


Before
emotions
run high or
discussions
get tough,
**WE CAN
HELP!**



*Special Education
Mediation Services*

mikids1st.org

ALL SERVICES ARE FREE



**“With SEMS,
we were able to
meet with one goal
in mind – our
child’s needs.”**

- Family Member

IMPROVE OUTCOMES

It all comes down to this:

Students who receive special education supports and services are entitled to an education program that meets their unique needs.

Communication while creating this program can be challenging and those involved may disagree on the appropriate way to support a student. That's when Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS) can help.

Whether to resolve a disagreement about the program or to provide collaborative process support, teams – and ultimately students – benefit from the skills and experience of a mediator or facilitator.

FOSTER COOPERATION

**“SEMS
helped to resolve
issues that were
beneficial to both the
school and the
family.”**

- Mediator

All SEMS services are provided at no cost to participants.

Resolve disagreements

Mediation provides a confidential process for participants to explore options that meet the child's needs. A neutral mediator supports a collaborative approach to finding a mutually agreeable solution.

RESOLVE DISAGREEMENTS

Support team discussion in meetings

Facilitation supports communication in special education meetings, promoting collaborative discussions so everyone has a chance to contribute ideas and provide feedback.

Improve communication

Workshops and materials help strengthen communication and collaboration skills for special education administrators, teachers, service providers and parents.



“SEMS has changed the whole dynamic of meetings. They set the tone, kept everything moving and wrapped things up in an appropriate amount of time. Very professional.”

- School Administrator

SEMS' trained, neutral facilitators help manage special education meetings so participants can focus on issues, voice concerns and contribute ideas.

MANAGE MEETINGS

We help:

- Give everyone a chance to meaningfully participate
- Everyone understand each other's perspective
- Foster a positive approach to resolving conflicts
- Participants navigate the decision-making process
- Create productive relationships
- Promote focus and efficient use of meeting time
- Build trust and improve communication
- Explore creative solutions



RESOLVE DISAGREEMENTS



**"It was
a huge relief to
discover that it was
100% free."**

- Family Member

FOSTER COOPERATION



***Special Education
Mediation Services***

**Call 833-KIDS-1ST
(833-543-7178)**



or complete the
online Request
Services form
by visiting

mikids1st.org/request-services

***“SEMS helped
everyone involved
stay focused and
productive.”***

***- School
Administrator***

SEMS intake will:

- Gather information about the student and the concerns
- Provide information about how SEMS may help the situation
- Contact the other party for agreement to participate
- Coordinate the services with a SEMS service provider

IMPROVE COMMUNICATION



Special Education Mediation Services

We help meetings stay focused on the student

- Facilitation for meetings, such as:
 - Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meetings (0-3 years)
 - Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings (3-26 years)
 - Manifestation Determination Review (MDR) meetings
- Mediation to resolve disputes
- Workshops and trainings for your staff or group

2111 University Park Drive, Ste. 550,
Okemos, MI 48864

Phone 517-334-0034 • Fax 517-220-4181
Email info@Mikids1st.org

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