

## Congratulations Gabe Myers! 2025 Michigan CEC Yes I Can! Self Advocacy

As a young adult with cerebral palsy who utilizes a wheelchair, Gabe faced numerous challenges related to accessibility and independent living. His self-advocacy journey began with identifying daily obstacles. He proactively addressed these concerns with classroom staff, who encouraged him to explore potential solutions. This is where I learned firsthand the true meaning of "the boss," as Gabe promptly enlisted my assistance in his first self-advocacy endeavor – disassembling a bathroom stall to improve his ability to transfer and access the soap dispensers and paper towel.

Gabe's advocacy extended beyond the classroom, as he actively engaged with our Transition Coordinator and the Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) to explore employment opportunities. He initiated phone calls, diligently followed up on inquiries, and demonstrated remarkable patience and persistence throughout the lengthy employment process, which ultimately culminated in a successful placement at.

Gabe's advocacy has not only significantly enhanced his personal independence and employment opportunities but has also profoundly impacted our entire team. He has inspired us all with the powerful message that "yes, we can" create meaningful change for the success of all students.