

ADR

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is an informal process utilized by the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) and supported by the California Department of Education (CDE) for resolving special education concerns early and efficiently. The CDE encourages Districts and families to explore early resolution options. The ADR process utilizes communication, collaboration, and consultation to resolve Individualized Education Program (IEP) disagreements. It is through the ADR process that OUSD seeks to expedite resolutions to special education concerns after an IEP meeting, in a manner that meets the needs of the student at the earliest opportunity possible.

ADR

A RESPONSE TO PARENT CONCERNS REGARDING THEIR CHILD'S SPECIAL EDUCATION:

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**ORANGE
UNIFIED
SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Alternative Dispute
Resolution**

Orange Unified
EDGE
INTEGRITY • EQUITY • RESPECT • EXCELLENCE

HOW ADR WORKS

Should there be a disagreement, and/or concerns related to a student's IEP, in collaboration with parents/guardians, OUSD staff respond to concerns and discuss student centered outcomes/resolution. If an agreement is reached, the school and parents/guardians work together to document the agreement in writing.

ADR IS VOLUNTARY

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a voluntary process which seeks to resolve disagreement at the local school level. Other options for resolving disagreements are further explained in the parent's or guardian's Procedural Rights and Safeguards.

REASONS FOR ADR

- **Decision Making at the Local Level:** The ADR process results in a mutually agreeable student centered solution.
- **No Cost:** The ADR process is provided at no cost to parents or guardians.
- **Student-Centered:** The ADR process focuses on student needs while encouraging parents or guardians and school staff to think creatively and collaboratively.
- **Efficient:** The ADR process provides the quickest option to address parental concerns.
- **Trust Building:** The ADR process maintains and strengthens trust between parents and guardians and school staff.

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Consider using Alternative Dispute Resolution to resolve special education disagreements in a manner that meets student needs as soon as possible.

HOW DO I REQUEST AN ADR?

An ADR may be requested by any member of the IEP team. The meeting can be initiated by contacting the Principal, Education Specialist who works with the child's school, or the site's Program Coordinator.

WHO ATTENDS THE ADR?

The ADR is attended by parents/guardians as well as representatives from the District. Other participants may be invited by both the parents and the school as appropriate.