



# How to Collaborate with a School Team when Staffing is an Issue

Across our country there is a staffing shortage in schools. That does not however change the needs of our students. It is time to get creative and collaborate. There are many ways to approach the lack of staffing, our suggestions are as follows.

The first suggestion would be to make that request for a meeting. While meeting with your team takes time, setting an agreed upon agenda and goals and sticking to it will allow the team to address the main areas of concern. In advance of a meeting, ask for a copy of your child's daily schedule so that the team is working from the same information. At the meeting we always like to start with a thank you. It should not be extraordinary that the team is doing the work your child needs, but the work that the team is doing is often very taxing and saying thank you goes a long way. With your meeting agenda in hand, work through the points that need solutions. Share all of the solutions in writing at the end of the meeting. If there are areas that still need to be addressed, note those too, but make sure the team agrees to the next steps after the meeting. All agreements should be measurable and have a timeframe for implementation and review. This is a process that takes refinement. To summarize:

1. Call a meeting
2. Set an agenda and identify the goal of the meeting in advance
3. Request your child's schedule in advance of the meeting
4. Recognize both the situation the school is in as well as the needs of the child
5. Get creative!
6. Share all agreed upon decisions in writing
7. Assess if decisions are working
8. Come back to collaborate if needed

