### What happens if we can't reach agreement after utilizing the ADR process?

Ultimately, if a dispute cannot be resolved through alternative processes, a formal complaint process will need to be initiated.

A Written State Complaint—filed with the State of California communicates that a public agency (LEA) has not followed the IDEA, and requests an investigation.

#### A Due Process Complaint/Hearing

**Request**—results in a written decision with finds of fact & conclusions of law, which may order specific activities to be carried out.



To find out more information about Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), please contact your District's representative

#### **Acton/Agua Dulce Unified School** District

(661)269-0750

**Antelope Valley Union High School District** 

(661)729-2321 x119

**Eastside Union School District** 

(661)952-1224 ext 1224

**Gorman School District** 

(661)248-6441

Hughes/Elizabeth Lakes Union **School District** 

(661)724-1231

**Lancaster School District** 

(661)948-4661 ext 164

**Keppel School District** 

(661)944-0805

Palmdale School District

(661) 789-6733 ext 6725

**Westside Union School District** 

(661)722-0716 x 76106

Wilsona School District

(661) 264-1111 ext 44999







#### **Special Education Dispute Resolution Processes (ADR)**



There are a variety of ways to reach dispute resolution for students receiving special education services.

While filing a Written State Complaint or a Due Process Complaint/ Hearing Request are always options, you should be aware that there are alternatives to such actions which may be able to achieve the same outcomes in a shorter amount of time, while maintaining strong working relationships.

- Confidential
- Speedy
- No cost
- **Legal Protections**
- **Outcome-oriented**





# What you should know about Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

The ADR process is less formal than a due process hearing and intends to maintain positive relationships between families and district (a.k.a. LEA) staff by working collaboratively toward solutions.

The Antelope Valley SELPA is committed to ensuring school staff are trained in the provision of IEP facilitation, a process identified by the U.S.

Department of Education as a best practice model.

## ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION Due Process Complaint/ **Hearing Request Resolution Meeting** Written State Complaint **Voluntary Mediation ADR** by LEA, SELPA or contracted mediator **Options Voluntary Neutral Facilitation** by LEA or SELPA representative LEA Facilitated IEP Meetings

#### What are the ADR Options?

Although districts are now using the facilitative IEP process, some IEP teams will not gain consensus on matters concerning the student's education. In instances where the team has not been able to reach agreement, the following services are available:

**Voluntary Neutral Facilitation**—a neutral facilitator guides the IEP team to ensure all team members feel valued and heard and ensures constructive dialogue with focus on the student's educational program.

**Voluntary Mediation** - this service is available anytime there is a disagreement between parents and educators about special education and/or related services and supports each to listen to each other in order to reach agreement.