What to do when you disagree with an IEP team decision?

Parents and schools have a “built-in” partnership with the child as the focus. This partnership will grow when parents and school staff work together. Disagreements may happen, but disagreements can also help to make the child’s education better.

What to do when issues arise?

- When issues arise, talk directly with the people involved as soon as possible.
- First, you can call to schedule an informal meeting to discuss the situation.
- Second, you can prepare for the meeting by making a list of issues and some possible solutions.

What can you do in the meeting?

- See if you can agree on the issue(s) that must be addressed.
- Listen actively to understand the other person’s perspective.
- Communicate your concerns clearly.
- Ask questions or restate so you and others are clear in your understanding.
- Work together to suggest some possible options to resolve the issue(s).
- Analyze all of the options to see if you can find areas of agreement.
- Discuss what should happen next.

What if the issues are not fully resolved in the meeting?

- Consider scheduling another informal meeting with different or additional people.
- Call others for suggestions on possible future action. Many parents find it helpful to talk to someone at WSPEI or WI FACETS.

Next Steps: What can be done if informal ways of solving problems don’t work?

Parents and the school can use one or more of the formal problem solving methods. These formal ways to solve problems can help the school and the parent to talk together. Schools and parents should try the informal methods first and should use the formal methods if the informal methods don’t work. Schools must tell parents about these formal ways to solve problems:

- Independent Educational Evaluations (IEEs)
- Facilitated IEP
- Mediation
- IDEA State Complaints
- Due process hearings.
Contact Information for
(Student Name)

Parent/Family/Caregiver disagrees with decision of the school.

Who Can I Talk To?

Special Education Teacher

Program Support Teacher

Director of Special Education
Tiffany Loken 608-592-1053

Informal Meeting

Regular Education Teacher

Formal Meeting

School Psychologist
Amy Kohl 608-592-3851 ext. 5485
Ted Theiler 608-592-3853 ext. 4509

Administrator/Principal

Facilitated Process

WSPEI/CESA 5 Parent Coordinator
Martha De Young
Phone: 1-800-862-3725 ex 255
Email: deyoungm@cesa5.k12.us
Brenda Yager ex 260 yagerb@cesa5.k12.wi.us

DPI Parent Involvement
Pat Bober, DPI Consultant
Phone: 608-266-5194
Email: patricia.bober@dpi.wi.gov

DPI Complaint Coordinator
Patricia Williams, DPI Consultant
Phone: 608-267-3720
Email: patricia.williams@dpi.wi.gov

WI FACETS Parent Coordinator
Charlotte Price, Co-Director
Phone: 877-374-4677
Email: cprice@wifacets.org

Mediation Intake Coordinator
Jane Burns, Intake Coordinator
Phone: 888-298-3857
Email: jane@wsems.us

Facilitated IEP Coordinator
Jane Burns, Intake Coordinator
Phone: 888-298-3857
Email: jane@wsems.us

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