

Quotes of Experiences from Families and Educators Relating to Virtual IEP Meetings

Updated 04-17-20, WI DPI

"I was quite nervous about how the meeting would go not being face to face and not being able to read body language. However I felt it was more organized and to the point than it is in person. Everyone was better at taking their turns speaking and taking the time to listen. It felt more cohesive. Overall it was a good experience." - Parent who recently participated in a virtual IEP meeting for the first time

"I have found that the virtual IEP meeting is much like meeting in person. Be prepared with your paperwork and be prepared to troubleshoot any technical issues. Allow parents the opportunity to participate over the telephone if videoconferencing isn't an option for them. We have been using Zoom as our meeting platform and it's been working great. Natalie Poppe, Speech Language Pathologist, Reedsville School District

"Over the course of the last couple of weeks, we have been able to host IEP Meetings with very good parent satisfaction through the use of Google Meet. One school person presents the IEP to the group and writes/reviews the IEP as we normally would at an in person IEP Meeting. Parents have been very receptive and comfortable with our process with most parents stating this was more or less the same as meeting in person". - Comment from Shaun Young, Director of Learning, Gibraltar School District.

"Everybody is going to need a lot of patience and flexibility! My virtual IEP meeting ended up having to be changed to a phone meeting on the fly since no one could get the video call to work! That could have been really frustrating, but thankfully I had a draft of the IEP in front of me and had already spoken to my son's special education teacher earlier in the week about my concerns. So despite the format of the meeting being a surprise, nothing in the actual meeting was, and I felt good about what we were able to accomplish." from Courtney

"I suggest that you use a platform that supports both call in and computer access. That gives parents more options for participating. Make sure to say who is talking before you start, and clarify who will facilitate the meeting and how to respond. Sometimes it's difficult to know who is trying to talk due to delays among computers and phones. This is probably more of an issue in rural areas." Valerie Brooks, Director of Special Education, Bowler and Gresham School Districts

"During my virtual IEP meeting, we shared my evaluation report as I talked to the group. As I saw my report on the screen I felt obligated to go over both scores and detailed information from it. However, in typical meetings, I rarely go off my report and talk more casually to families. For future meetings, I would request my report not be shared at that moment. I would let families know that if they have questions about the report after the meeting they can always contact me afterward. -Jacque Gerritsen, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, Stevens Point School District

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“The virtual IEP meetings we have conducted have been very productive and a positive experience for the entire team. Our case managers have worked closely with each family to prepare them ahead of time by providing them with an outline/agenda of the meeting, laying out the purpose and objectives, teaching them how to use ZOOM if necessary & what to expect, as well as working with the students to continue with their plans for a student-led IEP. The relationships that have been developed with our students & families have made a huge difference in the success of our virtual IEPs.” - Julie Mlagan, Transition Coordinator for the School District of Menomonee Falls

“I have had several virtual IEP meetings and found the students are more comfortable contributing during the meetings (not sure if the meetings somehow seem smaller or less intimidating to the kids who are used to "screen time")” - IEP Team Member