



SEDRC

Special Education Dispute Resolution Center

Building Understanding, Resolving Conflicts, Supporting Students



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Tips for School Districts to Prepare for Mediation

Select the mediation team:

- Identify who will attend the mediation: Who has knowledge about the student?
- Authorize a decision-maker: Who has knowledge about what is possible for the school district?
- Review the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP)/Individualized Education Services Program (IESP)

Gather information:

- Review the student's history (progress, challenges, and needs)
- Gather the latest reports from teachers, therapists, and specialists
- Talk with the child's teacher and service providers

Develop a plan:

- Be prepared to explain the child's special education programs and support services that have been provided or proposed
- Identify areas for flexibility, considering possible modifications or accommodations
- Have potential solutions prepared to discuss with the parents or guardians

Be open minded:

- Listen and consider different perspectives
- Keep the focus on the 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.).