

What Is Alternative Dispute Resolution?

Alternate Dispute Resolution, or ADR is a process for resolving conflicts, one that respects the dignity of individuals while creating mutually satisfying solutions. ADR uses communication, collaboration, negotiation and mediation to produce an agreement that meets the interests of the parties involved. When participating in Alternate Dispute Resolution, parents and districts maintain the right to seek state-level due process.

The San Joaquin County SELPA will facilitate an Alternate Dispute Resolution process to help resolve conflicts between schools and families with children in special education. The program serves families of all children in special education within the San Joaquin County SELPA.

How to Start

When you call for assistance your ADR contact person will listen to your concerns and help you identify your issues and interests. Information about special education laws and practices may be provided, if relevant, and a referral may be made to others who can appropriately work with your issues.

ADR Resource Parents

Resource Parents are San Joaquin County parents who have been trained in special education law and practice and learned the skills necessary to help resolve conflicts between families and schools. They can help parents understand the law and the special education system in San Joaquin County, as well as assist them in identifying and clarifying concerns and interests.

IEP Facilitation

Trained IEP facilitators help IEP teams build and improve strong relationships among team members. They focus the IEP content and process on the needs of the student. Their goal is to reach consensus in the IEP process. Parents or school staff may request a facilitated IEP to help resolve difficult issues.

SELPA Educational Specialists

Parents or school staff may request that a SELPA Educational Specialist review questions about a child's placement or program. The Educational Specialists are knowledgeable about the variety of programs and practices throughout the county.

Why Use

Alternative Dispute Resolution Strategies?

Legal Protections

Participation in the ADR process does not prevent any future use of the more traditional due process procedures which can be initiated at any time by either party.

No Cost

SELPA assistance, conferences or facilitations are provided at no cost to families and do not involve the use of advocates or attorneys except under unusual circumstances.

Confidentiality

All participants are legally bound by the agreement to maintain confidentiality. This means, what is said or written in the ADR process cannot be used outside of that setting without the consent of all parties.

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY SELPA
LOCAL INTERVENTION OPTIONS**

- Expanded IEP
- IEP Facilitation
- Expert Teams
- Parent Education
- Staff Development
- Educational Specialist Services
- Resource Parent Program
- Informal Mediation
- Intake Coordination

WHO TO CALL

The following SELPA staff will answer questions and concerns for parents within these districts:

<p>Sharon Brenneise ADR Coordinator 468-4907</p>	<p>Jefferson Ripon Lammersville</p>
<p>Rolf Athearn Educational Specialist 468-9283</p>	<p>County Programs</p>
<p>Joan Justice-Brown Educational Specialist 468-4928</p>	<p>Children's Home Linden Manteca So. San Joaquin Venture Academy Stockton Edu. Center</p>
<p>Kris Rodriguez Educational Specialist 468-4928</p>	<p>Biddick Escalon Juvenile Hall Lincoln New Jerusalem North Valley Options Pt. Quest Spectrum Banta</p>
<p>Margaret St George Educational Specialist Psychologist 468-4908</p>	<p>Lammersville Ripon Tracy</p>



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San Joaquin County SELPA



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**Sharon Brenneise, Coordinator
Alternative Dispute Resolution Program**



San Joaquin County
Office of Education

