



## Training for Collaboration

### Real World Skills

Learning or refreshing collaborative communication and dispute resolution skills can help parents and educators work together effectively for the benefit of children with disabilities. These skills can help improve the quality of Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs), Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), resolution meetings, and mediation sessions.

Workshops conducted by the Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP) are educational, practical, and fun. Workshop formats include lecture, discussion, and role-play exercises. Participants put their training to work on real-life special education concerns.

### Scheduling a Workshop

MSEMP workshops are offered statewide on a shared cost basis. Many qualify for State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs). To schedule a workshop, contact the MSEMP's Lansing office at (517) 485-2274. The MSEMP will adapt workshops to your needs and conduct them at your location.

### About the MSEMP

The MSEMP provides mediation and facilitation services for IFSPs, IEPs, Manifestation Determination Reviews (MDRs), and resolution meetings.

## Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)

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### STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) complies with all federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements of the U.S. Department of Education (USED).

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Michigan Special Education Mediation Program

## Skill-Building Workshops



Sharpen your collaboration skills to help young people with disabilities get ahead.

**(800) 8RESOLVE**

<http://msemp.cenmi.org>



## A Systematic Approach

MSEMP workshops help individuals develop communication skills to assist them through the entire IEP process. They can help educators and parents:

**Develop a child focus.** Collaborative conversations ask the question: "What works for the child and everyone who assists the child?" The goal is to move the child forward.

**Plan ahead.** IEP meetings run smoother with comprehensive advance preparation.

**Identify collaborative moments.** The IEP process offers many opportunities for educators and parents to work together productively.

**Understand differing viewpoints.** Shared knowledge and perspectives provide a starting point for discussion and set the stage for building bridges.

**Improve communication.** Techniques such as active listening, neutral phrasing, and "I" statements, along with sensitivity to cultural differences, foster understanding while reducing friction.

**Identify issues and interests.** Understand what the child needs and the tasks necessary to meet those needs to shape workable solutions.

**Generate options.** Brainstorming brings ideas forward. The more ideas, the better the chances of creating the best solution.

**Choose solutions that work.** Making decisions after all the options have been developed and analyzed can yield better plans for progress.

## IEP Series Workshops

**Essential Skills for IEP Team Meetings.** Provides practical skills for effective participation and finding agreement: meeting preparation, conducting meetings, communication, solution planning, and action plans.

**Collaboration in the IEP Process.** Discusses the IEP process with a focus on student-centered collaboration and parent/district partnerships.

**Collaborative Leadership for IEP Team Meetings.** Increases team capacity for developing IEPs by reinforcing leadership skills related to planning, process management, problem solving, and consensus building.



**Sustaining IEP Team Meeting Skills.** Open to participants who have completed the three above IEP series workshops. Participants share their experiences in applying the skills and discuss what works best.

### Additional Workshops

**Diversity Awareness & Non-Verbal Communication.** Explores respectful communication among people from other cultures or those with challenges: non-verbal communication, understanding your own non-verbal messages, and decoding others' messages.

**Transition: How to Plan, Implement, & Succeed.** School personnel, families, and students learn ideas to improve the transition process from school to post-school life. Students are encouraged to attend the last hour to improve their participation in the process.

**Conflict Resolution in Special Education.** Examines the dynamics of conflict and teaches approaches that can lead to resolution. Participants learn and enhance interest-based skills for identifying the needs of both parties to create mutually acceptable solutions.

**Discipline and Disproportionality.** Learn about disproportionality in discipline and how to correctly apply discipline procedures. Insights gained can help reduce or avoid disproportionality and show how appropriate discipline practices can lead to improved educational outcomes.