

### **Testimony of Amanda Golden-McLeod**

The trials that public school structures put students through are bullying, lack of emotional support, and lack of teaching appropriate styles for students to stay actively engaged. I attended public school when I was growing up. I had to fight everyday. I was bullied everyday because I didn't own name brand sneakers.

I was the youngest in my class & was bullied because of my age. We never had consistent teachers. I begged to get transferred from that school to my dad everyday. My dad couldn't afford to send me to private school. He picked up more shifts at work to try & afford the payments. I had an interview at a private school so I could get transferred. I took the test so I could get accepted into the school. I was accepted into the school but I had to repeat the 4th grade. I was devastated. I was upset because the principal told me I didn't learn enough and wasn't smart enough in school. That broke my heart to hear I wasn't smart. Was i dumb? No, I didnt learn enough from the public school.

Public school doesn't teach enough. I refused to send my daughter to a public school because of the trauma I experienced. Thankfully I was able to gain my self confidence back. The scholarship finances that my daughter has been blessed to receive help my family so much. That is the only way I am able to afford the tuition for her to have a chance at a better future.