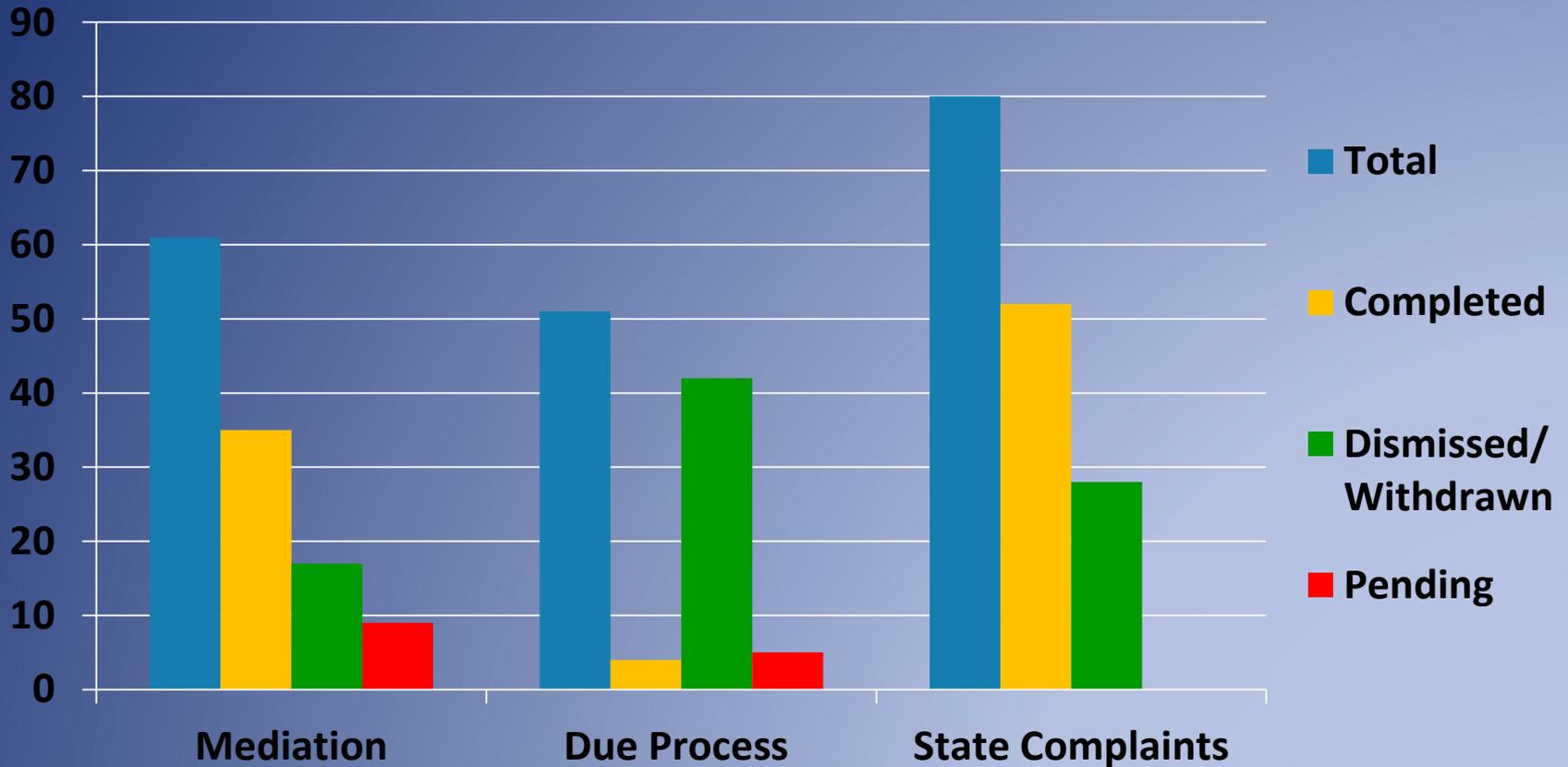


Dispute Resolution

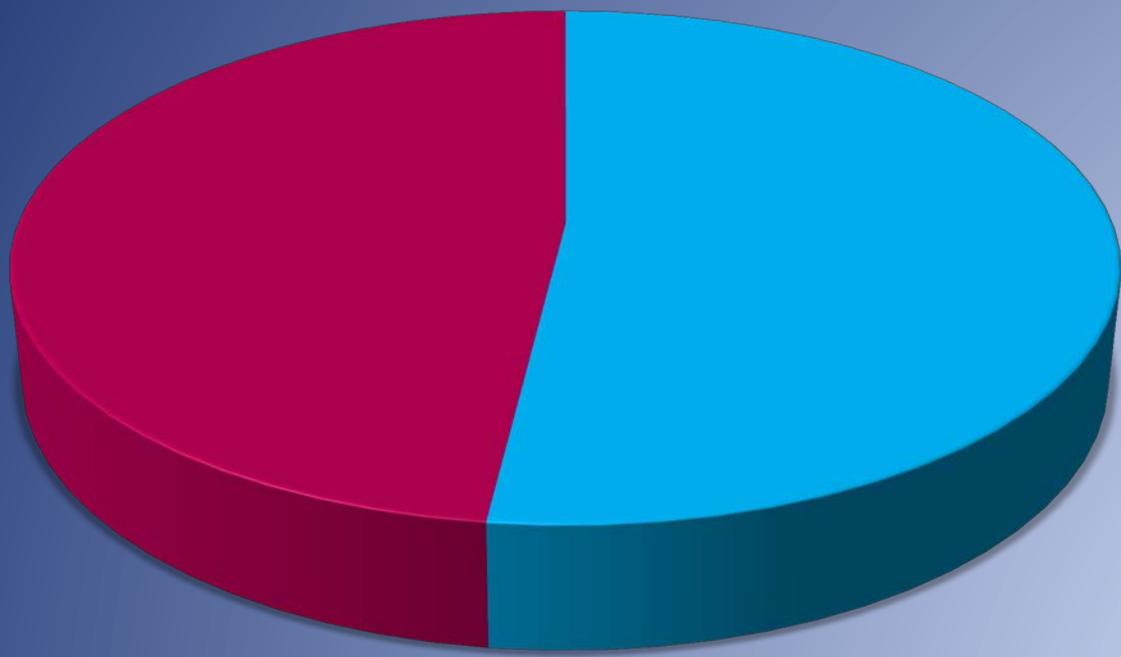
FY2015 Data

