

Submitter: Alexy Parker  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB819

My daughter is 11 years old and has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder and Autism Spectrum Disorder. She has been attending Portland Public Schools since kindergarten. Currently, she is only allowed to attend her middle school for 2 hours a day once a week.

In the beginning of the 2022-23 school year she had this schedule by choice. She was receiving intense Applied Behavior Analysis therapy four days a week during school hours. Because private ABA therapists are not allowed in public schools, our family opted to have her initially attend school one day a week. We hoped she could start out with two hours and increase the time spent in school every week.

Due to an incident of violent behavior she her week was limited to two hours once a week with two attendees from the district special education office. When she is present in school she does not attend any classes. She spends time with the district attendees in a sensory room.

When she dropped a day of ABA therapy, we asked if she could attend more days of school and have a longer school days. This was denied due to the district not having enough staff to be with her for any additional hours.

After the violent incident the IEP team met and decided to place her in a private therapeutic school. This was at the end of October and we are still waiting for a spot to open. We are hopeful that this placement will happen soon but have been extremely worried about her education. She is very bright and has the potential to do the same kind of work as her general education peers but due to her set of unique disabilities she has an extremely hard time accessing an education.

Due to her amended schedule this year, staffing shortages last year, and distance learning the prior years, she has not had any speech therapy since spring of 2020 despite it being apart of her IEP. She had started making lots of progress in the beginning of 2020 but distance learning made increasingly hard to access an education. She was only ever able to attend virtually for 30 minutes a day. This left her without a formal education for the entire duration of distance learning. The district assures us that all speech therapy will be made up, that the time she lost due to covid will be made up and the time she lost this year will be made up but I am getting worried about how much can realistically made up at this point.

I hope this bill can address some of the difficulties my daughter has had in accessing

her education due to restricted schedule. Kids with behavior issues due to a disability need more support with their education not exclusionary practices. Years are slipping away and all action taken up to this point has moved at a snails pace. I feel like I cannot be patient anymore or my daughter will never be able to access a public education, which is her right.