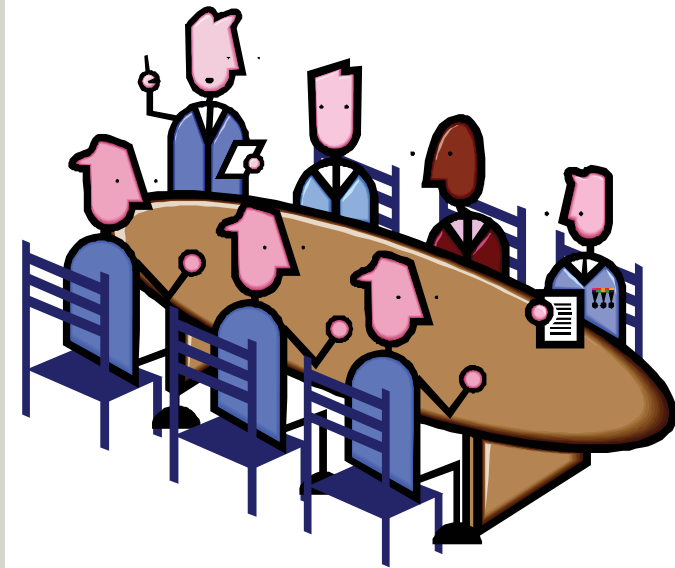


PURPOSE

FACILITATED IEP TEAM MEETINGS

The goal of the facilitated IEP meeting is to help IEP team members communicate effectively and develop an educational program to meet the student's need. Facilitated meetings may be helpful for any IEP team and may be particularly helpful when:

- There is a lot of new information to be processed;
- Team members would like to create better understanding;
- Team members want help staying focused on an agenda; or
- There is a particular disagreement that the team wants to make progress on.



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WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A FACILITATED IEP MEETING?

Benefits Include:

- Assistance in the development of a mutually agreed-upon IEP and other team decisions.
- The chance for team members to develop and keep good working relationships.
- Building the foundation for on-going communication and collaboration between the family and the school through out the year.
- The service is offered at no cost as a service of the local community mediation center.

WHAT DOES AN IEP FACILITATOR DO?

An IEP Facilitator:

- Talks to the parents and the IEP Chair in advance to support the development of an agenda.
- Helps make sure that everyone has a chance to speak and be heard at an IEP meeting.
- Keeps the discussion focused.
- Helps the team to resolve disagreements.
- Uses communication skills to help IEP team members work together to develop an appropriate IEP and make other decisions about the IEP.

WHO ARE THE FACILITATORS?



The Facilitators:

- Are highly trained volunteers from the community mediation centers.
- Are not members of the team and do not have a relationship with the school or the parent.
- Focus on the process, while the team members make all the decisions.
- Remain neutral and will not place blame, take sides, or recommend actions.

HOW DO I GET A FACILITATOR?

You may request a facilitator by contacting the office of Partners for Success at the number below:

Susan Donoghue-Rick
240-236-8430

