

Parent's Perspective

IEP FACILITATION

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Facilitation is an option available to parents and school district staff when they both agree that it would be valuable to have a neutral person– the IEP Facilitator– present at an IEP meeting to assist them in discussing issues regarding the IEP. Most IEP meetings do not need the services of an IEP Facilitator. Typically, an IEP Facilitator is brought into those situations where the parents and school district staff are having difficulties communicating with one another about the student's needs. The IEP Facilitator assists in creating an atmosphere for fair communication and the successful drafting of an IEP for the student.

Frequently Asked Questions About IEP Facilitation

How do I request IEP Facilitation? Either the parents or the school district can request IEP Facilitation; however, since the process is voluntary, both sides must agree. When everyone agrees to IEP Facilitation, a request form is completed and signed by the parents and the district and then submitted to the Office for Dispute Resolution (ODR). This form is available from ODR, or online at ODR's website (<http://odr.pattan.net>).

When are IEP Facilitations scheduled? IEP teams interested in IEP Facilitation should submit the completed and signed request form to the Office for Dispute Resolution (ODR) at least two weeks prior to the IEP meeting. ODR will make every attempt to locate a facilitator who is available in the time frame chosen by the IEP team. If no facilitator is available on this date, however, the IEP team may need to reschedule the date or proceed without the facilitator. Just as for any IEP meeting, the IEP Facilitation meeting is scheduled by the school at a time and place that is mutually agreeable to all required IEP team members.

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**All of us do not have equal talent.....
but all of us should have an equal
opportunity to develop our talent.**

John F. Kennedy



The **Parent Support Center** of the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit
(814)836-0870, ext 5258 or
(800) 677-5610, ext 5258
www.iu5.org/parentsupport
michele_kulesza@iu5.org



Dear Parents,

The Parent Support Center is staffed by myself, Michele Kulesza. I am a parent of a child with special needs and can serve as a facilitator between parents and educators. I have been through many of the same concerns that other parents of children with special needs have been through.

If you need support or have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the Parent Support Center, (814) 836-0870, ext. 5258 or toll-free (800) 677-5610, ext 5258.

Sincerely,
Michele Kulesza

It is the policy of the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit not to discriminate on the basis of age, religion, sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, or non-job related disability in the admission or access to, or in the provision of services, programs, or employment in compliance with Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. For information relevant to this policy, contact Dr. Dennis Valone, 504 Coordinator and ADA Coordinator, or Dr. Marjorie A. Wallace, Title IX Coordinator, 252 Waterford Street, Edinboro, PA 16412; Phone (814) 734-5800.

Frequently Asked Questions

About IEP Facilitation? (continued)

Who attends the IEP Facilitation? Attendance at an IEP Facilitation meeting is the same as any other IEP meeting. The required members of the IEP team attend the meeting, in addition to the Facilitator. As with non-facilitated IEP meetings parents have the option to invite and advocate or other people who have knowledge or special expertise regarding their child.

Is there any cost for the IEP Facilitation meeting?

No, there is no cost to the parents or the school district for the IEP Facilitation.

What happens if the IEP Facilitation is not successful?

As with any IEP meeting, if the parties to an IEP Facilitated meeting are not able to resolve the disagreement preventing them from drafting a mutually-agreeable IEP, they are free to pursue other forms of dispute resolution such as mediation or a due process hearing.

Does the IEP Facilitator make decisions for the team?

No. The role of the Facilitator is to make every effort to ensure that the team is communicating so that the IEP team, not the IEP Facilitator, can develop an appropriate IEP for the student. The Facilitator also assists by offering suggestions for resolving conflict that may be preventing the team from agreeing on the various components of the IEP. The members of the IEP team remain the sole decision-makers.

Office for Dispute Resolution

6340 Flank Drive

Harrisburg, PA 17112-2764

(717) 541-4960

Toll Free (800) 222-3353 (PA only)

Fax (717) 657-5983

TTY Users: PA Relay 711

<http://ODR.pattan.net>

PARENT SURVEY



The U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is looking at Pennsylvania's results of programs for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities. OSEP wants to hear directly from you about your experiences and thoughts. Each family has a unique perspective that only you can provide. Let your voice be heard. Please fill out the short survey from the link provided below:

If your child is younger than age 3 and receives Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Services you need to complete the Part C parent survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PartC-IDEA>

If your child is 3-21 years old and receives Preschool Early Intervention or school age special education services you need to complete the Part B parent survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PartB-IDEA>

This information will be used to improve Early Intervention and school age special education services at both the state and local level.

PEAL Center

The PEAL Center serves families of children with disabilities and special health care needs. The PEAL Center provides information and training on education in Central and Western Pennsylvania, and on health-care needs and support services statewide through the Family to Family Health Information Center.

JOIN PEAL Center Mailing List

To receive email BLAST and Newsletter electronically, click on mailing list at www.pealcenter.org or call toll free at 1-866-950-1040 to receive information in the mail.

Join The PEAL Center on FACEBOOK.com