



Springfield Public Schools

Every Student a Graduate Prepared for a Bright and Successful Future

**Springfield
High School**
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District Hardship Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of Lucas Wilson being granted a transfer hardship for this upcoming year. Lucas has been at Springfield High School since his freshman year. I have developed a very good relationship with Lucas during this time. We have spent many days talking and working through some of his struggles.

Lucas came to me and expressed his struggles here at Springfield High School at the mid way point of his freshmen year. He was struggling to fit in and feel comfortable around his peers. We talked and agreed in March of his 9th grade year that he would continue to try and make it work. The days became more often than not, he would come into my office crying and very emotional about his struggles here at Springfield. I spent days and hours talking with Lucas about what was going on and how I could help him with all this. He expressed to me that he was feeling somewhat harassed because there were a couple kids making comments to him and a close friend of his about being gay. He said on a few different occasions these kids would call him gay or make reference to the fact that he and his friend were gay. Lucas has had a decline in his grades and attendance over the last 9 months. He came to Springfield High School as a stellar student with high grades. His grades and attendance are average at best.

I feel like a change to Churchill will be a good thing for Lucas. He has given it 2 years to make it work here to no avail. Although I will hate to lose Lucas from Springfield High School, I do believe it is in his best interest as a student and young man to get a fresh start and be at a school where he can be harassment free. I feel like we at Springfield High School have done what we could possibly do to help him but it is very difficult to change a way a kid feels. The bottom line is, if a kid feels like he is being harassed and does not feel comfortable at the school he is in, we have the responsibility to help that student I am in full support of Lucas transferring to Churchill High School. I am also in support of Lucas being able to play the sport he loves, basketball. If you have any further questions for me please feel free to contact me at 541-915-9488. Thank you!!

Audrea Shelley
Athletic Director
Springfield High School