



SEDRC

Special Education Dispute Resolution Center

Building Understanding, Resolving Conflicts, Supporting Students



Phone: **1-855-RESOLVE (1-855-737-6583)**

Email: **info@osedisputeresolution.org**

Website: **www.osedisputeresolution.org**

Tips for Parents and Guardians to Prepare for Mediation

Review information:

- Familiarize yourself with your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP)/Individualized Education Services Program (IESP) and any prior evaluations or reports
- Learn about your child's rights under special education laws and rules if possible ([Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#); [NYS Education Laws and Regulations](#))

Gather relevant documents:

- Bring copies of the IEP/IESP, evaluations, progress reports, medical records, and any other relevant documentation

Develop a plan:

- Write down your concerns and examples of what has or hasn't worked in your child's education
- Identify what issues are in conflict
- Define your goals
- Think about alternative solutions that could work for both sides
- Consider what support, if any, your child would need to be successful

Be open minded:

- Listen and consider different perspectives
- Keep the focus on your child's best interests

The Special Education Dispute Resolution Center (SEDRC) is a program of the NYS Department of Education, Office of Special Education, and is managed and administered by the New York State Dispute Resolution Association (NYSDRA, Inc.).