



Mid-Cities SELPA

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

The Mid-Cities Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) will facilitate an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process to help resolve conflicts between schools and families with children receiving special education services and supports. The SELPA serves families whose district or Local Education Agency (LEA) of residence is within our SELPA boundaries. District attendance boundaries include: Bellflower Unified School District, Lynwood Unified School District, and Paramount Unified School District.

What is Alternative Dispute Resolution?

ADR is a process for resolving conflicts that respects the dignity of individuals while creating mutually satisfying solutions. ADR uses communication, collaboration, negotiation and mediation to produce an agreement that meets the interests of all parties involved.

Why should I use ADR Strategies?

- All information shared through the ADR process remains **CONFIDENTIAL** unless all parties agree otherwise.
- ADR options are provided at **NO COST** to the families or the Districts/LEAs.
- Parties choosing to engage in any ADR process **MAINTAIN RIGHTS TO DUE PROCESS**.
- Most ADR options are **FAST** and are initiated within 72 hours of contacting the SELPA.
- The strategies are **OUTCOME-ORIENTED**, and the goal is to establish mutually agreeable solutions resulting in written agreements.

ADR Strategies

Parental Support and Intervention: The Parent Support and Intervention process may mean answering questions, conferencing with the family, reviewing the IEP and addressing parent concerns or needs.

Formal Facilitated IEP: A neutral SELPA staff or consultant facilitates the IEP team meeting, including pre-meeting preparation and follow-up tasks. The outcome of the facilitated IEP is a signed IEP which is developed collaboratively and with agreement between the LEA/District and parents/guardians.

Neutral 3rd Party IEP Observer: This process involves SELPA staff or consultant attending an IEP outside the role of a facilitator but as a neutral party.

Informal Local Mediation: This process involves a mediation session conducted by a trained SELPA or local mediator who will negotiate or resolve the dispute acting as a neutral third party.