Early Dispute Resolution:

You might need help if you:

- Read about parent rights, but were told something different
- Think the IEP isn't working, but don't know what to do next
- Tried to fix the problem with your school but couldn't find a solution
- Have questions or feel unsure about what steps to take

Other Options:

State complaints are not the only way to fix disagreements. You can also:

- Contact the ND Department of Public Instruction, Office of Special Education at 1.866.741.3519 or 701.328.2277
- Ask the local special education unit for assistance
- Get early help from Pathfinder Services of ND
- Ask for a Facilitated IEP
- Ask for Mediation
- Think about a Due Process Hearing

Dispute Resolution in North Dakota

Using the ND Facilitated IEP Process to Resolve Disputes

Important:

This brochure does not have all the details about the mediation process. For the full information on the NDDPI IDEA Special Education Written State Complaint process, visit: https://cadreworks.org/sites/default/files/Written%20State%20Complaints%20Parent%20Guide_Updated%20sep23.pdf

Contact Us!

701-837-7500

info@pathfinder-nd.org

http://pathfinder-nd.org

PO Box 758, Minot, ND 58702

IDEAs that Work
U.S. Office of Special Education Programs

The contents of this website were developed under a grant from the US Department of Education, #H328M250172. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Dr. Anna Macedonia.

PATHFINDER SERVICES OF NORTH DAKOTA

What is a Facilitated IEP?

A facilitated IEP is a way to help create an IEP that the whole team agrees on and that helps the student.

How can a facilitator help to lead the IEP meeting?

- The facilitator is neutral and does not make decisions about the student's IEP.
- They help the team move past feelings to work together and plan well.
- They help parents and teachers understand the IEP process better.
- They give everyone a chance to build trust and have better relationships.

How Do I Request a Facilitated IEP?

Steps to Ask for a Facilitated IEP:

- Send a letter or form asking for a facilitated IEP to both NDDPI and your local superintendent.

https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/SFN%20Forms/SFN58618.pdf

- Both the parent and the school must agree to use a facilitated IEP.
- Clearly explain the problem without blaming or accusing anyone.
- Don't try to fix problems that the IEP team can't solve.
- Include your contact information.
- Say what you think would help the team work better together.

Sign and send the completed state form or a letter with documents to:

ND Dept. of Public Instruction
Office of Special Education
600 E. Blvd. Ave., Dept. 201
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440

What Happens Next?

What to Expect with a Facilitated IEP:

- Both the parent and the school will be told when your request is received.
- The school will be asked if they agree or disagree to have a facilitated IEP.
- If both sides don't agree, the facilitated IEP will not happen.
- If the school says no, you can ask to meet with the superintendent to talk about why.
- If both sides agree, NDDPI will hire a trained specialist to help lead the meeting.
- The facilitator will meet separately with parents and school staff to get ready and make sure all concerns are included.
- The facilitator will make sure everyone on the team has the information they need for the meeting.
- At the meeting, the facilitator will guide the team, ask questions to make things clear, and help keep the group focused.