

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) is an informal process adapted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and supported by the California Department of Education (CDE) for resolving special education concerns early. The CDE encourages Districts and families to explore early resolution options. The ADR process uses communication, collaboration, and consultation to resolve Individualized Education Program (IEP) disagreements. It is through the ADR process that LAUSD seeks to expedite resolutions to special education concerns after an IEP meeting, in a manner that meets the needs of the student at the earliest opportunity possible.

- LAUSD is a recipient of the California Department of Education ADR Grant and is using the ADR process to support our families.
- The CDE has found the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) process to be a desirable and effective practice.
- The Alternate Dispute Resolution process is acknowledged by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

A Roadmap to Resolution

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR): A Response to Parent/Guardian Concerns Regarding Special Education

ALBERTO M. CARVALHO Superintendent of Schools

ANTHONY AGUILAR Chief of Special Education, Equity and Access

DR. MARIBEL LUNA Senior Director, Division of Special Education

For ADR Questions -
Please Contact Your School Administrator or:

Division of Special Education

Local District Central
2328 St. James Pl. Los Angeles, CA 90007
(213) 766-7381

Local District East
2151 N. Soto St. Los Angeles, CA 90032
(323) 224-3300

Local District Northeast
8401 Arleta Avenue Sun Valley, CA 91352
(818) 686-4400

Local District Northwest
6621 Balboa Boulevard Van Nuys, CA. 91406
(818) 654-3600

Local District South
1208 Magnolia Ave. Gardena, CA 90247
(310) 354-3431

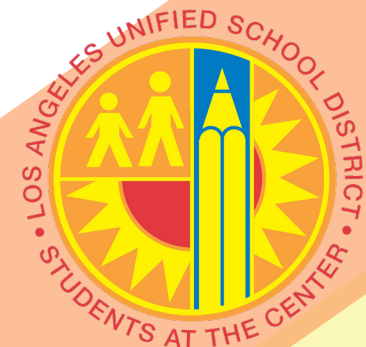
Local District West
11380 W. Graham Place Los Angeles, CA. 90064
(310) 914-2100

Early Childhood Special Education/Preschool
333 S. Beaudry Ave. 17th Fl. Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 241-4713



Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)

*“Working with Families
for Student-Centered,
Timely Resolution of Special
Education Concerns”*





How ADR Works

In collaboration with parent/guardian, the LAUSD school staff responds to parent's/guardian's concerns after an IEP meeting, to discuss student-centered outcomes. If an agreement is reached, the school and parent/guardian work together to document the agreement in writing.

Voluntary

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a voluntary process. The ADR process seeks to resolve disagreement at the local school level. Other options for resolving disagreements are further explained in "A Parent's Guide to Special Education Services (Including Procedural Rights and Safeguards)".

Reasons for Using ADR

Decision Making at the School: The ADR process results in a mutually agreeable student-centered solution.

No Cost: The ADR process is provided at no cost to parent/guardian.

Student-Centered: The ADR process focuses on student needs while encouraging parent/guardian and school staff to think creatively and collaboratively.

Efficient: The ADR process provides the most expedient resolution option to address parental concerns.

Trust Building: The ADR process maintains and strengthens trust between parent/guardian and school staff.



Resolution is Near. Implementation is Here!

Consider using Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) to resolve special education disagreements in a manner that meets student needs as soon as possible.



Resources

California Department of Education-
Special Education Website:
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/>

LAUSD Division of Special Education Website:
<https://achieve.lausd.net/sped>

Division of Special Education Resources
for Parent of Students with Disabilities:
<https://achieve.lausd.net/page/16606>

[A Parent's Guide to Special Education Services
\(Including Procedural Rights and Safeguards\)](#)

[IEP and You: A Guide for Parents with
Information About The IEP Meeting](#)

[Family and Student Handbook: A Guide to
Support Learning at Home](#)

[Other Brochures and Guides](#)