

*If you have a disagreement involving a child with disabilities, Alternative Dispute Resolution may be the solution.*

Our priority is helping families and schools resolve conflicts, preserve relationships, and reach agreements in the most collaborative and efficient way possible.



## ADR FAQs

### Frequently Asked Questions:

If you are unable to reach an agreement with your child's IEP team, inform them that you are requesting ADR. Then contact the West Contra Costa Unified School District Special Education Department at (510) 307-4630.

### How much does it cost?

ADR is provided at no cost to you.

### Are Resolution Sessions or Mediation a mandatory part of ADR?

No. local ADR sessions are voluntary and based on both parties wanting to reach a fair and equitable agreement. Parents and districts are free to withdraw from the process.

### Do I need to bring an attorney or an advocate, or can I speak to someone who supports the process?

While you can bring anyone to the meeting, we are happy to provide support within the district to help you with the ADR process. The Special Education Parent Liaison and Resource Parents who are trained in the ADR process can be reached by calling (510) 307-4669.

### West Contra Costa Unified School District Special Education Department

3000 Parker Rd., Richmond, CA 94806  
(510) 307-4630 <http://www.wccusd.net>

West Contra Costa Unified School District  
Special Education Local Plan Area

## ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR)



A SOLUTION DRIVEN  
ALTERNATIVE TO RESOLVING  
SPECIAL EDUCATION DISPUTES

Phone: (510) 307-4630





## What is ADR?

Alternative Dispute resolution is an informal method of settling disputes that may arise during the IEP process.

## What can I do if I have reached a disagreement with my child's IEP team?

Let the IEP team know you are requesting Alternative Dispute Resolution.  
Contact the West Contra Costa Unified School District Special Education Department.  
(510) 307-4630

## What are the components of Alternative Dispute Resolution?

### **ADR Intake:**

The SELPA staff is available to listen to your concerns, help you identify key issues, provide information that may assist in resolving concerns and explain the ADR process and options available to you.

### **Early and Local Conferencing:**

SELPA staff as well as trained Resource Parents are available to offer suggestions and assist parents in resolving concerns in a timely manner.

### **Facilitated IEP Meeting:**

A formal IEP meeting led by a neutral facilitator. The process enables the IEP team to focus on the IEP content and the student, honor time commitments and the IEP process, build relationships and work toward a collaborative resolution.

### **Dispute Resolution Session:**

A session that brings the parents and the district together to reach a mutually satisfying agreement with the guidance of a trained, impartial mediator. The mediator will help the parties try to find a solution that is acceptable to both sides. The parties decide whether or not the dispute is settled. The specifics of the agreement are put in writing and signed by all parties to signify the commitment of all parties to uphold the resolution.

**If an agreement is not reached, either party can file for Due Process.**

## How Alternative Dispute Resolution Can Benefit You

### **More Satisfying**

ADR uses neutral intervention and support to help parties build collaborative relationships. It allows parties to control and shape their own agreements.

### **No Cost**

ADR options are provided at no cost. As opposed to Due Process, it does not involve the use of attorneys.

### **Fast and Efficient**

Resolution through the ADR process is much faster than the 45 day timeline for Due Process.

### **Confidential**

All participants are expected to maintain confidentiality regarding what is agreed upon through ADR.