



What is Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)?

ADR is an informal process for resolving special education disagreements in a respectful, neutral environment. While issues are best addressed through the Individual Education Program (IEP) process, an ADR session may be effective when efforts to resolve disputes within the IEP team have been exhausted. The goal of ADR is that families and districts work together to create solutions to benefit the student. The Mid-Cities SELPA has an expert consultant on contract to assist in facilitating IEPs or conducting ADR meetings if voluntarily agreed to by all parties.

Why choose ADR?

COLLABORATION

The ADR process gives the participants an opportunity to discuss special education related issues in a confidential, open, and safe space where a collaborative relationship is encouraged and supported while working toward a mutually agreeable outcome.

BUILDING TRUST

The ADR process maintains and strengthens trust between parent/guardian and school staff.

TIMELY RESOLUTION

Participants will work together toward a clear and defined plan to address the concern in a timely manner. A resolution through the ADR process may be reached within a few days or shortly thereafter, depending on the complexity of the issues and the planning required to resolve them.

NO COST

The ADR process is provided at no cost to the parent and encourages all parties to collaboratively problem solve to reach a mutually beneficial resolution.

Frequently asked questions?

HOW DO I REQUEST AN ADR SESSION?

Contact your District Special Education Director for information regarding the ADR process. You may alternatively contact the Mid-Cities SELPA Director to request assistance in facilitating ADR at 562-866-9011 ext. 2050.

IS ADR MANDATORY?

No, ADR sessions are voluntary and based upon both parties wanting to reach an agreement. Parents and districts are free to withdraw from the process at anytime.

MAY THE DISTRICT OR PARENT AUDIO RECORD THE MEETING?

The session is confidential and may not be recorded. It is an opportunity for the participants to express their concerns and freely exchange dialogue regarding the issues in a safe and confidential manner.

Legal Protections

Participation in the ADR process does not prevent any future use of the more traditional due process procedures which can be initiated at any time.