

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

In order to meet the parties' needs, WSEMS provides a roster of diverse mediators with a broad range of background, ethnicity, mediation styles, 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 (WI Dept. of Public Instruction) and a Local Education Agency (a public school district or charter school). This requirement is to protect the impartiality of the mediator and the entire roster.

The WSEMS 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.

The state law requires two mediator-training components for the roster.

1. A 5-day training currently provided by the WSEMS for new roster WSEMS mediators. Our last training was in **September 2017** and we have no plans to conduct another 5-day training at this time. Our current roster provides a wide range of mediators for parties to choose from.

We provide an application and have review committee who offers training spots to chosen applicants. Applicants may be offered a place in future trainings with the knowledge that receiving 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 video of the training is provided on YouTube to the mediator. The mediator must watch the video and return a signed affidavit to the WSEMS verifying they watched the video.

A mediator is not guaranteed a certain number of cases per year. Because the WSEMS values self-determination by the parties, both 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 IEP facilitation.

For more information please contact Mediation Partner and System Administrator Gia Pionek (888)-298-3857 (Toll Free Voice) or gja@wsems.us.