



## Special Education Dispute Resolution Processes (ADR)

There are a variety of ways to reach dispute resolution for students receiving special education services.

While filing a Written State Complaint or a Due Process Complaint/Hearing Request are always options, you should be aware that there are alternatives to such actions which may be able to achieve the same outcomes in a shorter amount of time, while maintaining strong working relationships.

- **Confidential**
- **Speedy**
- **No cost**
- **Legal Protections**
- **Outcome-oriented**



To find out more information about Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), please contact your District's representative

**Burbank Unified School District**  
Paulette Koss  
(818) 729-4449

**Glendale Unified School District**  
Debra E. Rinder  
(818) 241-3111 ext 1205

**La Canada Unified School District**  
Derek Ihori  
(818) 952-8397

**Foothill SELPA**  
(818) 246-5378

*If you would like to be connected to an impartial mediator, at no cost to you, please contact the Foothill SELPA office at the above number.*

## What happens if we can't reach agreement after utilizing the ADR process?

Ultimately, if a dispute cannot be resolved through alternative processes, a formal complaint process will need to be initiated.

**A Written State Complaint**— filed with the State of California communicates that a public agency (LEA) has not followed the IDEA, and requests an investigation.

**A Due Process Complaint/Hearing Request**—results in a written decision with finds of fact & conclusions of law, which may order specific activities to be carried out.



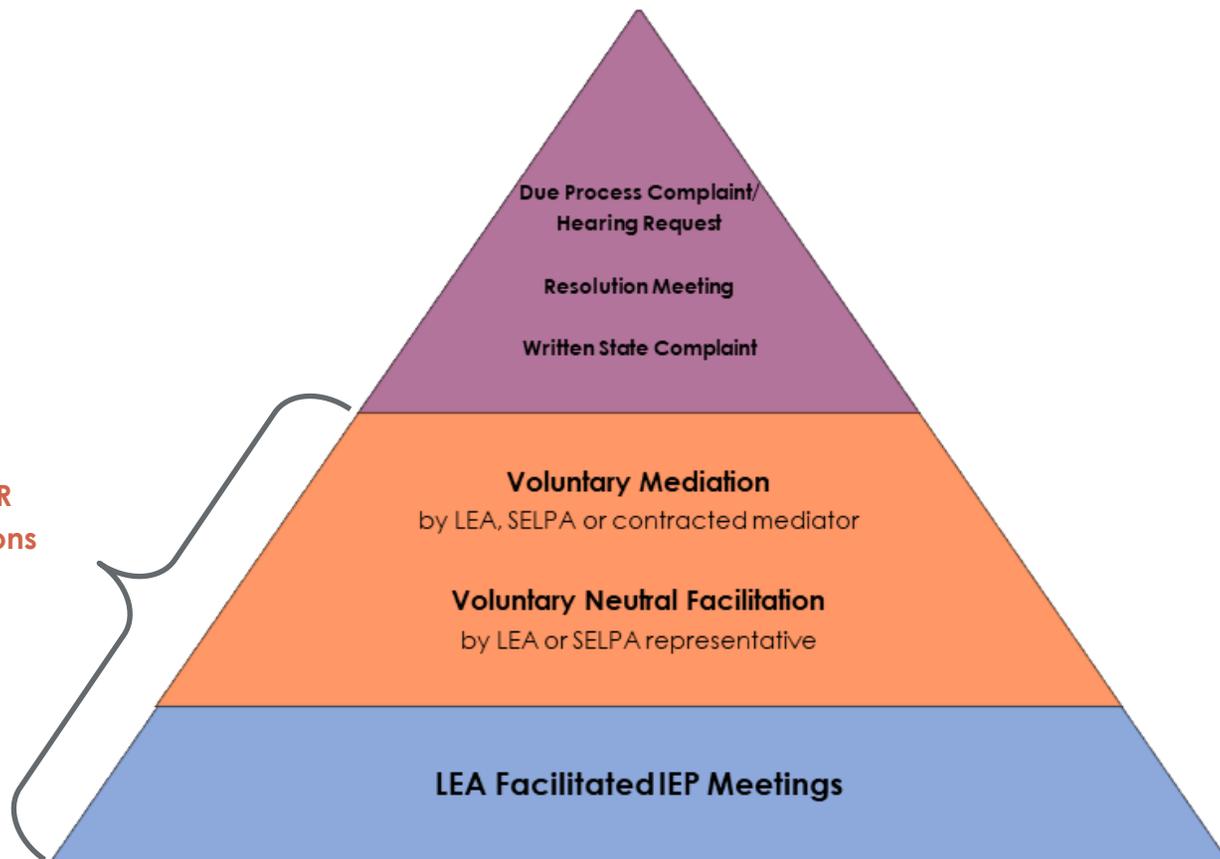
# ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION



## What you should know about Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

The ADR process is less formal than a due process hearing and intends to **maintain positive relationships between families and district (a.k.a. LEA) staff by working collaboratively toward solutions.** The Foothill SELPA and its member districts are committed to this process.

### ADR Options



### What are the ADR Options?

Sometimes IEP teams will not gain consensus on matters concerning the student's education. In instances where the team has not been able to reach agreement, the following services are available:

**Voluntary Neutral Facilitation**—a neutral facilitator guides the IEP team to ensure all team members feel valued and heard and ensures constructive dialogue with focus on the student's educational program.

**Voluntary Mediation** - this service is available anytime there is a disagreement between parents and educators about special education and/or related services and supports each to listen to each other in order to reach agreement.