

What is ADR?

Rapidly Responsive

Appointments are typically scheduled within three days to two weeks.

Free of Charge

No fees associated with any of these options.

Confidential

Information is shared outside of the process on a “need to know” basis.

Protective of Legal Rights

No one relinquishes their right to pursue legal remedies, should they not be satisfied with the outcome of an ADR strategy.

Focused on Desired Outcomes

Written agreements are integrated into the IEP document, with support provided for progress monitoring.



For additional information or to request an ADR session, please visit www.lbschools.net/ADR or contact Ariana Zambada at azambada@lbschools.net or call (562) 997-8005



Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Information

Bringing families and educators together to support the personal and intellectual success of every student, every day.

The Long Beach Unified School District SELPA Office provides Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team members with a variety of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) strategies when disagreements stall decisions making in an IEP meeting. ADR options utilize neutral professional(s) who guide the team through specific strategies to yield creative, legally compliant, and collaborative solutions. Along the way, IEP Team members learn to communicate openly and heal damaged relationships while crafting stronger plans for students with special educational needs. Through ADR, IEP Teams ultimately regain control of the decision-making process, rather than abdicating to a hearing officer or judge who dictates one and only one solution without ever even meeting the student, or seeing the classroom options.

Stage 1

A parent or district staff member may request ADR from Long Beach Unified School District at no cost to all parties involved. ADR is entirely voluntary and must be agreed to by all involved parties. The ADR Program Coordinator gathers information from all involved and works to clarify the issues and address concerns or needs.

Stage 2

The ADR Program Coordinator conducts a file review of the issue in conflict to gather information and offer analysis of the current area of conflict. Being a third party, a fresh perspective or opinion may result.

Stage 3 (if needed)

A Special Education Administrator or other LBUSD personnel may be asked by the ADR Program Coordinator, with permission from the parent, to make a classroom observation. This process provides the opportunity for further exploration of the issue at conflict as the ADR Program Coordinator works with the stakeholders to come to a resolution to the conflict.

Stage 4

If the conflict is not resolved, a formal meeting is scheduled. This can be a resolution session or an IEP team meeting and will include pre-meeting preparation along with follow-up tasks. The ADR Program Coordinator calls on a Special Education Administrator or other LBUSD personnel to act as a neutral facilitator who clarifies the agenda and meeting outcomes, enforces working agreements, keeps the group focused on the resolution and process, encourages problem solving, monitors time, encourages participation by all team members, and visually records outcomes to gain a collaboratively reached, signed IEP or settlement document.



Parent Resources

LBUSD has created a specific social media platform entitled @LBUSDspeialeducationresource to support stage 1 of the ADR plan, showcasing ADR strategies and special education resources to parents and staff with LBUSD. LBUSD Special Education Resource aims to connect and collaborate with the community to build relationships of trust. Please follow @LBUSDspeialeducationresource on Instagram and Twitter to keep up to date on our latest posts and activity related to connecting with the community, addressing concerns, providing special education resources and much more.



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