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To whom it may concern,

Anthony Houk is a sophomore at North Valley High School, and one of my students on an IEP under A Specific Learning Disability. He started off his 9th grade year passing all his classes and being very successful. However, he struggled the second term of school. We had several meetings with family and discovered that Anthony was struggling emotionally on several different levels. At this point in his life he struggled with staying focused at school and motivated to continue to earn passing grades. At one point last year Anthony was physically hurting himself, interventions were put into place, however, academically Anthony could not recover.

2015-2016 school year has started out very well for Anthony. He is more engaged in his classes and is asking for help when needed. He is currently making progress towards his current IEP goals and graduation. Anthony's current progress report shows him passing 4 classes and incompletes in three classes. Three Rivers School District uses proficiency based grading; a student could have a high percentage one day, not pass an assessment the next and end up with an incomplete. A students' progress report does not indicate a true snapshot of a student's effort or achievement. This is especially true for a student with a learning disability. In World History he only needs to make up an assessment to be passing the class with a B. In his English class he needs to make up a speech outline and speech that he missed from being out due to an illness. The one class he does need to engage in more is Digital Photography, currently he is in the process of taking the photo's needed to complete the assignments in class an increase his grade to passing.

It appears that things at home have become more stable and Anthony is no longer physically hurting himself. Sports will be a good outlet for Anthony to cope with his stress. Last year while he was part of the swim team he did much better in the school setting and passed all 7 of his classes with C's or better. I would highly recommend that Anthony be able to participate in sports. He is a very nice young man who deserves the opportunity to overcome his struggles from the previous school year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Vickie Nigh
Special Education Teacher
North Valley High School