

Meet Ti’Rick I.

When things get tough, Ti’Rick doesn’t quit. Ti’Rick is a kind, intelligent young man. He loves basketball, his friends, and his family. The summer before high school he and his family moved from Texas. When they moved, they couldn’t find anywhere to live. Ti’Rick and his family lived in their car for the whole summer before his freshman year. His freshman year they moved to a motel. This change was a big deal. Having a bed meant the world to Ti’Rick. However, he still faced barriers. The motel internet only worked once in a while and only in very specific spots. Internet was crucial to Ti’Rick doing well in school.



Without reliable internet, completing his school assignments was difficult. Many of Ti’Rick’s assignments were very technology focused. The school gives each student an iPad for the year. While this use of technology is an exciting change, it takes time for students to learn how to use it. Ti’Rick wishes he could go back to just using a pencil and paper, but he’s starting to get use to the iPad. To complete his assignments at the motel, he would have to lean his iPad against the window at an exact spot to get the internet to work. He started falling behind.

Ti’Rick was failing two of his core classes when Julie, an Educational Intervention Specialist from CYC, began working with him. He was failing English by a couple of points and only had a 14 percent in his Global Studies class. Most students would give up if they had a 14 percent in a class, but Ti’Rick chose the path less traveled. When Julie started meeting with Ti’Rick, he seemed unmotivated and unable to advocate for himself. After working with Julie and problem solving, Ti’Rick was ready to address his grades. Together, he and Julie would organize his assignments and schedule out when he would have them completed. Ti’Rick followed through and even worked out a plan with his teacher to come in on Saturdays to catch up. He went from a very low F to a high C in Global Studies. He continues to remain positive and Julie loves working with him. “Ti’Rick started falling behind and needed support, but he was ready to receive help and work with me. He was really appreciative. Instead of having to track down Ti’Rick, he would stop by to say hi and check in” said Julie.