

Kings County SELPA ADR

The Kings County SELPA is committed to resolving differences in a way that focuses on student needs while maintaining positive relationships. It is the mission of the Kings County SELPA to support families and districts in settling such disputes outside of more formal and adversarial avenues including costly litigation.





Alternative Dispute Resolution

**Committed To
Resolving Differences**

Seeds of Partnership

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What is ADR?

- *Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a voluntary, free, informal, and effective problem-solving process supported by the California Department of Education (CDE) to help resolve conflicts between districts and families of students with disabilities early and in a timely manner.*
- *CDE encourages parents and districts to explore early resolution options.*
- *The ADR process uses communication, collaboration and consultation to resolve Individual Education Program (IEP) disagreements.*
- *This process is designed to expedite resolutions to special education concerns after an IEP meeting in order to meet the needs of the student at the earliest opportunity possible with no cost to the parent or district.*

Services of ADR

Dispute prevention and capacity building: Throughout the year, the SELPA office provides technical training in compliance, evidence-based practices.

Parent Training: The SELPA provides training to parents on a range of topics related to supporting their student with a disability and understanding the IEP process.

Confidential consultation to parents: Parents can request a consultation from a SELPA Administrator

Facilitated IEP Meetings: A trained neutral facilitator can help focus the IEP team in problem solving to meet the needs of the student and achieve a mutually agreed upon plan.

Informal Dispute Resolution Meetings: A trained facilitator can be available to hear a summary from the IEP team members and suggest solutions for the team to explore, including

Stages of ADR

- *Capacity building and prevention*
- *Resolving disagreements within an IEP team*
- *Moving IEP teams forward when they are "stuck"*
- *Providing an alternative to a formal complaint or due process filing*

Process of ADR

1. *Parent or district requests ADR by calling or submitting request.*
2. *ADR staff will explain the process and discuss the party's desired outcomes and support options available for their unique situation.*
3. *With permission, ADR staff will contact the other party to encourage ADR and ascertain their desired outcomes.*
4. *Depending on the need, a facilitated IEP meeting (FIEP) or an informal resolution session is scheduled.*
5. *Upon completion of the process, agreement is reached via a signed IEP or a signed mediation agreement.*