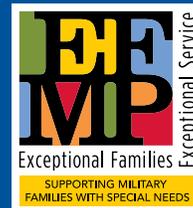


Resolving Concerns With a Child's Special Education Services



Disagreements can happen during collaborations, especially those involving a child's Individualized Education Program. In the event parents disagree with the child's school on any issue involving its special education program, parents must share concerns with the school, listen to the school's point of view and try to find a resolution.

Parents have the right to request an Individualized Education Program review at any time. Concerns should be discussed with the school and a mutually agreeable solution found. If this meeting does not resolve concerns in a satisfactory manner, a facilitated IEP meeting is another option.

The facilitated Individualized Education Program meeting includes an impartial facilitator who is not a member of the IEP team. The facilitator's job is to keep the team focused on developing the child's program, promote communication among team members, clarify points of agreement and disagreement and address other concerns as they arise.

If those methods prove unfruitful, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act provides more formal options to resolve concerns:

- **Mediation:** dispute resolution without litigation through the assistance of a neutral third party
- **Due process:** written complaint typically required to be filed within two years of the issue in dispute. The complaint may lead to an impartial due-process hearing if the parties are not able to resolve the issue satisfactorily

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/special-needs>

- **State complaint:** written complaint claiming a school district violated a requirement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Your installation's Exceptional Family Member Program office can provide additional resources and support in resolving concerns with a child's special education services.



Exceptional Family Member Program support is available for military families with special needs. For more information, please contact your installation EFMP office or visit

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/special-needs>, an official Department of Defense website.