

FACILITATED INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION/504 PROGRAM (FIEP)

MARCH - JUNE 2024

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) launched the Facilitated Individualized Education/504 Program (FIEP) on March 1, 2024. Staffed by three experienced and respected educational FIEP/504 professionals, the FIEP represents a significant step by RIDE to facilitate collaborative efforts between families and school districts in Rhode Island. The initiative has empowered schools and families with the opportunity to address conflicts, resolve misunderstandings, and navigate differing opinions regarding a student's individualized education programming. The FIEP has shown promising engagement.

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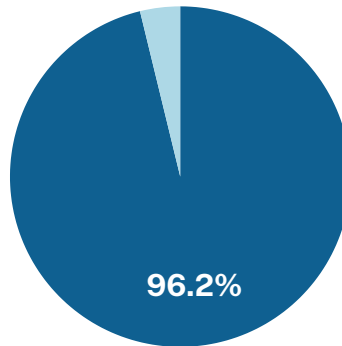
formal requests received



100% success rate

of the 13 requests that moved forward with a facilitated meeting, consensus was achieved*

The 59 participants surveyed immediately following their engagement in the FIEP meeting was overwhelmingly positive. High ratings across key areas such as facilitation clarity, information sharing, meeting focus, neutrality, and participants feeling respected were noted with an overall satisfaction average rating of 96.2%



Background

- Approximately 35,865 or 1 in 4 Rhode Island students have an IEP, 504 plan, or both (Source: RIDE Data).
- A 504 plan is geared toward ensuring a student has equitable access, while an IEP focuses on individualized, specially-designed instruction and services.
- RIDE retained the services of a nationally-recognized Facilitated IEP trainer, Key2Ed, to provide training and technical assistance to the education community.
- RIDE held orientation sessions for key stakeholders and developed a Community of Practice for school districts.
- The program is supported by funding from state general revenue.

Participant Feedback

"...the team and family were able to come together in a productive, respectful, data-driven manner that will enable future success. The facilitators' preparation before the meeting and active facilitation during the meeting were excellent."

"...the process was extremely helpful. I felt supported and protected during the meeting and that the facilitators were helpful in keeping the meeting on track."

"The facilitators should be complimented for helping calm and focus a very contentious situation and being able to arrive at some agreement. We had multiple meetings that were all necessary."

"The facilitators did an outstanding job. It is one of the best initiatives from RIDE in my 20+ years as an administrator. My only suggestion would be I wish we had this process sooner."

*The remaining 17 requests did not move forward with a facilitated meeting as the facilitators were able to reach consensus with the family and/or district toward an agreeable next step.

What's Next?

RIDE plans to expand district capacity through training modules, consultation services, and community engagement initiatives, including tailored parent trainings in collaboration with parent organizations.

RIDE has developed a dedicated FIEP page that provides information and procedures for schools and families to access the new service. Visit www.ride.ri.gov/FIEP to learn more.



RIDE Rhode Island Department of Education