

Dear Dr. Tiegerman:

Before I begin my story, it is with gratitude that I respond to your letter dated September 2006. Gratitude for what SLCD has given to me as a young child and for all that I have accomplished since that time in my life. I am currently a senior at Massapequa High School and we just received our ranks for the senior class. Proudly, I rank 8 out of 583 students. It was a long journey that started with SLCD at the age of two.

SLCD was very important to my success. It was the foundation of my educational experience. SLCD gave me the ability to learn by improving my communication and processing skills. Although I was very young, I do have fond memories of SLCD, as the teachers were very kind and patient people. They did well to prepare me for elementary school and I was declassified by the end of first grade. Even though I was no longer classified, I did struggle with reading comprehension, but I never gave up. I continued to work hard and by the time I got to middle school I was an A+ student.

Throughout my middle and high school years I was enrolled in accelerated courses and AP courses and continued to excel in school. Math and Science have always been my strengths. I find that I have to work harder in English courses, which is due to my continued deficit in comprehension. Most teachers and counselors never knew my history until recently, and they find it remarkable that I have not overcome, but have achieved great success in school.

My academic achievement has given me recognition as well. I am a member of the National Honor Society, and I am a peer tutor for mathematics. I also work as a private math tutor. This past spring, Pace University chose me as a Seidenberg Scholar for their summer of 2006 inaugural class. In a selective process, I was one of thirty-one students chosen from across the United States. I am also an athlete, as I am a soccer player both on the high school Varsity team and on a travel team as well. I also do some work as an assistant referee, as I have a great love for the sport of soccer.

I have begun the tedious process of applying to colleges and I am applying to Ivy League, as well as other selective schools, and of course, some safety schools as well. I hope to follow a career path that involves Math and Science and I am applying to schools that have programs in either Actuarial Science or Financial Engineering. Eventually a career as an Actuary, or Financial Analyst or something of that nature, is what I aspire to now. The personal essay that I have written for the college application process is in response to what my significant achievement was. My academic success is my significant achievement, and I have written into my essay that I owe much of that success to SLCD.

I am glad I had this opportunity to express my gratitude to you and SLCD. I am grateful that I was able to receive early intervention for my learning disability. Thank you for making SLCD such a wonderful school for children like me, and I am thankful it was a part of my life.

Respectfully,
William H. Alpert (Billy)