

**Contra Costa Special Education  
Local Plan Area**  
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**SELPA Director**

**FOR INFORMATION  
CALL:**

*Laraine Domenico*

*ADR Intake Coordinator*

(925) 827-0949 ext. 24

**Contra Costa  
Special Education  
Local Plan Area**



Acalanes Union High School District  
Antioch Unified School District  
Brentwood Union School District  
Byron Union School District  
Canyon School District  
County Office of Education  
John Swett Unified School District  
Knightsen School District  
Lafayette School District  
Liberty Union High School District  
Martinez Unified School District  
Moraga School District  
Oakley Union School District  
Orinda Union School District  
Pittsburg Unified School District  
Walnut Creek School District

**DO YOU HAVE  
A DISPUTE  
AND NOTHING  
SEEMS TO WORK?**



**FOR SPECIAL  
EDUCATION ISSUES  
THERE IS A  
SOLUTION.....**

# Contra Costa Special Education Local Plan Area Solutions Panel

## ☺ **MORE SATISFACTION**

The process is more satisfying than legal action. Courts dictate decisions. The Solutions Panel allows the parties in conflict to control and shape their own agreement. A collaborative working relationship between parents and district personnel is maintained and often improved.

## ☺ **LESS COST**

Panels are provided at no cost. The expense of one panel is less than one hour of attorney time.

## ☺ **FASTER**

Panels are usually held within two to three weeks. Formal State level Due Process has a 45-day timeline. Use of a Solutions Panel approach does not delay the timeline for Due Process.

## ☺ **CONVENIENT**

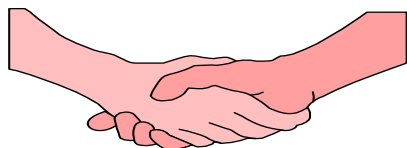
Panels are held at a site agreeable to both parties.

## ☺ **CONFIDENTIAL**

Everyone involved in the Panel process is bound by agreement and law to maintain confidentiality.

## ☺ **RESULTS IN AGREEMENT**

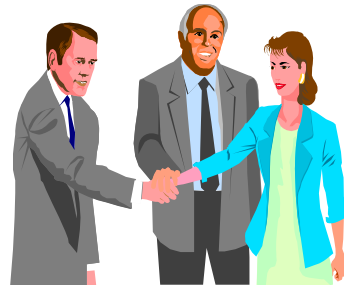
If both parties agree, signed agreements can be legally binding on the parties. 85% of community panels have resulted in agreements. 95% of these agreements have held for a year or more.



# SETTLE YOUR DISPUTE WITH A CONFLICT RESOLUTION PANEL.

## WHAT IS A SOLUTIONS PANEL?

The panel uses a problem solving method that brings disputing people or parties together, guided by a neutral panel, to reach a mutually satisfying agreement. The Solutions Panel is provided by your Local Education Agency member of the Contra Costa Special Education Local Plan Area.



Solution Panels provide an informal no-pressure setting for settling differences.

## WHO WILL HELP YOU?

Trained and certified Solution Panel volunteers work with you to find resolution. The panel is made up of a parent, a teacher/support staff, an administrator, and a community member, all from outside your school district.

## HOW DOES THE SOLUTIONS PANEL PROCESS WORK FOR YOU?

At a scheduled session, you get to have your 'say' and listen to the other party's point of view. The Solutions Panel does not take sides, but acts as a neutral third party to ease the way to a solution. You and the other party work through a proven process to create your

own written agreement. Your voluntary signature signifies your commitment to uphold the resolution. If an agreement cannot be reached, either party may request local or state level assistance. Parent rights are not compromised.



## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I CALL?

1. The Coordinator listens to your concern and helps you clearly identify problems and conflicts. Information about the laws and regulations may be provided. Referral may be made to others who may more appropriately and directly work with your issues.
2. With your permission, the coordinator contacts the other party and encourages participation in a Solutions Panel process.
3. With agreement by both parties, the Coordinator will assign panel members and schedule a time and location acceptable to both parties.
4. The panel will not decide who is right or wrong, but will assist the parties in reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement.
5. When agreement is reached, the specifics are put into writing and signed by all parties.
6. The coordinator continues to be available to assist as requested.

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