

Accessibility Two Transcript

The first thing that occurred was really disturbing because the high school didn't want me to return back to it. It was built on the side of a hill and it was architecturally built like stairs and they just didn't think there was any way they could make it accessible, so they asked me if I would go to the nearest high school, this was rural in Vermont and it was about 30 minutes away and it was also our high school's arch enemy. So that was really tough because the last thing you want to do is go to the, you know, traditional opposing high school.

It would have meant an hour to hour and a half drive for my parents and the state supervisory union was not going to reimburse us or provide transportation and so we said no. You know we said no, at the time I really wanted to be with my friends and complete where I had started and what could have been easy became just this mountain of obstacle and in retrospect it seems so foolish because the school system laid down every conceivable obstacle to prevent me from doing it and in any event they did make one door accessible on a top level but many of the teachers refused to move their classrooms down to the level. So if I had to take a class I had to either crawl up the stairwell or at the time I was using some braces and crutches. I would have to gait up the classrooms and they were not willing to accommodate me in terms of extra time between classes to do that and it was just like when I tell people this, it's like amazing and at the time you just, you work with it, you deal with it. I didn't have a home room, they had cleaned out a closet that had contained all these old chemistry chemical materials and I think back and wonder oh gosh I wonder I was in that room, so I had to check in with a nearby teacher in the morning and i couldn't go to the library, there was no bathroom, there was no access to the gym or any of the offices or any of the resources.

It was just literally one level of classrooms and because I had fallen behind, I also had to take classes in the evening and I was also, because I was disabled they put me in special ed classed and I was in special ed classes with some great kids but you know, I shouldn't have been there, I was on a college preparatory track and I wound up being a student teacher and a mentor to these kids, who the teacher and the teacher's aide couldn't pay any attention to.