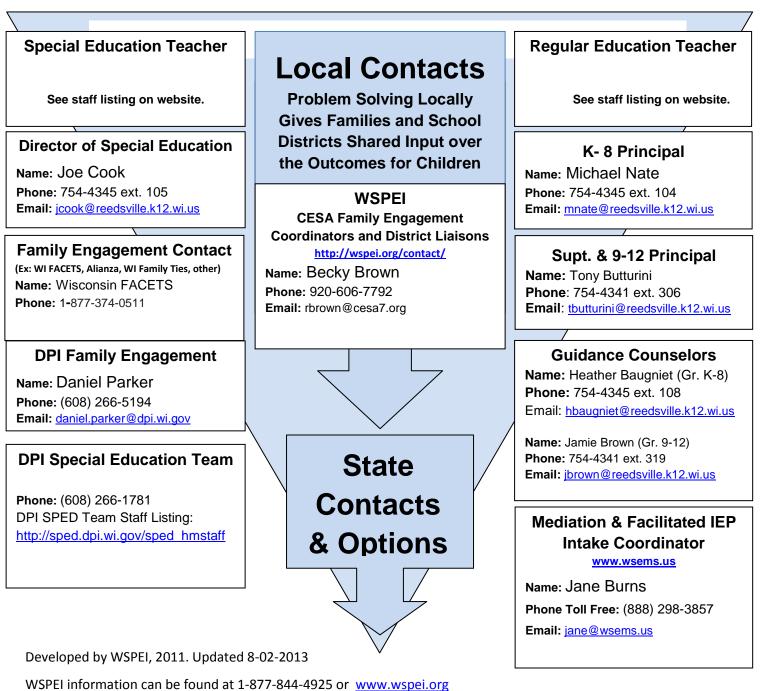
# Reedsville Public School District Communication Options for Families

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



The contents of this product were developed under a grant from the Department of Education, CFDA (84.027a), through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WI DPI). WSPEI acknowledges WDPI support for this federally funded grant resource.

# **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)
- **b** First, call to schedule an informal meeting to discuss the situation
- O 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
- **Output** 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
- Oiscuss 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: An option for early conflict resolution Wisconsin has chosen to make available to families and schools. A neutral, trained professional helps the IEP team with the IEP process.
   <a href="http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped\_wsems">http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped\_wsems</a>
- Mediation: An option for early conflict resolution available at no cost to families and schools. A mediator helps families and schools work toward resolution on special education conflicts/issues. <u>http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped\_wsems</u>
- IDEA State Complaints: Anyone who believes a school district violated state or federal special education law has the right to file a complaint with DPI. More information at: <u>http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped\_complain</u>
- **Due Process Hearings**: Parents, adult students, and schools districts have the right to request due process hearings for special education disputes. More information at: <u>http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped\_dueproc</u>

#### Access to WSPEI Family Engagement Coordinators and the WI 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 1-877-844-4925 www.wspei.org

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