DR Processes Comparison





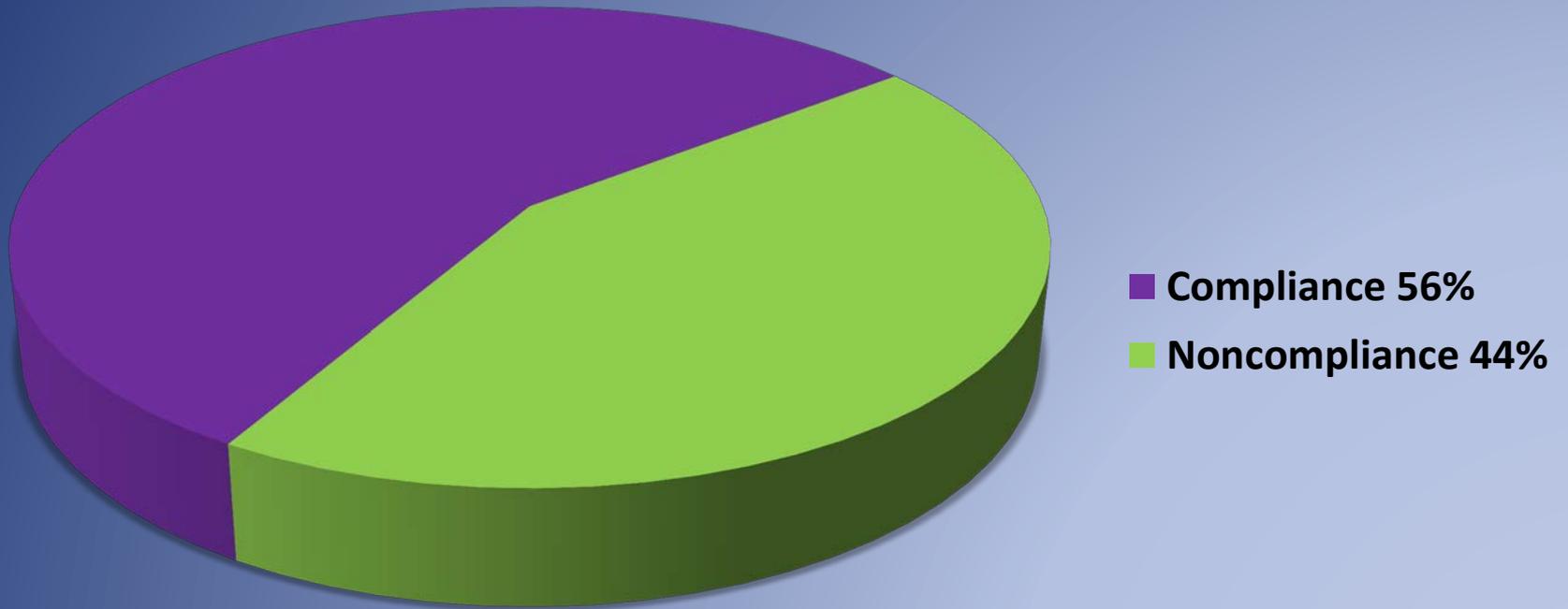
PEA Type



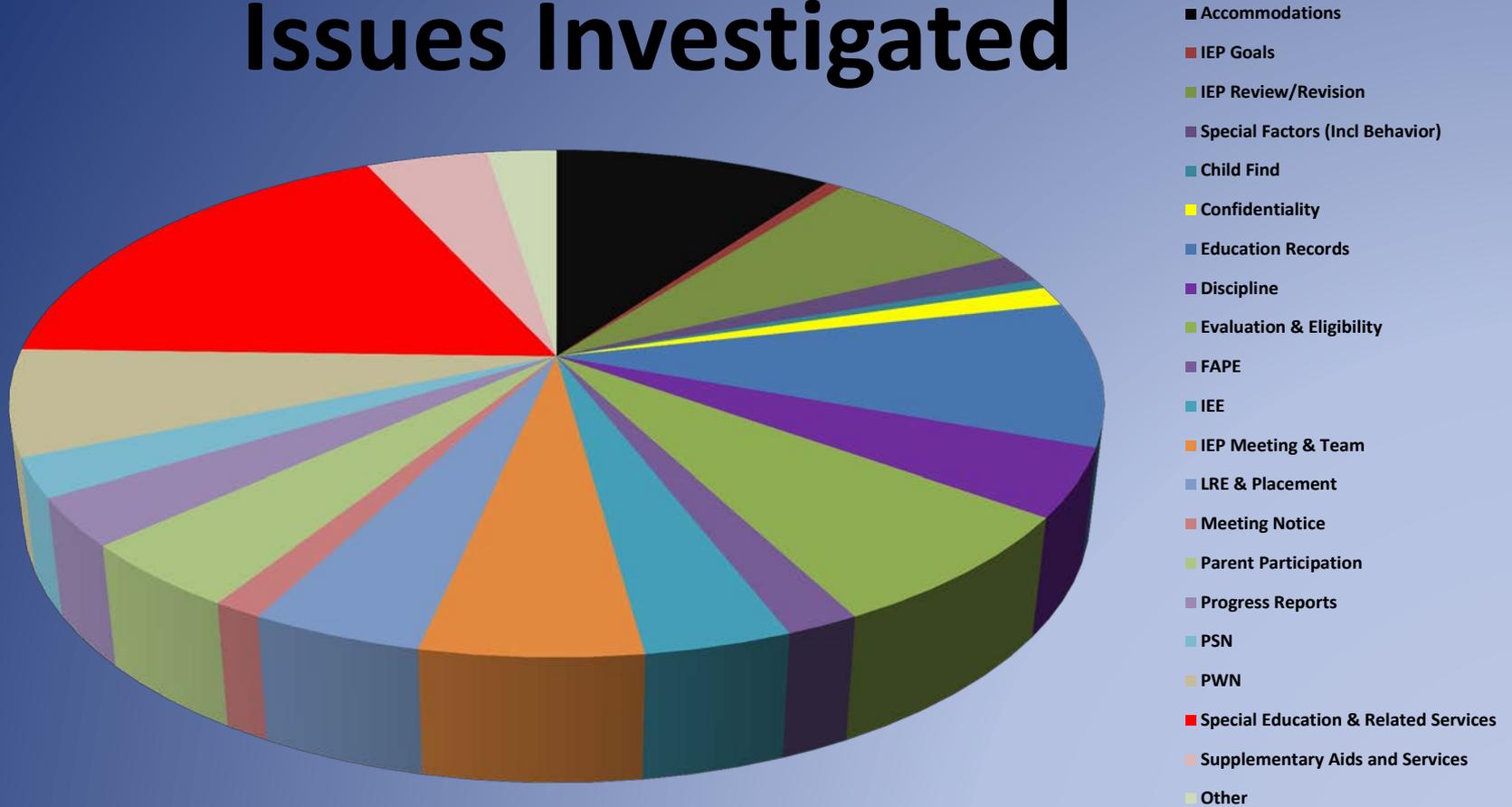
- Districts 52%
