

Because my son didn't have an **active IEP** at the time we applied for the Children's First Scholarship, he didn't qualify for full tuition. I don't think this a fair requirement in order to receive full funds for BreakOut school tuition. It is clear that my son needs **more individualized and specialized** education than the public and charter school systems can provide. I don't feel that my son, or others like him, should be **punished** and given **less funding** because they didn't jump through certain hoops. Children with ADHD need a place where they can build confidence and learn in a way that helps them thrive. **Incredibly, I have seen more improvement in my son's behavior after one month of breakout school than I did after almost a full year of therapy."** Whitney G., Pleasant Grove

Susan P., Layton, UT

“As I have sat down to write about what it took to get our son qualified to be able to attend BreakOut School, not to mention qualify for the Children's First scholarship, I realize that it has been years in the making to come up with 3 participants on his “team” of caregivers as well as years of effort to get the public school to be willing to write him an IEP rather than dismiss him as just a behavioral problem for them.

These years are an extensive culmination of realization, desperation, seeking, begging, meeting with, trying out, advocating for, suffering with, trying again, rejection, too much, not enough, explanation, understanding, learning, growing, asking for, sticking with, falling down, getting up, rinse and repeat. And then a paper trail to prove all of the effort. Qualifying for the Children's First scholarship is incredibly helpful to us at the present time since my husband is currently without a job. But the qualifications to receive it were finicky and we didn't fill things out right the first time and had to redo a portion because of the way things were worded and required of the providers. These providers or team members were not familiar with the way this scholarship worked and since they did not usually work together, (though they had all been informed of each party providing support and care for our son) they were hesitant to sign off on being a team.

Fortunately we had enough history with each of them that they saw the benefit for our son. I held my breath each visit I made and each part of the required paperwork I filled out hoping desperately that this would work out, every little bit helps and this would help tremendously! At the end of the day, the money and time spent over the years of figuring out diagnosis (or deficits), his educational path and his overall care add up to quite a lot, (time and money both!).

I feel there could be a better way, more help or trained recognition from the public schools, health care providers, as well as an understanding from the scholarship committee or regulators that children are coming for financial help from a lot of different places in their path to find and receive this financial help in the quest for education that works for them individually.”