

An EA speaks out

My name is Karla Stasaunik. I work at Langenburg Highschool in Good Spirit School Division. The students I works with range from students with a brain injury, to behaviour issues, to having mild to several learning disabilities. The daily role I play in supporting the students is critical for their education, emotional and social well-being and success.

With my help students can get through their day with smiles and not only feeling accomplishment but actually achieving accomplishment. With my help my students can go on to graduate with their classmates, go on to post-secondary education, go on to adulthood filled with opportunity and excitement. I know that without the help of Educational Assistants, the future looks bleak for many Saskatchewan students.

I don't want to be a teacher. I have a diploma, years of experience and many professional development opportunities. I love my job. I take pride in the role I play in the school team. I compare the school team to a bike tire: all of us are like a spoke in that wheel. When you take out the Educational Assistant spoke, the wheel doesn't turn very smoothly.

As we lose Educational Assistants what I see and fee among my students is despair. I fell panic at the end of the day I may not have helped all the students who needed it. The Education Assistant cuts cause stress among the teaching and support staff, which affects our students every day and leaves our students wondering, "What will become of us?"

- August 24, 2011