

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) For Special Education



What is Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)?

ADR is a process for resolving special education disagreements in a respectful, neutral environment. It uses communication, collaboration, negotiation, and mediation to produce an agreement that meets the interests of the parties involved. The ADR process allows the parties to come up with a creative and mutually agreeable outcome.

What ADR options are available from the SELPA?

When the team has not been able to reach a consensus on matters concerning the student's education, the following ADR services are available:

Targeted IEP Facilitation

This can be utilized when there is a history of disagreements between the family and school/LEA, and the parties anticipate that they will not be able to reach a consensus on essential IEP components, or when the IEP meeting is anticipated to be contentious and involved.

Local Mediation

This involves an impartial individual who assists when a consensus is not achieved at the IEP meeting and other attempts to resolve conflict have been unsuccessful.

Telephone Intermediary Services

Provides information and clarification on special ed processes, procedural safeguards, options to address concerns, appropriate agencies, and formal complaint procedures.

Case Management Support

Helps resolve disagreements through collaborative problem-solving meetings between parents, special education and general education staff and administrators, and IEP team members.

The purpose of ADR

- Build trusting relationships between families and district staff
- Encourage respect
- Value the contributions of all participants

Who should choose ADR?

ADR is for families and school districts who want to work together and preserve their relationship for the benefit of the student.

Why choose ADR?

ADR keeps the decision making in the hands of the family and the school district. Special education agreements are more effective when families and schools develop their own solutions rather than abide by an agreement imposed by a third party.

ADR is voluntary

All ADR activities are voluntary and mutually agreed to by the parents/guardians and school district. The goal is to reach local resolution for disputes, maintain positive relationships, and ensure an appropriate education for the student. Parties are free to withdraw from the process at any time.

Benefits of ADR

Shape the Outcome

ADR allows parties in conflict to control and shape their own agreement, and can be a much faster process in resolving disagreements. Most importantly, ADR can improve or create a collaborative working relationship between parents/guardians and school district personnel.

Confidential

All information shared through the ADR process remains confidential unless all parties agree otherwise.

Offered at No Cost

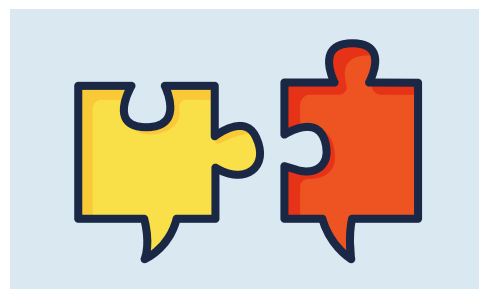
ADR options for member districts and families with children in these districts are provided at no cost.

Legal Protections Remain

Parties choosing to engage in ADR practices do not give up their rights to Due Process.

Outcome-Oriented

The process is focused on the student and the goal is to establish mutually agreeable solutions.



To request ADR services:

Santa Clara SELPAs I, II, III, IV & VII ADR Request Form

<https://forms.gle/pHcvLMZoKyU22LNz7>

Questions? Email Selpa-adr@sccoe.org