

9/6/24

Letter to the Editor:

The Apalachee High School is a public high school. It receives millions of dollars to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities. It failed to provide a FAPE to Colt Gray.

A public high school is required to protect its students from being bullied based on their suspected disabilities. When it fails to do so the public high school illegally exposes the bullied student to a hostile learning environment and endangers its entire student population to the risk that the bullied student will violently retaliate.

A public high school is required to place a disabled student who is potentially dangerous in an Alternative Placement for up to 45 days. The family of Colt Gray warned the school one day before and one hour before the shooting of Colt being a danger to himself and/or others. The school did not remove Colt to an alternative placement or otherwise intervene in anyway.

A public high school is required to bar firearms from being brought onto their property. This is the responsibility of law enforcement assigned to the school - in this case the Sheriff's Office. But for the public school's failure to bar the assault rifle from being brought into the school, 4 people would not be dead and 9 other people would not have been shot and injured.

Unfortunately, the Georgia Prosecutor has chosen not to charge the public school nor Sheriff's Office personnel with endangering the welfare of their students and teachers.

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(former educator and practicing students' rights attorney since 1989)