

11/18/2015

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Doug Miles and I am a counselor at Marshfield High School. I have been asked to write a letter supporting one of my students, Malio Favalora. Malio is a senior at Marshfield High School. He moved to our district in the 8th grade. Malio is a very quiet, shy student. He struggles to ask for help in classes and has very high anxiety issues. Because of these issues, school has been a constant struggle for him. However, he has managed to overcome these issues and stay on track to graduate.

Malio's home life changed dramatically during his junior year. His sister (15 year old) became pregnant. Malio is very close to his sister as they have both been survivors in a rough home situation. The pregnancy had a lot of complications. She was put on bed rest during the entire pregnancy. Malio was continually told that it was likely that either his sister or his future nephew would not make it. Malio had an extremely difficult time focusing in class. His attendance was OK, but his ability to function and maintain passing grades was severely hampered.

Fortunately for everyone involved, the pregnancy was successful and Malio had a new nephew. Shortly after the birth, the baby was diagnosed with plagiocephaly. This was a very scary time for everyone involved. Malio's sister, his nephew and mom were forced to spend a lot of time at Dornbechers. The baby is now wearing a helmet at all times to help form the skull. Malio has expressed to me that this was a very hard situation for him. Malio felt like he was helpless and failing at being the protector of his household.

The time that I was most concerned about Malio was during December when he was involved in a car accident. He hit an inebriated women that was crossing the street. She shattered his windshield as she rolled across his hood. Malio went into shock. He came and saw me after a week and he was still struggling to sleep. He was waking up at night in tears. I was very concerned about him.

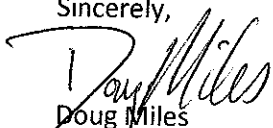
In addition to all of this, Malio's mom and step dad separated during this time. All of these things came at a time when Malio was needing to focus in class. He was having depression and anxiety issues that made it extremely difficult to do anything in the classroom. With no one at home and no support system in place, Malio struggled and failed. He failed two core classes during the winter and spring terms and had to drop his math class in the spring. Because of this he was no longer on track to graduate.

When things began to return to normal in his household, Malio attacked a credit recovery program. He did a great job getting things done. He completed his last class a few weeks after school started. Malio still struggles and has to work hard in school, but he is able to fight through his issues and is doing Ok in his classes right now.

I am writing this letter to request a hardship waiver for Malio. I know that basketball is very important to him and is one of the few things that keeps him going in school.

Please let me know if there are any other questions that I can answer.

Sincerely,



Doug Miles
Counselor

Marshfield High School