



United Parents Educational Advocacy Impactful Stories and Quotes

1. IEP Assessment Support

An adoptive mother sought support for her elementary-aged daughter, who had experienced significant early childhood trauma and was struggling academically. Despite ongoing concerns, the school had been resistant to initiating an IEP assessment. The Educational Advocate (EA) supported the family by drafting a formal request for evaluation and advocating throughout the process. As a result, the student was promptly assessed, qualified for an IEP, and received comprehensive accommodations. The EA also attended the initial IEP meeting to ensure the student's needs were fully recognized and appropriately supported.

2. Credit Recovery & Graduation Pathway

The EA collaborated with school counselors on behalf of three students to secure placement in a credit reduction program. This adjustment reduced their required graduation credits from 220 to 130, creating a realistic and achievable path to graduation. With this support in place, the students felt renewed motivation to engage in school, knowing that graduation was attainable and within reach.

3. School Enrollment & Access to Services

The EA assisted a parent in enrolling his son into high school after the student had gone without formal education for over seven years due to working with family after immigrating

from Mexico. After going on juvenile probation for breaking the law, the minor was now required to enroll in school, the process was complex and sensitive (due to the family being undocumented). The EA provided translation, advocacy, and reassurance throughout the enrollment process, addressing concerns related to safety and documentation. Additionally, the EA successfully helped the student enroll in Medi-Cal, allowing him to receive required vaccinations and begin school. This support opened the door to consistent education and essential services for the student.

4. Rapid School Re-Enrollment

The EA supported two students who had been out of school for more than a year by coordinating Student Services appointments across two districts and actively advocating on their behalf. Through this coordinated effort, both students were successfully enrolled and able to return to school within two weeks of referral, ensuring minimal disruption and a timely return to their education.

5. IEP Reassessment & Therapeutic Placement

A father sought assistance for his son, who had experienced a traumatic brain injury and was struggling with substance use and negative peer influences. The EA drafted a request for reassessment to explore additional accommodations and more appropriate placement. Through advocacy, the student was transferred to Casa Pacifica, a more structured and supportive environment where he initially showed strong progress. When the student's needs later exceeded what that placement could provide, the EA facilitated a transfer to Passageways and secured district agreement for a residential assessment. These steps

ensured the student received increasingly specialized support aligned with his evolving needs.

6. IEP Advocacy & School Stability

An aunt and educational rights holder expressed concern that her nephew was being unfairly targeted at his school, particularly by one staff member. During an IEP meeting, the school proposed transferring the student following an incident involving verbal outbursts while his peer was being assaulted. The EA advocated strongly on the student's behalf, highlighting the lack of sufficient grounds for a placement change and how close the youth was to graduating (minor is on track for early graduation). As a result, the student was able to remain at his current school, maintaining stability and continuity in his education.

7. Advocacy During Disciplinary Review

A mother requested support after her son was suspended and facing a potential placement change. The student had endured ongoing bullying and had demonstrated significant growth by managing conflicts appropriately and seeking adult support. When an incident escalated into the youth physically pushing his bully, the EA advocated for the student by presenting evidence of his progress, improved behavior, and academic success. With graduation approaching, the EA emphasized that a placement change would jeopardize the student's continued success. As a result, the school recognized the student's growth and the importance of maintaining his current placement.

8. Quotes:

“I’m so thankful for your services, before you were in the picture, the school was not taking me seriously” – anonymous parent

“I do not know what I would have done without your help” – anonymous parent

“I am sorry I lost my temper in the meeting, but thank you for having child’s best interest and advocating for him when I was too mad to” – parent