

Pursuant to [Wis Stat §115.797](#) , the WSEMS provides special education mediation for disputes about eligibility, placement, IEP (Individualized Education Program) issues, and a denial of a free and appropriate public education.

In order to meet the parties' needs, it is the goal of WSEMS to provide a roster of diverse mediators with a broad range of background, ethnicity, mediation style, geographical location, educational background, and life experiences.

Pursuant to federal statute [34 CFR 300.506\(c\)\(1\)](#), [\[20 U.S.C. 1415\(e\)\]](#) , the WSEMS roster mediators are not employees of the State Educational Agency (Department of Public Instruction) or the Local Education Agency (a public school district). This requirement is to protect the impartiality of the mediator and the entire roster.

The WSEMS roster mediators must follow the Model Standards of Conduct co-drafted by the American Bar Association, the Association for Conflict Resolution, and the American Arbitration Association. The link to [The Model Standards of Conduct](#) is on the WSEMS website in the Resource section.

State law requires two components of mediator training for the roster.

1 A 5-day training for new roster WSEMS mediators.

Our next training for potential roster members will be from September 25-29, 2017. Please see the 2017 WSEMS application link. Please note that participating in the training does not guarantee a place on the roster.

2 To maintain status as a mediator on the roster, members must attend a one-day annual update training currently provided by the WSEMS. If for some reason the mediator is unable to attend in person, a link to videos of the training on You Tube is provided to the mediator. The mediator must watch the videos and return it to the WSEMS with a signed affidavit verifying they watched the videos.

A mediator is not guaranteed a certain number of cases per year. Because the WSEMS values self-determination by the parties, all parties must agree on the mediator for their case. Roster members are paid \$120 per hour for pre/post/session/travel time plus expenses for mediation and facilitation. For more information please contact Nina Meierding, Mediation Partner, at nina@meierding.com or Jane Burns, System Administrator, at jane@wsems.us.