The most important aspect and what we’re building this year is parent involvement. If the parent is concerned, then come. Because they don’t close it to parents, you see parents all over the HOSA conferences from national to state to area. We had a parent go with us this year as a chaperone. So if that’s a concern, go because you can. They encourage parents to come. They register them at the conference and give them their t-shirt and give them their badge that says ‘Chaperone’. So they include them.

The other aspect would be what the school supports it. I will have to admit, we’re in a great district that they support it. When I go over and I talk to the special education coordinator, I sit down with her, I ask her a few questions, “Hey, what type of supports does she need? Ok, I want her in this competition.” It’s funny, that’s exactly what happened at the beginning of the year. “I want her in this competition, so what are her limitations?” And you sit down and you discuss it. Anything is possible when you plan for it. And that’s the thing, as long as you sit down and you plan for it, you never know, for instance, that if they’re maybe willing to allow a TA to go with you. Because again, they fund the entire endeavor from the extent of we don’t pay for the hotels, we don’t pay for the travel. So if you’re going to take a special needs student and expose them, I really don’t see the district having much of an issue with it. But if you want to bring it back solely to the responsibility of the teacher, speak with the case manager, sit down with the parents, and then come up with a plan because if they really want to do it, you shouldn’t hold them back.