SEMS support helps team members ...

- Enhance two-way communication
- Express their ideas and be heard
- Understand each other's perspective
- Approach conflicts positively
- Participate in decision-making
- Create productive relationships
- Make the best use of short meetings
- Speed service delivery to students
- Resolve disagreements for the benefit of students

... so that meetings are student centered.



"The SEMS facilitators did an excellent job of keeping everyone on track in the IEP. I sincerely appreciate the professional manner in which they facilitate meetings."
– IEP Team Member

FOR SERVICES:

Toll Free 833-543-7178
833-KIDS-1ST
Website Mikids1st.org

FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION:

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

Special Education Mediation Services

516 S. Creyts Road, Suite A
Lansing, MI 48917

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STATEMENT OF FUNDING

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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).

September 2018

Special Education Mediation Services

WORKING TOGETHER FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Support and Resources for Special Education Teams



A program of the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education



TEAM ORIENTED. STUDENT FOCUSED.

Students with disabilities rely on their special education team to work together to create their education programs and to improve educational outcomes. It's a long-term, collaborative effort. The student's program improves when the team plans for best outcomes and manages disagreements with the student in mind.

A no-cost resource for special education support, service and solutions.

Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS) helps students by fostering cooperation and effective teamwork among those who plan their education. The overall goal is to help students, parents and educators make decisions that improve educational outcomes.

Our services help all team members

IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

SEMS provides on-site workshops and materials to strengthen communication and collaboration skills that support productive relationships.

MANAGE COMPLEX MEETINGS

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

SEMS Supports:

- **IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan)** meetings for 0- to 3-year-olds
- **IEP (Individualized Education Program)** meetings for 3- to 26-year-olds
- **MDR (Manifestation Determination Review)** meetings in response to long-term suspension or expulsion decisions
- **RS (Resolution Session)** meetings related to due process complaints



RESOLVE DISAGREEMENTS

When disagreements arise, SEMS provides a safe, neutral environment for team members to explore options that meet student needs. In mediation, collaborative communication helps resolve a wide range of complex special education issues. A trained special education mediator guides parties through a process that has an 80 percent agreement rate. Free of charge.