

G: Parent Advocacy Problem Solving Approach

1. Define the Problem

- Ask each person to describe the issue
- Is this the real problem or could there be a bigger issue?
- Agree on a shared definition of the problem

2. Generate Possible Solutions

- Be realistic
- Consider all parties involved

3. Predict Consequences

- Try to predict consequences of each solution
- Eliminate some solutions
- Rank the final few

4. Choose One of the Solutions

- Set a **timeline** to give it a fair chance
- Record **who** is doing **what**
- **Set a date** for the follow-up evaluation

5. Evaluation and Follow-up

- Is it working?
- Are there any changes needed?
- Choose another solution, if necessary (Repeat step 4 - 5)
- Have another brainstorming session (Repeat steps 2 - 5)

Source: Adapted from the Ministry of Education Document - *Shared Solutions, A Guide to Preventing and Resolving Conflicts Regarding Programs and Services for Students with Special Education Needs*, Page 35 – Steps in Problem Solving.