- Charter Schools 48%

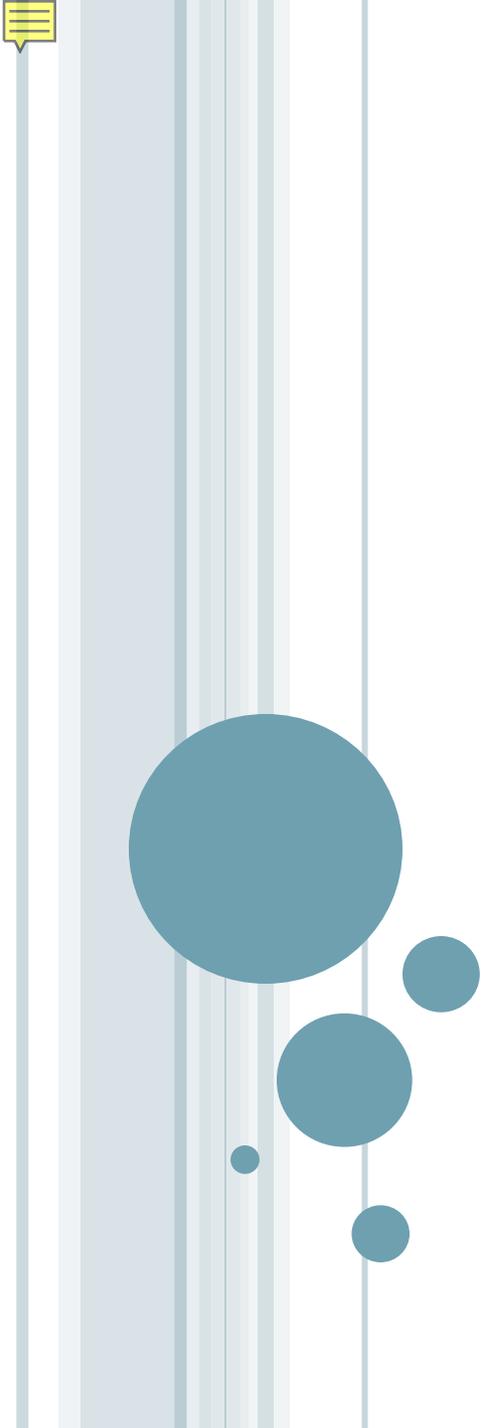


Issue Findings



Issues Investigated





