



Classroom Placement of Multiples Policy

MOST believes that implementing laws (or even rules) that give one interested party (regardless of who it is) the complete, only, and final say is short-sighted and reckless. The result will most likely accomplish little more than a trade-off, which is not progress. With such laws, the situation may improve for some multiple birth children, but only get worse for others.



MOST believes that the bills which state that parents should have the final say in multiples' school placement (together or separated) are not necessarily in the best interest of the children. We do not support states having the authority to dictate placement. However, we also believe that the parents do not always have access to adequate information to make an unbiased and informed decision. We are in favor of an individual family collaborative agreement between the administrators and parents that is in the best interest of the children. Ideally, the decision should be made jointly, with both the school administration and the parents agreeing on placement.

When a mutually acceptable agreement cannot be made, then an unbiased mediator should speak on behalf of the children. Placement together should be strongly considered for multiples being separated for the first time from their primary caregiver (preschool, pre-K, kindergarten) unless, there are extenuating medical or educational reasons for separation. In elementary school, the decision to separate or keep together should be done on an individual family basis, without legislation.

MOST supports more awareness for school officials, and would be glad to work with professionals to create fair and candid protocols designed to help parents make such decisions considering only their children's best educational and social interest. MOST will continue to develop information and materials to help parents who feel they need better negotiation skills, so they can effectively communicate with school personnel to establish a non-adversarial relationship in this regard.

Resources on classroom placement of school-age multiples:

~ The MOST FAQ on classroom placements includes information, resource links, a list of research studies on this topic, and details about state laws: www.MOSTonline.org/faq71.htm

~ MOST articles on classroom placement:

www.MOSTonline.org/sunshop/index.php?l=search_list&s%5Btitle%5D=Y&s%5Bshort_desc%5D=Y&s%5Bfull_desc%5D=Y&s%5Bcid%5D=0&s%5Bsearch%5D=classroom

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