



## Student Success Story – Isaias



	<b>“BE HERE”</b>	<b>“BEHAVE”</b>	<b>“BE LEARNING”</b>
<b>Prior to referral from HISD</b>	Attendance not available from home school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Defiance of Authority</li><li>• Profanity</li><li>• Chronic &amp; Disruptive Behavior</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Earned 10 credits</li></ul>
<b>1999-2000 While enrolled at HISD-CEP Partnership School</b>	79% attendee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved to excellent behavior</li><li>• Model Student</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Earned 14.5 credits</li><li>• Graduated High School in 2000.</li></ul>



**Isaias**

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Isaias and his family moved to the United States when Isaias was 2 ½ years old. He was born in war torn El Salvador. His father had tried several times, unsuccessfully, to get his family to safety, and he finally succeeded to move them near other family members in Houston. When Isaias and his two older brothers entered school, his mother insisted that the boys not be placed in bilingual classes. She said they already knew Spanish, and she wanted to make sure that they learned English. It was tough on them, but they made it through. Isaias describes himself as an average student. They did not live in the best neighborhood, and there were many distractions. His dad was a big influence in his life and kept Isaias from getting off track – watching his progress in school, keeping tabs on his whereabouts, and overseeing what friends were influencing Isaias.

At age 14 and between Junior High and High School, Isaias lost his dad. That strong, consistent protection was gone. Isaias was now unrestrained to run with the wrong crowd, to slack off on his studies, and to run headlong toward trouble. Soon Isaias was referred to CEP for defiance of authority, profanity, and chronic and disruptive behavior. Slowly, with the consistent structure of CEP and some faithful mentoring, things began to turn around. Isaias completed his studies and earned the credits needed to graduate in May of 2000.

Isaias is now part of the CEP instructional team and in the evenings attends Houston Community College working toward a degree in child psychology. He does not, as a general rule, tell the students that he, himself, was once a student at CEP, but somehow they discover it. When they do find out, they always want to know why Isaias was sent to CEP. He tells them that it is not important why he was sent, or why they were sent, because that is the past. What he will tell them is that they can change their future, if they will only apply themselves. Isaias became part of the CEP team to make a difference for students like him – to return the favor. And everyday, in his own quiet way, he lives out what he tells his students. He is making a difference.