



Who do I contact to learn more?

For more information about mediation, contact your parent center, local school district office, or the dispute resolution center in your area. You can also visit the website: www.spedsolutions.com.

(Variable Contact Info Here)

**Family and Community Engagement Center
(FACE) Center**

BOCES.com/CRPC

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For more information,
scan this on your mobile device:



Why would I want to use it?

Mediation has many advantages for parents, educators, and service providers. The benefits include:

- Mediation is a flexible process with the participants themselves coming up with the solutions to their dispute
- Differences in culture and language can be woven into the process
- The process is more cooperative than due process hearings or written state complaints
- Mediation allows for more creative solutions than other processes
- Solutions get implemented because the agreement is enforceable
- Mediation is free and faster than a due process hearing or written state complaint
- Participants report high levels of satisfaction with the process and outcomes



Special Education Mediation

A process that helps parents and educators work together to meet the educational needs of students with disabilities.



"This was the best use of my time. We were really able to talk about what the child needs and how to make it happen going forward."

A mediation participant

What is mediation?

Mediation is an approach to resolving disagreements between parents and their education providers that involve students with disabilities.

A neutral, skilled person guides discussions to help people communicate better and resolve their disputes.

Under IDEA, state educational agencies are responsible for making sure mediation is available to parents and educators at no cost.

When would I want to use mediation?

When communication or the relationship between the student's parents and the educators breaks down, or there is disagreement on how to educate the student, this can help identify a solution, as well as restore trust and cooperation.

This can lead to a better working relationship between parents and educators.



Mediation Myths: I heard this, is it true about mediation?

I'd need to hire an attorney to have a chance at it being successful. Mediation empowers people to resolve conflicts without the need for an attorney.

We've already talked and tried to resolve the dispute. Mediators can help the participants come up with new ideas and solutions that the participants may not have considered.

It's a waste of time. The success rate for well-trained mediators is high. Because mediation is free, it is worth the investment of time.

It will delay the start of my due process hearing or the investigation of my written state complaint. Mediation cannot delay either process unless the parents agree to the delay.

What is a mediator?

A mediator is a neutral person trained in the skills of conflict resolution and problem solving. A mediator will treat everyone the same and makes no decisions about the outcome.

A mediator helps people...

- Share important information
- Understand areas of agreement and disagreement
- Clarify what is most important
- Identify possible solutions

All agreements are written so there is a shared understanding of what will be done, who will do it, and by when.

How do I prepare?

Ask questions about the process, clarify what is most important to you, and identify possible solutions. Be ready to share your concerns and ideas, as well as listen to other ideas and points of view.