

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meeting-Facilitation Project

End-of-the-Year Report for 2014-2015

Executive Summary

At the request of the Delaware Department of Education's (DOE) Exceptional Children Resources (ECR) team, the Conflict Resolution Program (CRP), within the Institute for Public Administration at the University of Delaware, developed the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meeting-Facilitation project. DOE has continuously funded the project since its inception in July 2000.

The following report is submitted respectfully to DOE's ECR team. The information and statistical data provided reflect the results of IEP meeting-facilitation inquiries for the current project year. The current project year began on July 1, 2014, and ended on June 30, 2015. The goal of the project was for CRP staff to facilitate challenging IEP meetings when requested by either a parent/guardian or school district.

The services covered by this contract include all intake activities, such as telephone discussions, email, and information dissemination with all relevant parties; pre-meeting preparation; travel; meeting facilitation; post-facilitation activities; and follow-up activities. Statistics are maintained on all phases of the project and are explained throughout this report. This report also includes an overview of previous years' statistical data, which have been maintained since 2000.

Inquiries regarding IEP meeting-facilitation services vary from year to year. During the 2014–2015 reporting year, there were a total of 35 inquiries about, or requests for, facilitated IEP meetings. Eight of these inquiries resulted in IEP meeting-facilitation services, which involved 107 IEP team members.

Each year, CRP attempts to evaluate IEP meeting-facilitation services from all IEP team members' perspectives regarding their opinions about the meeting process. Historically, response rate is low, and this year was no exception. Sixteen responses were returned.

This reporting year has seen an increase in school districts within Delaware requesting training for their staff on strategies and techniques for achieving successful outcomes in IEP team meetings.

As IEP-meeting facilitation continues to be a growing trend throughout the country, Delaware is noted as a model state for project design and implementation. CRP staff have been called upon to serve as a resource for other states that are interested in developing an IEP meeting-facilitation system or have questions regarding delivery of service.