

Dear Senator Terri Bonoff and Representative Bud Nornes,

I am writing about the impact which concurrent enrollment had on our daughter. We adopted her at the age of seven. She came to this country from India speaking only Tamil. We placed her in first grade, even though she would be almost two years ahead of her peers. We had no choice as she had never been in school.

By the time she was a Senior, she was 19 years old and her freshman year at college turned 20. I worked closely with her on all of her academics and although she was successful, she was not ready to go off into the world and make decisions independently any sooner than she did. In other words, going post-secondary was not an option as we needed to continue to develop her leadership skills and her personal choices once she was independent of us. Having been adopted at age seven, there were identity issues and we did not want to thrust her into the world at large any sooner than we had to.

Concurrent enrollment allowed her to graduate with 21 college credits. It placed her in a position to put with her major of Elementary Education, two minors. She will graduate in 2017 with a Character and Leadership minor and is also working towards her Art minor as well. She will be on track to achieve both minors and her major in a four year span.

Her concurrent enrollment allowed her to stay at her high school, complete the sports programs she was involved with, and she helped establish this program for other High School students. It is a program called iMPACT. (Individuals Making Positive Actions Count Today.) She has brought to the table what she learned in High School to the college campus with her Character and Leadership minor as well as put it to use as she was able to travel to an orphanage in Costa Rica and do outreach this past summer.

I believe that her ability to take concurrent enrollment classes put her on a trajectory which is allowing her to succeed. We need strong leaders to stay in the High School through graduation so the students here have the role models to look up to. As well, those same students should have the opportunity to earn college credit which may help them to do some exploring in various carrier choices once they do go to college.

What those 21 credits meant to her was that she could be successful when all of the data shows you that you need your vocabulary developed in fluent reading early in life. This young lady did not get that, and with guidance from her instructors in the High School, she was able to succeed well beyond that of what we could have ever hoped for.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for allowing us to express our world which was broadened through concurrent enrollment.

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