

“Our [SpedEx consultant] did a very detailed and honest assessment of the placement.”

-Family Advocate

for further information  
or  
to inquire about beginning SpedEx:

please email the program administrator:

David Scanlon at Boston College:  
david.scanlon@bc.edu

also, visit

[www.doe.mass.edu/sped/spedx/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/spedx/)



## A new and effective Special Education Dispute Resolution Model

# SpedEx

*For children, schools, and parents*

- **Child-centered**
- **Appropriate program**
- **Trust-based**

...When parents and schools disagree  
about a child's special education services

SpedEx is free to schools and parents. It offers them a neutral consultant—that they jointly select—to help them agree on appropriate services for the child and resolve their dispute.

*SpedEx is offered by the Massachusetts Department of  
Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)*

[www.doe.mass.edu/sped/spedx/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/spedx/)

“SpedEx provided a neutral perspective that gave both parties more information to make a decision.”

-Assistant Director of Special Education

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**“The SpedEx [consultant] came in and talked to all stake holders before making a judgment.”**

*-Director of Pupil Services*

## SpedEx...

- provides a jointly agreed-upon independent SpedEx Consultant to review evidence and advise the parties on a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) for the child. The consultant’s services are designed to help the parties resolve their dispute
- designed to ensure that a child receives appropriate services
- voluntary and builds trust between parents and schools
- FREE to schools and parents
- expedient
- Does not require parties to waive rights. They can proceed through the various dispute resolution options provided by the BSEA at any time.

The Consultant is chosen from a list available for review on the website of the BSEA and the Special Education section of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

[www.doe.mass.edu/sped/spedx/spedxbios.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/spedx/spedxbios.html)

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## How SpedEx works:

*Have the parents rejected an IEP or is there a hearing request?*

And...

Are the school and the parents:

- *Disputing whether the proposed IEP offers an appropriate program? or*
- *Disputing what services the child needs in order to receive appropriate services and placement?*

If so, consider using SpedEx

## Four Steps:

- 1. Parents & school agree to use SpedEx process**
- 2. SpedEx consultant selected jointly by parents & school reviews the case**  
  
*-interviews, observations, document review*
- 3. Consultant recommends appropriate services in a written report within 30 days**
- 4. If parties agree with the recommendations, the IEP is developed to reflect them. It is then implemented and the consultant observes student in the accepted program thereafter.**

SpedEx is a grass roots reform developed by educators and parents. It is supported and funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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