

## Research Problem Statement

Topic	Research Problem	Purpose Statement	Research Questions
Attorney Presence and the Dynamics at the Table in Special Education Mediation in Iowa	Mediators know that the presence or absence of attorneys at the table affects the dynamics of the mediation process. Limited information exists on just how attorneys affect the process in Iowa	Anecdotal evidence suggests that attorney presence has a significant impact on the dynamics in the room and on the shape the mediation process takes. There has been no systematic research on exactly what impact attorneys have however. Thus there is a need to study this impact.	How do attorneys affect the dynamics and the shape of the mediation process in special education mediation in Iowa?  Is the net effect of attorney presence positive or negative?

## Research Problem Statement

Topic	Research Problem	Purpose Statement	Research Questions
Conflict resolution training for educators, administrators and parents and its impact on disputes and disputing in special education in Iowa.	Several hundred persons in Iowa have been trained in mediation and other conflict resolution skills through programs sponsored by the Iowa Department in Education since 1995. The Iowa Peace Institute and its successor, the Conflict Resolution Center of Iowa, have provided this training. There is little systematic evidence of the difference this training has made in getting differences addressed and resolved.	<p>To study the impact conflict resolution training has had on the ability of educators and families in Iowa to get differences addressed and meaningfully resolved.</p> <p>Also, to study the extent to which conflict resolution training has contributed to a reduction in the number of complaint, preappeal and due process filings.</p>	<p>What difference has conflict resolution training made in terms of getting differences between educators and families addressed and resolved before they escalate to the level of disputes requiring the intervention of the state?</p> <p>Has this training contributed to an increased use of the AEA Resolution Facilitator process?</p>