

Benefits of ADR

When it comes to students with exceptional needs, parents and guardians must by necessity have more frequent interaction with their school district and build a relationship for the benefit of the student.

Shaping the Outcome

ADR allows parties in conflict to control and shape their own agreement, and it can be a much faster process in resolving disagreements. Most importantly, ADR can improve or create a collaborative working relationship between parents and district personnel.

Confidential

All information shared through the ADR process remains confidential unless all parties agree otherwise.

Offered at No Cost

ADR options for member districts and families with children in the member districts are provided at no cost.

Legal Protections Remain

Parties choosing to engage in and Alternative Dispute Resolution practices do not give up their rights to Due Process.

Outcome-Oriented

The process is focused on the student and the goal is to establish mutually agreeable solutions.

Contact Us

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For more info on ADR:
<https://buttecountyselpa.org/info/dispute-resolution>

To request IEP facilitation or for other information, please call us at the number above or email us at:
selpasupport@bcoe.org



Alternative Dispute Resolution

A Guide for Parents and
School Districts





What is Alternative Dispute Resolution?

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a process for resolving conflicts or disagreements that may arise during the IEP process. ADR uses communication, collaboration, negotiation, and mediation to produce an agreement that meets the interests of the parties involved. The ADR process allows the parties to come up with a creative and mutually-agreeable outcome.

Butte County SELPA can facilitate an ADR process to help resolve conflicts between schools and families regarding special education assessment, programs and services.

Types of ADR

- Facilitated IEP Meetings
- Use of an Independent Educational Advocate
- Informal Resolution Sessions or Administrative Review
- Training
- Coaching

What is an Independent Educational Advocate?

The Butte County SELPA has for many years held a contract with Rowell Family Empowerment of Northern California, Inc., whose advocates help field parent concerns when parents are reluctant to work with district staff for whatever reason. Acting as a liaison, they work collaboratively with the family and the district, and many times SELPA staff, to bring about meetings or resolutions without a need for other complaint processes. Rowell Family Empowerment services are funded through grant funds from the SELPA Alternate Dispute Resolution grant. Rowell's website: <https://rfenc.org/Home/>

Another agency that parents often seek out to provide advocacy is Promotores of Northern Valley Catholic Social Service. Part of the mission of Promotores is to advocate for the poor and vulnerable, and to contribute to freedom and independence. They provide Court-Appointed Special Advocates (or CASAs) for students coming through the foster system without stable advocates of their own. The Promotores webpage is at: <https://nvcss.org/programs/promotores/>

Finally, Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC) is another resources for some families. Individuals who receive services from Far Northern Regional Center may request assistance from a FNRC Client Rights Advocate retained by regional center from Disability Rights of California. The Far Northern Regional Center advocate information is found at: <https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/staff-links/far-northern-regional-center>

The Purpose of ADR

- Build trusting relationships between families and district staff
- Encourage respect
- Value the contributions of all participants

Facilitated IEP Meetings

Facilitated IEP meetings involve a neutral facilitator conducting the IEP. The goal of the facilitator is to promote effective communication in order to allow the IEP team to develop an appropriate IEP based on student needs. The facilitator maintains a neutral, student-focused lens while working through conflicts that arise ensuring each IEP team member is able to be heard, to participate in the development of the IEP through effective and respectful communication, and to address unresolved issues and concerns so the team can move forward in a positive direction.

