

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Exceptional Children Division

IEP FACILITATION PROGRAM

Total Requests for 2005-06 year: 124

Reached full consensus: 76
Reached partial consensus: 18
No consensus: 3
Request withdrawn: 19
Other party declined: 7
(1 scheduled for 2nd meeting)

Feedback Data (from 81 cases)

Total number of responses: 410

Was the facilitator neutral and impartial? 399 Yes 3 No 4 Unsure 4 No response
97% found the facilitator neutral and impartial.

Were you encouraged and able to participate in an open exchange of ideas?
348 Completely able 56 Mostly able 6 Mostly unable 0 Completely unable
99% reported being completely or mostly able to participate in the discussions.

To what extent was the facilitation *process* successful?
256 Very successful 116 Successful 29 Somewhat successful 8 Not successful
91% found the facilitation process successful or very successful.

Did you reach consensus? 299 Yes 89 Partially 20 No 1 Unsure 1 No response
73% reported complete consensus
95% reported complete or partial consensus

Do you feel the facilitation process has improved communication between you and other party?
343 Yes 45 No 20 Unsure 2 No response
84% reported feeling that the facilitation process improved communication.

NC DPI FACILITATED IEP PROGRAM 8/25/05 – 6/30/06

Comments taken from the Facilitation Feedback from Parties Form

EC teacher: The facilitation process was helpful in keeping everyone focused and keeping the focus on the child.

Assistant Principal: Our facilitated meeting was extremely successful. The facilitator was a huge help with keeping us focused on the task at hand and using the “parking lot” as necessary.

Attorney for LEA: The facilitator was fabulous throughout the process. We would not have been able to move forward without her.

Principal: We loved the process and very professional manner in which the meeting was facilitated.

LEA Representative: The facilitator was particularly helpful in making this endeavor successful. She followed the facilitation model quite well and her demeanor throughout was calm and professional.

EC Dept. Chairperson: The facilitator was positively wonderful in that she was impartial, proactive, positive and moved the process along significantly. I was very pleased.

LEA Representative: The facilitator’s expertise was very beneficial. Very professional and helpful.

Other (?): Without facilitation, there would not have been an IEP completed today. The facilitator kept the team on track even though there was a very adversarial relationship between the parents and teacher. She had a wealth of knowledge about exceptional children and how to run a meeting.

LEA Representative: I cannot praise the facilitator highly enough for the assistance she provided us through three difficult meetings to reach consensus with the family. Thank you so much!

EC Teacher: Fantastic! Agenda was clear. Meeting was professional, agenda was followed, issues were resolved in a timely manner. Very positive experience.

Parents: This is the first time we (as parents) feel that we have been heard and changes have been made according to our input.

Parent: The facilitated meeting was very helpful and we were able to accomplish a significant amount of work.

Parent Advocate: I was impressed with the facilitator's ability to maintain good communication between both parties. I feel the issues were clarified and resolved in such a positive manner that future interactions should be more smooth and friendly.

LEA Representative: The facilitator exhibited patience and determination. This was a positive process.

Compliance Specialist: Meeting ended on good accord between parents and school. Very good decisions reached for student.

School Psychologist: There were several positive actions taken by the facilitator that were very effective: 1.) Individual conversations with the participants before the IEP meeting; 2.) Finding an area of agreement before the meeting took place; 3.) Encouragement to focus on the present and not the past; 4.) Suggesting that the parent make an opening statement about her perspective of parenting a special needs child; and 5.) Focus on working as a team to reach a collective goal of helping the student.

Regular Education Teacher: After numerous meetings previously, things were much smoother with a facilitator.

Parent: It was very helpful having the facilitator present. He kept discussions from staying personal, redirected focus when digressions occurred. The process went well.

Parent: Thanks so much to the facilitator. I could never have made it through without her patience and endurance. It was wonderful.

(Constructive) Criticism

LEA Representative: The facilitator did not serve any positive purpose; was unfamiliar with EC/IEP procedures and expectations; and monitor the ground rules.

Parent Advocate: I did not feel that the facilitator was neutral or impartial. Facilitator and school staff greeted each other with hugs and conversation about common friends/acquaintances.

LEA Representative: Pace was slow – meeting was long and draining.

EC Director: I would like to see a more detailed agenda – group discussed things that were already working well, thus wasting time and leaving little time for important issues.

Regular Education Teacher: It would have been more helpful if the facilitator had stepped in a little more to try to maintain more order and make things more efficient.

EC Teacher: It would have been more helpful for the facilitator to be more familiar with the EC paperwork.