Minnesota Department of Education

Division of Compliance and Assistance

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

If you're frustrated about your child's education, there are ways to work it out.

Call the special education director for your district. Talk about your concerns. View a list of special education directors on the website.

Another place to call for help is the Minnesota Department of Education's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Services for special education.

ADR Services help families, schools and agencies talk with each other and work out differences using **mediation** or **a facilitated Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting**.

Which one should I choose?

Try mediation, if you need a relaxed time to talk, mend relationships, sort out problems and find new answers. A neutral third person, a mediator, will help you see each other's point of view and work out agreements.

Try a facilitated IEP meeting, if you and the school are having trouble writing your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP). A neutral third person, a facilitator, will work through the IEP process with your child's team and help solve any disagreements along the way.

More information about mediation or facilitated IEP meetings:

- Both are free!
- The mediator or facilitator treats everyone with respect.
- You and the school make decisions together.
- Most of the time, you come to an agreement on how to meet your child's needs.

What if my child has an education plan different than an IEP?

You can also ask for a facilitated meeting or mediation if you have an individualized family service plan (IFSP) for a young child or if you have an individualized interagency intervention plan (IIIP) because you work with another agency in addition to your child's school.

What do I do next?

Give us a call. We can tell you more about mediation or a facilitated meeting and send you a request form.

651-582-8222 or toll free **866-466-7367**
http://education.state.mn.us