

Other Options

Facilitated IEPs are not the only way to resolve disputes. You can:

- 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.
- Seek help with early dispute resolution from Pathfinder Services of ND.
- Ask for Mediation.
- File a Complaint with NDDPI.
- Consider a Due Process Hearing.



Early Dispute Resolution

If you...

- Have read one thing about parent rights but feel you have been told something different.
- Believe the IEP is not working but aren't sure how to find what you need.
- Tried to resolve the problem locally and can't get a solution.
- Have questions or are unclear about what steps to take next.

Then please contact...



 701.837.7500

 info@pathfinder-nd.org

 <http://pathfinder-nd.org>

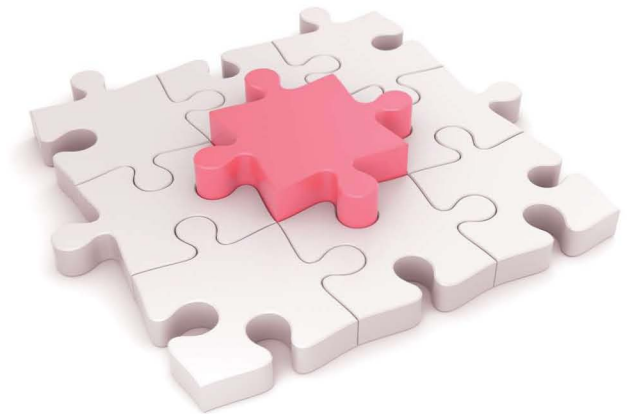


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Dispute Resolution in
North Dakota



Using the ND Facilitated IEP Process to Resolve Disputes



Creating Pathways
For North Dakotans



What is a Facilitated IEP?

A facilitated IEP is a process to develop an IEP that is supported by team members and benefits the student.

How can a facilitator help to lead the IEP meeting?

- The facilitator is neutral and doesn't make decisions about the student's IEP.
- They assist the entire team to move beyond emotion to effective team planning and cooperation.
- They build parent and teacher capacity to better understand and work within the IEP process.
- They give both parties an opportunity to build trust and improve relationships.

★ **IMPORTANT** ★

Be aware that this brochure does not contain all the details regarding the facilitation process. A complete description of the NDDPI ***Individualized Education Program (IEP) Facilitation*** process is located at:

<http://psnd.co/pdf/res/890.pdf>

How Do I Request a Facilitated IEP?

Follow These Steps

- Send a letter or state form asking for a facilitated IEP to both NDDPI and the local superintendent.
<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/SFN%20Forms/SFN58305.pdf>
- A facilitated IEP can be used only when both the parent and the school agree to use this process.
- Describe the impasse clearly. Do not blame or accuse others.
- Do not try to address issues that cannot be resolved by an IEP team.
- Include your contact information.
- Include a statement of what you believe would help the team work more effectively.

Sign and date the letter or form and send it to:

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

What Happens Next?

Know What to Expect

- Both parties will be notified when a letter is received.
- The school will be asked to consent or decline to participate.
- If both parties do not agree to have a facilitated IEP then it will not take place.
- If the school declines you can ask to meet with the superintendent to discuss the basis for the decision.
- If both parties agree to a facilitated IEP, NDDPI will contract with a trained specialist to facilitate the IEP.
- The facilitator meets separately with both the parents and school staff to help prepare for the meeting and make sure all concerns are addressed.
- The facilitator makes certain all team members have access to the data that will be reviewed.
- At the meeting the facilitator will help guide the team through the planning process, ask clarifying questions, and keep everyone on task.