

March 31, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in reference to my experience with the schools I work for that have been managed by the A3 company. I first want to say that I am a very real Guidance Counselor and that I have very real students with families that I serve. Over 500 students to be exact. Without a doubt, these families are real, and I am very dedicated to serving them to my best ability.

I have been working in education as a teacher, counselor and administrator since 1997. This is my 2nd year with the schools that A3 has managed. I serve students in California, Oregon, Oklahoma, and Michigan. In all cases, I have work with a team of 7 other counselors who are all equally devoted as I am. We each serve between 400-700 students each on our caseloads. I am the only counselor that works with students outside of California, but I also have a few California students.

I have a great deal of success stories to share with you, that would take pages to fill. Here are a few highlights. One young man I have is graduating this year. He was told he had to leave his traditional school because he had too many absences and they could not serve him. Why? Because he has a serious medical issue where his lungs will collapse, and he must be hospitalized. He found us and thanks to his hard work and the ability for us to serve him where he is at, he is earning his diploma this year. I have a young lady who is incredibly driven and has completed her Junior and Senior years in one year and will graduate this year. She has been accepted into a very strong school where she is studying Veterinary Medicine.

Some of the greatest successes I have are with homeless students and academically low students. Homeless students are so transient and have a horrible stigma they must endure if they can go to a traditional school. With our school, they can work where they are at, work around the needs of their families, and not have to deal with the painful judgement of their peers during an already stressful time in their lives. Attending our online school, with teachers and staff they know, is sometimes the only stable thing in their lives. For low achieving students, we can meet them where they are at academically, close those gaps in their education, and then work one step at a time to get them up to grade level. Logistically, this is not easy to do in a traditional school and often, these students get lost in the shuffle. I have had parents see their students turn a corner, stop feeling defeated, and start learning. These are just a few of the many, success stories I have.

The last think I want to share with you is that I truly hope that you not judge our teachers and staff by the actions of some. The people I work with daily are dedicated, hard-working educators that serve a large population of diverse students. We come together and do what is best for our students. I passionately advocate for the families I work for as do the educators I work for. Our schools have amazing kids and educators that love them.

Sincerely,



Becky Thompson

Guidance Counselor

13175 County Road 185, Limon, CO 80828

719-892-7627 becky.thompson@uplift-mi.org

Certified Teacher with licenses in Colorado and Arizona

Certified Guidance Counselor with Licenses in California, Oregon, Michigan, Colorado, and Arizona

Certified Administrator/Principal Licenses in Colorado and Michigan