

It is the goal of the North Region SELPA to assure that member districts meet the needs of all students and involve their parents in planning and decision-making. When a disagreement or conflict arises between the parents and the district, it is to the advantage of all parties to resolve the dispute at the lowest level and in the timeliest manner. The SELPA is committed to providing support to districts in the prevention and early resolution of disagreements involving assessment, identification, placement, and services to individuals with exceptional needs.

Through the SELPA Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program, parents are supported at every stage of the IEP process and have the opportunity to access a variety of processes that assist the parties directly involved in the dispute to create an agreement that meets the interests of the parties involved. In addition to the cost and time savings, relationships between the parent and district are maintained or even enhanced. The components of the ADR Program include but are not limited to the following:

1. Intake Coordinator. The Intake Coordinator is responsible for dispute resolution, staff development, and community awareness. The Intake Coordinator facilitates the allocation of resources to integrate compliance, alternative dispute resolution, due process, parent and staff training, and community awareness into a program of support for parents and professionals.
2. Neutral Facilitators for IEP team meetings. Facilitators guide the IEP team through a collaborative decision-making process focused on the needs of the student with the goal of creating a mutually acceptable IEP.
3. Neutral Facilitators for resolution sessions. The Resolution Session Facilitator assists parents and districts to complete the legally-required resolution meeting prior to a due process hearing. The goal of the meeting is to assist the parties to engage in a confidential problem-solving process which results in a signed agreement.