IEP FACILITATION

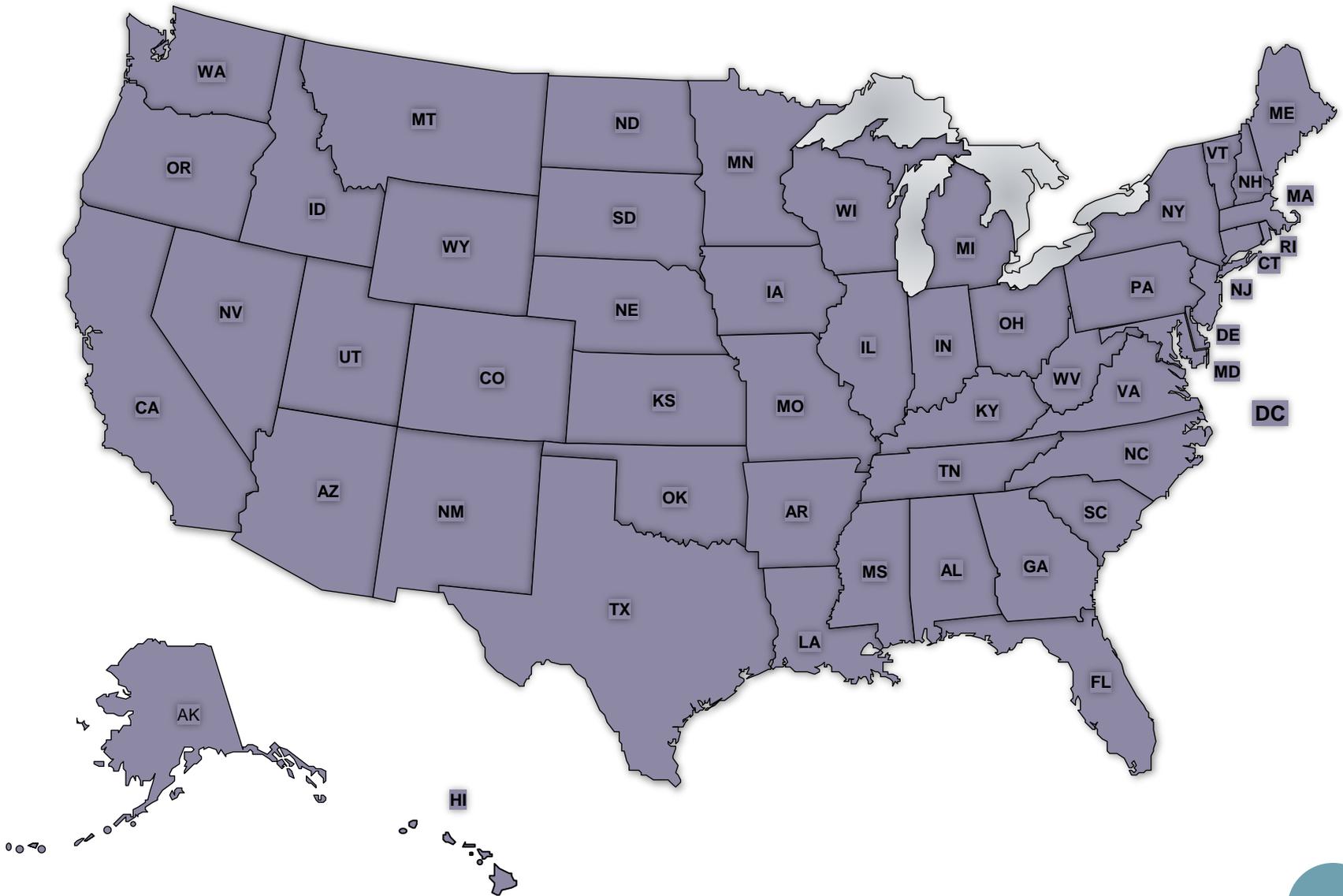
Effective collaboration and shared problem solving
through facilitation

