

Effective Communication – The IEP Team

The IEP team is intended to be a collaborative partnership between school personnel, parents, and other parties that have the goal of working together to make appropriate educational decisions regarding the student on an IEP. Effective communication is an essential tool that supports teaming and collaboration.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act intends for team members to work collaboratively to try and reach consensus. Consensus is best achieved when the parties on the team are respectful in working together. Consensus is most challenging when various members of the team have diverse opinions. Through careful and purposeful work to share ideas, consensus can be achieved.

It is difficult to listen and hear anything positive from someone who is adversarial within the team. All team members deserve respect and should be prepared in any meeting to act respectful to others. Team members work together best when they view themselves as allies.

