

## Teresa Potter

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**From:** Allie Peace <alliepeace@gmail.com>  
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**Subject:** Public Comment for Necca Academy

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Hi, I am submitting this by email in case I can't be excused from class tomorrow.

My name is Brenna Peace and I am a current senior.

Honestly, I am pretty shocked that I am here today as a senior about to graduate. High school was really hard for me. I had a 504 plan to help but it was just still very overwhelming. When I would fail or get behind, I really lost confidence... which just led to feeling like I couldn't do anything right. It was a bad cycle and traditional school just wasn't the answer for me. But I also didn't want to go to an alternative school.

Luckily, there is one local dual enrollment charter school that doesn't have really stringent guidelines for entry. When I applied, I think I had already failed 9 classes. My GPA was a 1.0!! It was embarrassingly bad. I was SECOND to last in student rankings coming from my public school. Did I mention it was embarrassingly bad??

But anyway, I got into the dual enrollment program, but I really had no idea what to expect in taking college classes. My first semester: I took 3 community college courses - English101, Math, Political Science and Econ101 over winter break. I got "C" in math and the rest "A's". WHAT?? ME?? A big turn around for an-ex-straight-f-student,

Thankfully I got the hang of getting my work done and with quality, I had my mom to help me get organized and make a plan for myself and helped me stay on track so I owe a lot to her. For my second semester and summer, I took 8 college courses total. 2 English courses, 2 Math courses, Science, History, Art, Aviation. I'm retaking Aviation now for a higher grade - but got an A in everything else!! Oh, and for my CSN math accuplacer - the math placement test - my teacher said I earned one of the highest scores he ever saw.

I went from almost credit deficient and likely to not graduate to only needing PE and Health in just one year.

I chose to go back to my zoned school. I will miss earning the college courses and the college-level courses, but honestly there were just certain components of the charter school program that I didn't like. Actually, I started last year with 3 friends and none of them chose to go back either. I think a lot of students chose not to go back. **But you know what - I earned 36 college credit hours and 12 high school credits in one**

**year!!** I'm pretty sure even with my epic comeback, the likelihood of earning scholarships is low, so those 36 hours are going to come in handy down the road.

I support Necca Academy because it gives students choice. I also like that you can start in 9th grade. Maybe my 9th and 10th grade years wouldn't have been so difficult if I had been in a program like this right from the beginning. I hope you will support Necca Academy. I think it will do a lot of good for students in our community. Thank you for your time.

In case I don't get to meet you all virtually tomorrow - you can put a face with a name :)

Brenna

