiences because of our family situation. These experiences add to and enrich his education and I feel he shouldn't be denied based off of percentages. We also feel his chances at attending BWA are slim because of the 3% cap which is used up from Sand Ridge Charter school in linn county which uses up much if not all the 3% cap and leaves little to no room for families such as ours to give our kids a quality education that meets our needs. I also have a son going into kindergarten this coming year and wish to have them both enrolled. This cap is a growing issue that has greatly limited the already slim choices we have for a good education that meets our needs. As a father I feel obligated to spend the time and effort to make sure I give my boys all I can. Our circumstances have changed to where the public school system does not fit our needs as a family. We feel the BWA would be a great alternative for their education but have not been able to enroll because of the county and state limits. Schools like BWA are a growing much needed alternative for families such as ours and we hope it becomes more available in the immediate future so they don't miss out on the education they provide. Thank you for your time and consideration,
Tyson Richey