

# Program is needed

By JENNAFER BEAMENT

I wish to comment on the announcement that the Regina Public School Board is cutting back on funding and restructuring special programs in order to support students in their home schools.

Regina Public Schools are moving to a more inclusive environment and therefore will have fewer congregated programs. There has also been a hold put on testing students in elementary schools. I strongly disagree with the board's decision to make these changes.

The benefits of having a learning disabilities program like this one is that there is more one-on-one teaching for Grades 9 and 10. In these two grades, the LD program offers math and English with eight to 10 students in a class.

Other classes such as phys.ed., social and sciences are taken in a regular class. In these classes, you don't get the one-on-one help you need, so sometimes you sit there and do nothing because there isn't enough time to have with your teacher when there are that many students in there.

In Grades 11 and 12 you have all regular classes with one tutorial. They are just trying to get you ready for any post-secondary classes or college, if you plan to go. There is also morning, lunch and after school help you can get with the LD staff when needed. The teachers help you study and give you study techniques and strategies that will help you so you can eventually do it on your own.

You can also write exams in the LD classrooms so the teachers can read the exams, scribe or advocate for more writing time. All of these things help you get the marks that you deserve as a student.

If I hadn't been tested and diagnosed with a disability, I would have been a

"I'm so against the school bored changing the system that I don't know what's going there hears. There are many studies that have problems leaning like what the school bored calls norm studies.

With out this program li wouldn't make it throw grad's 4 to 12 with out a leering dissablety program. It this day I need exter help in spelling and reading because of want dissableaty I have. If there was a lock down on testing students like there is now, back then I woneds finsh school. I would be to this day die or flipping berugers at a beruger joint."

**— Written by a Grade 12 student in the learning disabilities resource program who has an IQ of 94, which falls within the average range of 90-109. She has average grades in regular classes with one tutorial period per semester. These two paragraphs were written with no support; the rest of this article was written with support from a learning disabilities teacher.**

dropout, a failure, flipping burgers for the rest of my life, with no future.

I wouldn't have the confidence that I have now or find out that there are jobs that I can do with the disability I have.

I'm planning to be a welder because I can work with my hands and that's what I do best.

Before I was tested they found out that my reading was at a pre-k, kindergarten level and my writing was at the same level and not legible for others to read.

Now with the support I have received in my lifetime I can read at a Grade 5 to 7 level and write legibly so others can read it. I can also get my thoughts on paper better than I ever could have done. I will be able to make a living on my own when I am ready.