

# DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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**I**F YOU'RE FRUSTRATED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION, THERE ARE WAYS TO WORK IT OUT.

Call the special education director for your district. Talk about your concerns. [View a list of special education directors.](#)

Another place to call for help is the Minnesota Department of Education's (MDE) mediation services.

The Minnesota Special Education Mediation Service (MNSEMS) helps families, schools and agencies talk with each other and work out their differences using mediation or a facilitated IEP meeting.

## WHICH ONE SHOULD I CHOOSE?

### Try mediation

if you need a relaxed time to talk, mend relationships, sort out problems and find new answers. A neutral third person, a mediator, will help you see each other's point of view and work out agreements.

### Try a facilitated IEP meeting

if you and the school are having trouble writing your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP). A neutral third person, a facilitator, will work through the IEP process with the team and help solve any disagreements along the way.

Do you have children in school who are receiving special education services?

## WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT MEDIATION OR FACILITATED IEP MEETINGS?

- They are both free!
- The mediator or facilitator treats everyone with respect.
- You and the school make decisions together.
- Most of the time, you come to an agreement on how to meet your child's needs.

## WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS AN EDUCATION PLAN DIFFERENT THAN AN IEP?

You can also ask for a mediation or a facilitated meeting if you have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for a young child or if you have an Individualized Interagency Intervention Plan (IIIP) because you work with another agency in addition to the school.

## WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

Give us a call. We can tell you more about mediation or a facilitated meeting and send you a request form.

651.582.8222 or toll free 866.4MNSEMS



[www.education.state.mn.us](http://www.education.state.mn.us)