

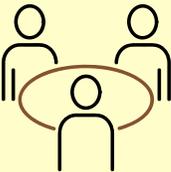
Resolving Disagreements in Special Education



Remember, even when you feel stuck, you still have options and a decision to make: accept, negotiate or dispute. It's important to try to resolve issues at the lowest level possible before escalating. However, parents always have the right to file complaints or pursue other available dispute resolution options.



Most disagreements can be resolved through clear communication and healthy team dynamics. Bring written parent input and a one-page profile to help showcase your child's abilities and support needs, and keep the discussion solution-oriented.



Mediation is an informal process involving a neutral third party that comes in to help parents and school districts communicate effectively and reach a mutually acceptable agreement. It is voluntary and provided at no cost to parents or school districts. Mediation is an option for a broad range of disagreements related to special education.



Any person or organization can file a State Complaint regarding anything covered by IDEA such as IEP components, parent involvement, FAPE, and placement. This process involves an investigator from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) who ultimately makes a decision about the issue(s) and what corrective action may be needed.



A due process hearing includes parents and the school district presenting their case in front of an administrative law judge. Parties have the option to call witnesses, cross-examine, and present evidence. Issues can range from placement, FAPE, parent involvement, and more. Parents or school districts can initiate a due process hearing by filing a request with the Oregon Department of Education.



More information on dispute resolution is included in your Procedural Safeguards or Parent Rights handbook, offered to you at every IEP meeting. In addition, ODE's website has dispute guidelines, forms, examples, and complaint logs available to explore.



We are here to help! Call our support line at 888-988-3228 or email support@factoregon.org to talk with our family resource specialists who will listen and provide information and resources.



Additional resources
available at factoregon.org



Questions? Call 503-786-6082 | 888-288-FACT
or email support@factoregon.org

Notes

I learned...

What surprised you? What feels most important?

I need to know...

What are your questions for the presenter? What are your questions for others, such as your case manager?

I will...

What are your next steps?