

Purpose

The goal of the facilitated IEP meeting is to help IEP team members communicate effectively and develop an educational program to meet the child'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.



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.
- ❖ Having someone who is not an advocate for the parent or school system assist in the communication.



What does an Independent IEP Facilitator do?

An Independent 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 student's program.

Who are the Independent Facilitators?

The Independent 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.
- ❖ Remains neutral and will not place blame, take sides, or recommend actions.



Pilot Project

Independent IEP Facilitation is currently being offered on as a pilot program in certain school districts and certain schools.

For more information, contact the program listed below for your county:

Anne Arundel County

Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center
410-266-9033

Baltimore County

Sharon Floyd
Baltimore County Public Schools
410-887-3660

Cecil County

Community Mediation Upper Shore
410-810-9188

Dorchester County

Mid-Shore Community Mediation Center
410-820-5553

Howard County

The Family Support & Resource Center
Howard County Public School System
(410) 313-7161



For more information, contact the program listed below for your county:
(Continued From Previous Panel)

Frederick County

Susan Donoghue-Rick
FCPS Partners for Success
240-236-8430

Montgomery County

Conflict Resolution Center
of Montgomery County
301-942-7700

Prince George's County

Diane Dormio
Prince George's County Public Schools
301-817-3133

St. Mary's County

Community Mediation Center
of St. Mary's County
301-475-9118

Washington County

Washington County
Community Mediation Center
301-665-9262



For more detailed information please view the online FAQ at.

www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/divisions/earlyinterv/complaint_investigation

Then click on: *"Facilitated IEP Team Meetings in Maryland, An introduction and Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Public Agency/School Personnel"*



Sponsored by:

Community Mediation Maryland
www.mdmediation.org

Maryland State Department of Education
www.msde.state.md.us

Independent IEP Meeting Facilitation



Independent Facilitators from
Community Mediation Centers are
available to facilitate Individualized
Education Program (IEP) Team Meetings

