



# Alternative Dispute Resolution

If you as a parent are having challenges coming to agreement with your student's IEP team, these options are available to you. It is important to begin with the least formal process and work toward the more formal process only as needed.

If you have concerns with your child's educational program, your first point of contact should be your district representative:

If you still have concerns, please contact the SELPA Intake Coordinator at 661-636-4805

## **Collaborative IEP Process**

Often parents and school personnel find that they agree on many more things than they disagree on and can build on those areas to reach a compromise.

## **Expert Teams/Local Intake Coordinator**

If a parent or district is having challenges and wishes a team to come in and review the assessments/IEPs/concerns and offer their opinions, that is possible. The parent can contact the Local Intake Coordinator to coordinate that effort.

## **Facilitated IEP**

If a parent is having frequent IEP meetings or multiple meetings before the team is in agreement, a Facilitated IEP may assist the team in coming to agreement. This Facilitator is a neutral party that keeps the team focused and documents all agreements. The goal is to achieve a signed IEP that all team members feel represents all the issues needed to educate that student.

## **Local Mediation\***

Parents and districts will be able to participate in no cost, impartial local mediation when desired. Local mediation uses an effective problem-solving method through a Mediator who will discuss possible solutions and develop agreements that are mutually acceptable to both parties. It is a safe, low-pressure process. The final agreements will be committed to writing in a facilitated or collaborative IEP.

\*Currently in development

## **Compliance Complaint**

A Compliance Complaint may be filed by a parent when they believe that the LEA has violated the educational code. The California Department of Education will review all relevant information and make an independent determination about the alleged educational code violations.

## **Resolution Meeting**

The Resolution Meeting is a meeting that takes place after Due Process has been filed. The meeting provides the opportunity for discussion and clarification of issues, with both the school and the parent, including a neutral facilitator trained to help the parties come to resolution. The team collaboratively determines solutions to the issues and creates a written agreement which in turn maintains a positive rapport between both parties.

## **Mediation**

The Mediation Meeting is a meeting that takes place after Due Process has been filed. At this meeting, the mediator helps the parties work together to find a solution that will satisfy those involved. The parties decide whether or not the dispute is settled. If the parties try mediation but can't reach an agreement, they still have the right to continue to a due process hearing.

## **Due Process**

Both parents and the LEA have the right to request an impartial due process hearing regarding the identification, evaluation, educational placement or the provision of FAPE for a student. ADR is in place to minimize the use of this option and to encourage parents and LEAs to come to agreement before the issues escalate to this level.