
What is Alternative Dispute Resolution?

ADR is a process for resolving special education disagreements in a respectful, neutral environment. The goal of ADR is that families and districts work together to create solutions to benefit the student.

Who Should Choose Alternative Dispute Resolution?

ADR is designed for families and districts who want to work together to preserve their relationship for the benefit of the child.

ADR is Voluntary

All ADR activities are voluntary and mutually agreed to by the parents and district. The goal is to reach local resolution for disputes, maintain positive relationships, and ensure an appropriate education for the student.

CCSELPA Member Districts

Acalanes Union High School District
(925) 280-3910

Antioch Unified School District
(925) 779-7500 ext. 53500

Brentwood Union School District
(925) 513-6318

Byron Union School District
(925) 809-7505

Canyon School District
(925) 376-4631

Contra Costa County Office Of Ed.
(925) 942-3376

John Swett Unified School District
(510) 245-4300 ext. 3501

Knightsen School District
(925) 625-3303

Lafayette School District
(925) 927-3516

Liberty Union School District
(925) 634-2166

Martinez Unified School District
(925) 335-5918

Moraga School District
(925) 377-4109

Oakley Union School District
(925) 625-7060

Orinda School District
(925) 258-6216

Pittsburg Unified School District
(925) 473-2340

Walnut Creek School District
(925) 944-6850



Contra Costa SELPA
Special Education Local Plan Area
(925) 827-0949
<http://www.ccselpa.org/>

A GUIDE TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR)





Benefits of ADR:

- Student Centered
- Trust Building
- Voluntary on Both Sides
- Decision Making by Parties Directly Involved
- Rapidly Responsive
- Free of Charge
- Confidential
- Protective of Legal Rights



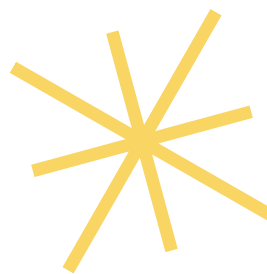
Why Choose Alternative Dispute Resolution?

ADR keeps the decision making in the hands of the family and the district. Special education agreements are more effective when families and schools develop their own solutions rather than abide by an agreement imposed by a third party.

The most important stage of conflict management is prevention. The foundation of our ADR program is to build capacity at the parent and district level to resolve conflict.

Through parent engagement and training, staff training in pro-active case management, communication and conducting productive meetings, conflict is preempted.

Parents and Districts work with their assigned CCSELPA Program Specialists through this process.



For more information, contact:
 Justine Melendez, ADR Coordinator
 2520 Stanwell Drive, Ste. 270
 Concord, CA 94520
 (925) 827-0949 ext. 24
jmelendez@ccselpa.org

The Contra Costa SELPA Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) options address three stages of conflict management.

Stage 1: Prevention

Staff/Parent Workshops **No Request Form**

A variety of opportunities are available, including pro-active case management, facilitating IEPs, and collaborating in the IEP process.

Phone Consultation

Families and school district personnel can contact the CCSELPA office to receive information about special education laws, rights and protections of children receiving special education services.

Conferencing

When requested, the SELPA staff can conference with parents, or district staff, to intervene early, offer suggestions, and resolve concerns. Provided as a one-time support, if on-going support is requested, consider coaching.

Stage 2: Intervention

Ongoing Consult/Coaching **Use Request Form**

CCSELPA Staff are available to meet with district staff, or parents, to coach on helpful resolution strategies, effective communication techniques and options for resolving conflicts. This stage may involve attending the IEP with parent, or district staff, and/or observing the student.

Stage 3: Restoration

Facilitated IEP Meetings **Use Request Form**

This is a formal IEP meeting facilitated by a neutral facilitator. The process is designed to help the IEP team to build relationships, focus on the IEP content and the student, and work toward a positive IEP team outcome.

Post Facilitation Conversation

Following a facilitated IEP, SELPA staff can meet with parents and district staff to discuss outcomes and potential next steps.