



SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Special Education Services

Kim Gritman
Director of Student Services
kgritman@salem.cen.ct.gov

Melissa Paquet
Administrative Assistant
mpaquet@salem.cen.ct.gov

RE: Notification of the Availability of Mediation Services

Dear Parents/Guardians of students receiving special education services:

I am writing you today to inform you of important legislation regarding students who receive special education services. Over the summer, the Connecticut Legislature passed an act that requires all districts to notify parents/guardians of the availability of mediation services. Please see the below **Public Act No. 23-137**, which describes the requirement as well as specific information parents/guardians are now required to be notified of at the first Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting each school year.

“The Connecticut Legislature recently passed Public Act No. 23-137, An Act Concerning Resources and Support Services for Persons with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability. Pursuant to Section 45 of Public Act 23-137, a notice of the availability of mediation services must be read out loud and distributed at planning and placement team meetings. Effective July 1, 2023, the Connecticut State Department of Education Mediation Service Coordinator must:”

(7) Create a brief notice of the availability of mediation services suitable to be read out loud during a planning and placement team meeting pursuant to subdivision (10) subsection (a) of section 10-76d of the general statutes, as amended by this act, that (A) includes the link to the plain language resource developed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (6) of this subsection, and (B) is translated into the most commonly spoken languages in the state, for distribution by local and regional boards of education to parents, guardians and surrogate parents of children requiring special education pursuant to subparagraph (F)(iii) of subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10-76d of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

As a result of this legislation, effective immediately, all districts must read aloud and distribute the following notice of availability of mediation services at PPT meetings:

"The procedural safeguards explain student and parent rights under IDEA and identify dispute-resolution options, including the right to voluntarily engage in mediation." [A Parent's Guide to Special Education 2021 \(ct.gov\)](#)

The link connected to this notice provides a plain language resource explaining the mediation process as required by Section 45 of Public Act 23-137.

Created 01/29/2024

200 Hartford Rd • Salem, CT 06420 • Phone: (860) 859-3888 • Fax: (860) 859-2130 • www.salemschools.org

"Salem inspires learning, creativity, critical thinking, personal integrity, and citizenship."