

# ADR

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) is an informal process adapted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and supported by the California Department of Education (CDE) for resolving special education concerns early. The CDE encourages Districts and families to explore early resolution options. The ADR process uses communication, collaboration, and consultation to resolve Individualized Education Program (IEP) disagreements. It is through the ADR process that LAUSD seeks to expedite resolutions to special education concerns after an IEP meeting, in a manner that meets the needs of the student at the earliest opportunity possible.

- LAUSD is a recipient of the California Department of Education ADR Grant and is using the ADR process to support our families.
- The CDE has found the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) process to be a desirable and effective practice.
- The Alternate Dispute Resolution process is acknowledged by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

# ADR

## A Response to Parent/Guardian Concerns Regarding Special Education

**Alberto M. Carvalho**, Superintendent of Schools

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For ADR questions please contact your school administrator or your Regional Division of Special Education office at:

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**Region North:** (818) 654-3600  
6621 Balboa Boulevard Van Nuys, CA . 91406

**Region South:** (310) 354-3431  
1208 Magnolia Ave. Gardena, CA 90247

**Region West:** (310) 914-2100  
11380 W. Graham Place Los Angeles, CA . 90064

**Early Childhood Special Education/Preschool**  
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333 S. Beaudry Ave. 17th Fl. Los Angeles, CA 90017



# ADR:

## Alternate Dispute Resolution

*"Working with families for student-centered, timely resolution of special education concerns"*



## How ADR Works

In collaboration with parent/guardian, the LAUSD school staff responds to parent's/ guardian's concerns after an IEP meeting, to discuss student-centered outcomes. If an agreement is reached, the school and parent/guardian work together to document the agreement in writing.

## ADR is Voluntary

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a voluntary process. The ADR process seeks to resolve disagreement at the local school level. Other options for resolving disagreements are further explained in "A Parent's Guide to Special Education Services (Including Procedural Rights and Safeguards)".



## Reasons for Using ADR

**Decision Making at the School:** The ADR process results in a mutually agreeable student-centered solution.

**No Cost:** The ADR process is provided at no cost to parent/guardian.

**Student-Centered:** The ADR process focuses on student needs while encouraging parent/guardian and school staff to think creatively and collaboratively.

**Efficient:** The ADR process provides the most expedient resolution option to address parental concerns.

**Trust Building:** The ADR process maintains and strengthens trust between parent/ guardian and school staff.

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Consider using Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) to resolve special education disagreements in a manner that meets student needs as soon as possible.

## Resources

- California Department of Education- Special Education Website:  
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/>
- LAUSD Division of Special Education Website:  
<https://lausd.net/spedParents>
- Division of Special Education Brochures and Guides can be found at:  
<https://lausd.net/spedBrochures>
- *A Parent's Guide to Special Education Services (Including Procedural Rights and Safeguards)*
- *IEP and You: A Guide for Parents with Information About The IEP Meeting*
- *Family and Student Handbook: A Guide to Support Learning at Home*