By Allison Goodworth
Parent of an Aggies Elevated student

Backing up and letting Matt figure things out on his own is by far the most difficult thing I’ve ever done in my life! But I’m seeing growth and I trust this program implicitly. We have been involved in special education for over 10 years and I feel like these past several months of Matt being in Aggies Elevated is the first time I’ve seen it being done the way it is supposed to be done. Your program provides the right support to allow Matt to do as much as he is able. It’s a beautiful combination of high expectations and support. One of those components has always been missing in previous experiences. Either the program didn’t provide adequate support -- and he truly couldn’t do what he needed to do -- or it didn’t have high expectations and he didn’t grow. We feel like Aggies Elevated has been an answer to prayers and I’m already panicking about what we’re going to do in 18 months when it’s over.

• 8 out of 9 AE graduates (88%) were employed 90 days after graduation (the 9th student is serving an LDS service mission). Nationally, only about 15% of individuals with intellectual disabilities have paid community employment. 1
• 100% of the eight AE graduates who are employed are paid at or above minimum wage and work in meaningful, competitive jobs working an average of 33 hours/week, making an average of $9.84/hour. In contrast, in Utah, only approximately 17% of individuals with intellectual disabilities one year out of high school have competitive employment. 2 Nationally, youth with intellectual disability who complete PSE programs earn 73% more income than those who do not. 3
• 6 out of 9 AE graduates (67%) are living independently, alone or with roommates. In contrast, nationally, only 27% of youth with disabilities are living independently 4 and in Utah, only 28% of youth with disabilities report living independently after high school. 5