

Special Education Facilitation Program
July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009
 Department of Public Instruction
 Exceptional Children Division

Facilitation requests	155	
• Facilitated IEP meetings held	95	61.3%
○ Consensus on All Issues	66	69.5%
○ Consensus on Some Issues	21	22.1%
○ No Consensus	8	8.4%
• Facilitation requests withdrawn	29	18.7%
• Facilitation requests declined by LEA	15	9.7%
• Facilitation requests declined by DPI	16	10.3%

- 155 requests for facilitated IEP Team meetings were from:
 - 45 traditional local educational agencies (LEAs) and 127 different schools within those agencies; 9 charter schools; and 0 state operated programs.
- 95 meetings were held (61.3%), 29 requests were withdrawn (18.7%), 15 were declined by the LEA (9.7%), and 16 were declined by the facilitation program coordinator (10.3%).
- Results of the 95 meetings were:
 - Consensus reached on: all issues 66 (69.5%), some issues 21 (22.1%), and no consensus 8 (8.4%).
 - The average length of time for the 95 meetings was 3.5 hours.
 - 13 cases required a second session.
- Reasons requests were declined by:
 - Traditional LEAs and charter schools - the Exceptional Children (EC) Director planned to attend the meeting to facilitate and the IEP Team had met with the parent several times on the same issue.
 - The program coordinator - the meeting was already scheduled and the request was not received in time to appoint a facilitator or a facilitator was not available; parents were looking for an advocate, compliance monitor, someone who could direct the Team's decisions; the IEP Team had already made a final decision on the issue and provided the parents with prior written notice; and the issue was outside the role of the IEP Team, e.g. promotion and personnel issues.
- Parents continue to submit more requests than LEA.
 - 2007-08 parents 63.3%, traditional LEAs and charter schools 33.8%.
 - 2008-09 parents 60.3%, traditional LEAs and charter schools 38.1%.
- The top three reasons for requesting a facilitator were the same as the 2007-08 school year. Parents usually provide more than one reason.
 - 2007-08 relationship issues 19%, disagreement 16%, and to keep the meeting focused/student-centered 16%.
 - 2008-09 relationship issues 21%, disagreement 21%, and to keep the meeting focused/student-centered 15%.
- Requests each year are made most often on behalf of children with autism and other health impairments:
 - 2005-06 45%, 2006-07 49%, 2007-08 42%, and 2008-09 51%.
- Facilitators reported that the meeting process was successful because:
 - All Team members were: flexible-5 cases; prepared-11 cases, engaged in teamwork-23 cases; and willing to listen to each other-22 cases;
 - Facilitator's preparation with the parties prior to the meeting in 8 cases;
 - The facilitated IEP Team meeting structure: allowed time for healing the relationship-4 cases; created an environment where communication was open-7 cases; enabled all Team members to contribute-10 cases; kept the focus on the student-23 cases; and prevented one person from controlling the meeting (administrator-2 cases, parent-3 cases, and advocate-3 cases).