



Proud Aspy Mom Newsletter | 2021

Peace and Blessings



Thank You Titus!

I had the opportunity to meet Thaddeus Bullard, better known as Titus this month at an award ceremony for LIFT, Learning Independence For Tomorrow. LIFT's mission is simple. "... to inspire and empower people with neurodiversity to learn, thrive and succeed." Titus embodies their mission because he CARES about how other people in the most genuine way. He like many others believes giving someone a chance matters. I thought about his speech recently when researching new change for Florida High School Graduation Requirements for Students with Disabilities. The rule changes the definition of how "significant cognitive



disabilities" is defined and provides new guidelines for how a student with disabilities obtains services.

CHANGE MATTERS! The true impact of this rule will require students with cognitive disabilities to work harder in traditional environments that are already challenging. Instead of providing necessary support to succeed, students must overcome obstacles to prove they require support services. Legislators explained the rule change was necessary to comply with the federal law, Every Student Succeeds Act. However, many disagree and believe it will create significant setbacks!

Jeff Skowronek, executive director of Pepin Academies charter schools for students with disabilities, cautioned the State Board that the proposal would hurt schools' ability to focus on children's unique learning styles. "The rules will constrain us," Skowronek said. "They will take students off of access that we have worked diligently to ensure belong there. Then we don't serve the students the best we can in the process." (Education Week)

6A-1.09963 High School Graduation Requirements for Students with Disabilities.

6A-1.09963 High School Graduation Requirements for Students with Disabilities. (1) No change. (2) Definitions. For the purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

www.fldoe.org

[Click To View Graduation Info. Document](#)

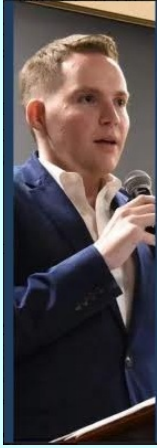
Congressional Review Act

Every Student Succeeds Act -
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE NON-REGULATORY GUIDANCE

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If it is raining you need an umbrella. If you have problems seeing you need glasses



"Allowing a student with a hidden disability (High-Functioning Autism, ADHD, Anxiety, Dyslexia, Tourette's) to struggle academically or socially when all that is needed for success are appropriate accommodations and explicit instruction, is no different then failing to provide a ramp for a person in a wheelchair."

ANONYMOUS - DR. KERRY MAGRO ED.D. PROFESSIONAL SPEAKER & AUTISM SELF-ADVOCATE - KERRYMAGRO.COM

and if you have difficulty walking you need a cane. As society we recognize that small supports matter. Helping those with cognitive difficulties are no different. Titus recognizes this basic concept. **EVERYONE NEEDS SUPPORT!**

Thanksgiving is an ACTION word

Sometimes you find unexpected joys that you do not know how to process. Our daughter has known she is autistic for quite some time, however now it is resonating that she is a part of a larger disabled community. We were headed to the airport to spend Thanksgiving with our family when she expressed significant anxiety about travelling. Facts-she has not travelled since COVID- so traveling was a BIG DEAL. Her father and I tried to ease her fears and planned and over planned to make the trip smooth for all. At the airport I asked her to self soothe and she went straight to her phone. Just as I was about to fuss, she shared this video with me.



Meet Radio City's first Rockette with a visible disability | GMA Digital

This is the first time in Rockettes history to include a dancer with a visible disability. #Rockette #overcoming #inspiration #GMA #GoodMorningAmerica #Motivational #ABCNews

[Click To Watch the Video](#)

I was so happy for her. She shared that she found solace in looking for other people like her. She acknowledged that she knows she is not alone. AND what I noted is that she understands that COMMUNITY matters. A friend of mine shared that Thanksgiving is an ACTION word. I am thankful for the many in our COMMUNITY who CARE and SUPPORT those who need it most.

Blessings this Holiday Season~

A Year In Review, Celebrating Our Podcast Anniversary!



Rick Davis



Terri Lipsey Scott



Caprice Edmond



Aron Bryce



Alex Harris



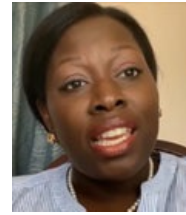
Terry Marks



Nikki Capehart



Chloë Jackson



Pye Young



Sean King



**Belinthia Berry
Dr. Cynthia Johnson**



Vicky Westra

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