Communication Options for Families

Options Available if You Have Questions or Disagree with a Decision of the School

Families and schools have a "built-in" partnership with the child as the focus. This partnership will grow when parents and school staff work together. Disagreements may happen, but working together improves your child's education.

What can you do if questions or concerns arise?

- If concerns arise, families are encouraged to first talk directly with the people involved as soon as possible (see local contacts - ex: your child's teachers, principal, other school administrators)
- First, call to schedule an informal meeting to discuss the situation
- Then, prepare for the meeting by making a list of concerns and some possible solutions

What can you do in the meeting?

- Identify student strengths and acknowledge what is working
- Identify concerns of families and educators
- Use active listening in order to understand the other person's perspective
- Ask questions or restate ideas so the team has a clear understanding
- Work together to suggest some possible options to resolve the concerns
- Analyze all of the options to see if you can find areas of agreement
- Discuss what should happen next

What if concerns are not fully resolved in the meeting?

- Request a break or ask the IEP team to meet again and consider including additional team members.
- Call others for suggestions on possible future action (see Communication Options for Families chart).

Problem solving at the school level gives families and school districts more collaborative options on outcomes for children.

Next Steps: What can be done if these attempts at solving problems don't work?

- **Facilitated IEP**: A no-cost option for early conflict resolution Wisconsin available to families and schools. A neutral, trained professional helps the IEP team with the IEP process. https://wsems.us/iep-facilitation/
- **Mediation:** A no-cost option for early conflict resolution available to families and schools. A mediator helps families and schools work toward resolution on special education conflicts or issues. https://wsems.us/mediation/
- **IDEA State Complaint**: Anyone who believes a school district violated state or federal special education law has the right to file a complaint with DPI. http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/dispute-resolution/complain
- **Due Process Hearing**: Parents, adult students, and school districts have the right to request due process hearings for special education disputes. http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/dispute-resolution/due-process

Access to WSPEI Family Engagement Coordinators and the WI Special Education Mediation System are provided at no cost to parents.

CESA – Cooperative Educational Service Agency
DPI – Department of Public Instruction
IEP – Individualized Education Program
WSPEI – Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative

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WSPEI Information can be found at: **www.wspei.org**

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Communication Options for Kewaskum School District

Options Available if You Have Questions or Disagree with a Decision of the School

Who Can I Talk To?

Special EducationTeacher

Name:
Phone:
Email:

Director of Special Education

Name: Christopher Nesemann
Phone: 262-626-3101 x 1011
Email: cnesemann@kewaskumschools.org

Parent/Family Center Contact

(Ex: WI FACETS, Alianza)

Name: Courtney Salzer
WI Facets
Phone: 877-374-0511
Email: csalzer@wifacets.org

Other Family Engagement Contacts

Name: Abby Watzlawick, KSD Family Liaison
Phone: 262-626-3101 x 1019
Email: awatzlawick@kewaskumschools.org

DPI Special Education Team

Phone: (608) 266-1781
https://dpi.wi.gov/support/contact-special-education
DPI SPED Team Staff Listing:
http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/abou/staff

WSPEI Contact

Problem Solving Collaboratively Gives Families and School Districts Shared Input over the Outcomes for Children

Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative

https://wspei.org/contact/

State Contacts & Options

Regular Education Teacher

Name:
Phone:
Email:

School Psychologists

Early Childhood/Elementary Schools
Name: Steve Erdmann
Phone: 262-626-3101 x 7115
Email: serdmann@kewaskumschools.org

Middle School/High School
Name: Casie Stuettgen
Phone: 262-626-3104 x 2105
Email: cstuettgen@kewaskumschools.org

Administrator/Principal

Name: Mark Getz
Kewaskum Elementary School Principal
Phone: 262-626-3101 x 1007
Email: mgetz@kewaskumschools.org

Name: Angie Petersen
Farmington Elementary School Principal
Phone: 262-626-3102 x 7011
Email: apetersen@kewaskumschools.org

Name: Julie Skelton
Kewaskum Middle School Principal
Phone: 262-626-3104 x 2103
Email: jskelton@kewaskumschools.org

Name: Kevin Bryant
Kewaskum High School Principal
Phone: 262-626-3105 x 4128
Email: kbryant@kewaskumschools.org

Other Family Engagement Contacts

(ex: WI Family Ties or WSPEI District Liaison)

Name:
Phone:
Email:

Mediation & Facilitated IEP Intake Coordinator

www.wsems.us

Phone Toll Free: 888-298-3857

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