

Dispute Resolution Cheat Sheet

Your Right to Disagree and Appeal

If you believe a decision about your child's IEP isn't appropriate, you have the right to challenge it.

1. Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE)

You can request an IEE at the school district's expense if you disagree with their evaluation. The district must either agree or prove that their evaluation was appropriate.

2. Mediation

A voluntary and confidential meeting with a neutral third party. You and the school work together to find a solution. The goal is agreement—not conflict.

3. Due Process Hearing

A formal legal process similar to a mini-trial. Both sides present evidence and witnesses, and an impartial hearing officer makes a binding decision.

Filing a State Complaint

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Stay-Put Protection

If you file for due process, your child can **remain in their current placement** and continue receiving services until the dispute is resolved—unless you and the school agree otherwise.