Arizona Department of Education
Dispute Resolution

NATIONAL TRENDS IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION UNDER THE IDEA

- States are making significant investments in early collaborative alternative dispute resolution activities:
 - 43 states and jurisdictions are providing, developing, or exploring the use of IEP facilitation;
 - 29 of these currently offer IEP facilitation statewide (compared to 9 in 2005); and
 - At least 25 states support other activities, including local capacity building, ombudspersons, stakeholder training, advisory opinions, and other innovative approaches.
- Some states indicate that the use of collaborative approaches is linked to less use of formal processes, leading to fiscal savings, increased system efficiencies, and improved school-family relationships.





States Offering IEP Facilitation in ~~2013~~

INTRODUCING A FACILITATED IEP CULTURE TO YOUR PEA:

Arizona step 1: IEP facilitation trainings

- Beginning in 2014, Dispute Resolution committed to provide state-wide capacity building FIEP trainings
- Through July 2015, 316 people have participated in these training from 93 districts/charters



WHAT IS A PEA-LED FACILITATED IEP MEETING?

- A PEA-led facilitated individualized education program (IEP) meeting is one in which:
 - A PEA employee, designated as the facilitator, assists the IEP team in developing an IEP that provides a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to the student
 - An IEP is developed by a collaborative team whose members share responsibility for the meeting process and results
 - Decision-making and any conflicts that arise are managed through the use of facilitation skills
 - Keeps the meeting focused on the student



HOW DOES A FIEP CULTURE BENEFIT YOUR PEA?

- Builds and improves relationships among IEP team members and between parents and schools
- Keeps the meeting focused on the student
- Models effective communication and listening
- Provides opportunities for team members to resolve conflicts if they arise
- Supports the full participation of all IEP team members
- No cost to the parties and typically less stressful than formal dispute resolution options
- Is the IEP meeting and thus does not require a separate meeting



CREATING A STATE-WIDE FACILITATED IEP CULTURE

Arizona step 2: State-wide facilitated IEP system

- During the 2016-2017 school year, a state-wide facilitated IEP system will be established
- Similar to the current mediation system:
 - The parent(s) or the public education agency must contact ADE/DR to request a facilitation
 - ADE/DR obtains assurances that both parties are willing to participate and a facilitator is assigned
 - At no cost to either party
- The facilitators:
 - Maintain impartiality and do not represent the parent, student, school district/charter school, or state education agency
 - Does not make decisions. The members of the IEP team are the decision-makers



VISION

The Arizona FIEP Program's vision is to build capacity among educators and families to ensure that collaborative, student-focused IEP teams are equipped to make sound decisions in the development of IEPs that offer children with disabilities a free appropriate public education.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Kacey Gregson
Deputy Director of Legal Services
Kacey.Gregson@azed.gov

Amy Dill
Facilitated IEP Specialist
Amy.dill@azed.gov

Dispute Resolution: 602-542-3084
<http://www.azed.gov/special-education/dispute>

Toll Free Early Resolution Help Line: 855-383-9801

