

John Nathan Hintze
Brunswick

As a parent with two children on IEP's have never found the IEP process to be truly a team based approach. I have also found that teachers are never able to be fully honest and transparent in the process with the Director of Student Services in the room. I have found myself in this position with the school district trying to force my family into out of placement services against our wishes. The school district in the middle of a contentious IEP process said that they no longer wanted our son in the district anymore. When that statement was uttered teachers that just the day before said how much they enjoyed having my child in their classes started with the narrative that he was far too much work and that they no longer wanted him in their classes. The current IEP process is really not a truly collaborative process it is secretive and stacked against parents and the child. Even though money can not be a reason to deny a child services it often times is the reason why. I believe if Maine Special Education was funded at a higher level that this bill wouldn't be needed as our public schools would be better equipped to handle all children and out of placement wouldn't be a consideration. Until that point, I think it would be a disservice to all special ed children to deny them a fair IEP process.