



## Spotlight on NEW YORK



### IEP Facilitation Multistate Workgroup (2015-2017)

#### New York State Education Department's IEP Facilitation Pilot Program Accomplishments

Families of children with disabilities and the professionals who serve them may find themselves in conflict over a child's special education services. When poorly managed, these disputes can result in damaged relationships and resources spent on conflict rather than on education. A growing body of evidence indicates that individualized education program (IEP) facilitation services can address these conflicts, while building trust and better relationships between families and schools.

In response to this need, the National Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE) convened a multistate workgroup, using a peer-to-peer intensive technical assistance approach, to help states maximize their investments in IEP facilitation. CADRE selected the New York State Education Department (NYSED), along with six other states (Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, New Jersey, and West Virginia), to participate in the three-year workgroup initiative.

New York's interest in joining the workgroup was driven by the desire

to learn from CADRE and other states about effective strategies for implementing an IEP facilitation pilot program at the state level. Initial areas of interest included funding, planning and initiation phase of the program, information dissemination, data collection, and lessons learned from other IEP facilitation programs.

#### Objectives

New York determined that the objectives for its participation in the workgroup were to:

- Consult with other states and CADRE
- Develop a three-year pilot program for Long Island and New York City (NYC)
- Engage stakeholders in the planning and review process of the three-year pilot program
- Develop forms and promotional materials
- Recruit and train facilitators
- Disseminate materials and initiate the pilot
- Evaluate the program regularly

**86% of respondents stated they were satisfied with the outcome of the IEP facilitation.**

#### About CADRE

**CADRE is a national center that provides intensive technical assistance to state education agencies using a multistate workgroup model, creating a forum for learning together through shared knowledge, practices, and experiences. CADRE offers ongoing support, consultation, and resources to workgroup members. Activities include teleconferences, virtual and face-to-face meetings, webinars, and opportunities to engage with experts through trainings, presentations, and consultations.**

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## Significant Milestones and Accomplishments

New York met all of its objectives and continues to make significant progress in implementing a high-quality IEP facilitation pilot program. Some highlights of NYSED's accomplishments include:

- Approval for and hiring of a dedicated staff person to serve as the IEP Facilitation Program Coordinator
- Expansion to more districts/schools within the NYC Department of Education subsequent to the initiation of the pilot program
- Creation of a dedicated webpage on the NYSED's website
- Regular presentations in pilot regions to increase awareness and use of IEP facilitation

*72% of respondents stated they would recommend this process to others.*

## Results

Data on program use to date in the pilot program indicates that since initiation of the 3-year pilot program in September 2015 there have been 44 requests for IEP facilitation with 33 actual facilitated IEP meetings held.

Out of 95 returned evaluation forms, 86% of respondents stated they were satisfied with the outcome of the IEP facilitation and 72% would recommend this process to others.



*The IEP facilitator's primary goal is to assist team members in collaborative and productive construction or revision of a quality IEP for a student with a disability.*

## Essential Elements of Program Development

New York has identified the following as essential elements of their program improvement efforts:

- Creation of a website that houses all necessary forms and information
- Facilitator participation in an initial 3-day training, followed by two, annual one-day update trainings and two, one-hour coaching webinars with national trainers
- Debrief process for facilitators following each facilitation
- Numerous presentations to various stakeholder groups in the pilot regions
- Development of an evaluation plan, and collection and analysis of data to inform program improvement

# WHAT PARTICIPANTS HAVE TO SAY

*"I had a wonderful facilitator who was fair. I think she handled the meeting well and even the principal was happy."*

*"The charting made the goals for the meeting clear. The IEP facilitator also helped consistently refocus the meeting for the group."*

*"Helped organize the meetings. I also like how we identified strengths as well as weaknesses."*



## New York Workgroup Lead

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<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/special/duprocess/iep-facilitation/IEPFacilitation.html>