

To whom it may concern:

Hi, my name is Julia Hendrickson. In December, I was expelled from Spring-ford High School for the possession of a prescription not belonging to me. I have always been a strong student, who was well-behaved and received good grades. When I got expelled, the only school option I was given was Tri-County Academy Alternative School. Due to this placement, it has stopped my academic growth. I do not believe that one mistake should make me pay for a year of academic quality.

When I first started attending Tri-County Alternative School, I quickly noticed how poor of an environment it was for students who had a desire to learn. Not many of the teachers actually taught full lessons at Tri-County. My normal day consists of watching a movie in Science, doing online math work in Math, completing spelling words and a word search in English, taking notes in history, drawing patterns in art, and then going to the gym where we walk around and do whatever we want. We never have homework. Prior to being placed in this school, my normal day consisted of honors math and reading Greek literature. I have been attending Tri-County for about four months and so far I have learned pretty much nothing.

In the rare event that a teacher does decide to take the time to teach a full lesson, over half of the class time is lost due to disruptions from other students in the class. Daily, the students here get into fights, and I do not believe it is a safe environment to be in. The teachers are taught how to break up fights and restrain students.

The school schedule is also a concern. There is also at least one half-day of school each week which limits class time even more.

In order to change my academic path, I asked my principal at Tri-County if I could have more class work to do or transfer to harder classes. She said she would arrange that for me. A couple weeks later there was still no result. My guardian called my principal from back at Spring-ford High School, to inform him of this and he said he would make a call to ask for more work for me to do. When my principal at Tri-County received this phone call, she said that she would get me more work. Now, a few more weeks have gone by and she still has not given me more work or changed my schedule.

The other day, representatives, from all of the public schools that use Tri-County Alternative School for there students who get expelled, paid a visit to look at the environment and see if they wanted to continue using that school. Tri-County knew of this visit two weeks

ahead of time, so for those two weeks the students did nothing but repaint all the walls and rearrange the furniture to make the school look nice. When the representatives arrived some of the teachers even staged the classrooms to make it look like they were actually teaching when they really were not. That day the students were bribed with a pizza party for all the students who were well-behaved for that day. After that day was over, everything went back to normal with the teaching, or lack there of, and the poor-behavior of the students.

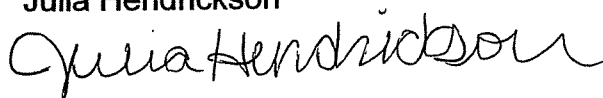
Also, transportation to the school is putting my safety in jeopardy. I remember two occasions on the afternoon bus ride home where the police were called because of how badly behaved some of the students on our bus were acting. The first time, a female student punched our elderly bus driver in the jaw causing his jaw to break. The second time, the police were called was when some of the students on my bus didn't like the radio station our bus driver had on so they started screaming at the top of their lungs and cursing at the driver. They were banging on the windows and opening and shutting the doors while the van was in motion. The bus driver called the police and we all had to get off the van. I got home two hours late that day because I was held up by these students' misbehavior. Not only was my family concerned, but put my safety was at risk.

If you are a student who has behavior problems and no desire to learn then I think this is the school for you. But if you are a fairly well-behaved student who wants to learn who got stuck in this school because of one poor choice, I do not believe you should be stuck in this school because this school is doing nothing but hurting you. When I first started school here the principal of Tri-County told me that they focus more on behavior than education. But is that what school is for? No. If they focus on behavior so much, then why do the students still behave so badly? My old principal from Spring-Ford told me when he sent me to Tri-County that it was to help me, but it is really doing the opposite.

Yes, I made a mistake that should have consequences, but that should not hinder my chance at a strong education.

Sincerely,

Julia Hendrickson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Hendrickson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.