

Sturgeon Bay School District

Special Education Office/Parent Resources

What to do when you disagree with an IEP team decision?

Parents and schools have a “built-in” partnership with the child as the focus. This partnership will grow when parents and school staff work together. Disagreements may happen, but disagreements can also help to make the child’s education better.

What to do when issues arise?

- ✚ When issues arise, talk directly with the people involved as soon as possible.
- ✚ First, you can call to schedule an informal meeting to discuss the situation.
- ✚ Second, you can prepare for the meeting by making a list of issues and some possible solutions.

What can you do in the meeting?

- ✚ See if you can agree on the issue(s) that must be addressed.
- ✚ Listen actively to understand the other person’s perspective.
- ✚ Communicate your concerns clearly.
- ✚ Ask questions or restate so you and others are clear in your understanding.
- ✚ Work together to suggest some possible options to resolve the issue(s).
- ✚ Analyze all of the options to see if you can find areas of agreement.
- ✚ Discuss what should happen next.

What if the issues are not fully resolved in the meeting?

- ✚ Consider scheduling another informal meeting with different or additional people.
- ✚ Call others for suggestions on possible future action. Many parents find it helpful to talk to someone at WSPEI or WI FACETS.

Next Steps: What can be done if informal ways of solving problems don’t work?

Parents and the school can use one or more of the formal problem solving methods. These formal ways to solve problems can help the school and the parent to talk together. Schools and parents should try the informal methods first and should use the formal methods if the informal methods don’t work. Schools must tell parents about these formal ways to solve problems:

- ✚ Independent Educational Evaluations (IEEs)
- ✚ Facilitated IEP
- ✚ Mediation
- ✚ IDEA State Complaints
- ✚ Due process hearings.