

Bitching / Soap Boxing

Hello Everyone for people who don't know me, My name is Robert Gabriel and I'm from Web 3 in the computer department. The topic I'm going to talk (bitch) about is funding for dyslexia in primary and secondary school.

Every year, hundreds of children go through school with some sort of learning disability, such as dyslexia, not being able to read or write the same way everyone else. My problem with this is that schools only have the funding for one child a year to get tested for dyslexia. How can a school choose which child gets tested? Every tested student is entitled to readers, laptops, extra time in exams and spelling and grammar wavers in exams. Who makes this call? Which child gets tested over another? It sickens me that we are charged more money in taxes, but none of it is going back to the increasingly overcrowded schools and special needs students who are falling through the cracks.

The reason I have strong feelings about funding for people with dyslexia is that I always found reading and writing difficult. I didn't get tested in primary school because the school kept dismissing my problems and the same thing happened in secondary school until two of my teachers told my parents that I would be best dropping out of school after the Junior Certificate Pre-exams and told the class I didn't earn my pre-results.

My parents were unhappy to say the least and they caused a fuss, so I got tested. I ended up getting the support I needed and my grades shot up . Life became sweeter for me when I entered a programming competition and won my school 5 thousand euros. I then went on to win several huge awards and work for major companies. The teacher who told my parents I should drop out apologised to me in front of the whole school.

However, every day, the question goes through my mind: what if I was never tested? How different would my life have been? Are there any children currently in the situation I endured, going through the same thing, but not being tested. Sadly there is still not enough funding for schools and the children who need it and this leaves me speechless with anger.

Thank you very much .

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