

# Parent Information Center of Delaware



## Facilitated IEP Meetings & Mediation

### What can I do if I disagree with my IEP team?

Parents and IEP teams do not always agree on what is best for a child. Sometimes the “tone” of the meetings becomes uncomfortable which interferes with team members working together successfully. If this persists, it may be helpful to involve a neutral third party in the process.

As a parent, you may request to have a **Facilitated IEP Meeting**. The entire team participates in a facilitated IEP meeting and emphasis is placed on showing the team how a meeting can be conducted in a productive and positive manner. During a facilitated IEP meeting, a facilitator may:

- Assist in allowing members to voice their questions and concerns
- Encourage active listening
- Help keep the team focused
- Write information on a flip chart
- Guide the team through problem-solving

In Delaware, a parent or school can request to have a Facilitated IEP Meeting or Mediation by contacting the DE Dept. of Education at (302) 735-4210 or <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/>

When a parent and IEP team cannot agree on an issue that they have been trying to resolve, it may be helpful to request **Mediation**. This is a more formal method used to resolve disagreements. Unlike a facilitated IEP meeting, not all IEP team members participate in mediation and the meeting will be held in a neutral location. A parent may bring one or two persons of their choice and a school must ensure that a person attends who has authority to make decisions and commit to resources. During mediation, a trained mediator serves as a neutral third party and helps both parties to:

- Clarify issues
- Recognize differences in a more collaborative way
- Find agreeable solutions

Mediation is:

- Voluntary
- Free of charge

If a formal agreement is reached during Mediation, the agreement is legally binding and must be implemented by the school.

For specific information about either option, contact the **Special Education Partnership for the Amicable Resolution of Conflict (SPARC)** at (302) 831-8158 or <http://www.ipa.udel.edu/crp/sparc.html>

**For more information visit [www.picofdel.org/events](http://www.picofdel.org/events) or call 302-999-7394**