



**SFUSD** SAN FRANCISCO  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Notice of Procedural Safeguards

---

### **Special Education Rights of Parents and Children Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B, and the California Education Code.**

**Revised June 2022 by CDE**

 <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/qa/>

---

*A Brief summary of Procedural Safeguards for students with disabilities receiving special education services can be found here:  
[cde.ca.gov/sp/se/qa/pssummary.asp](https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/qa/pssummary.asp)*

---

*Note: The term school district is used throughout this document to describe any public education agency responsible for providing your child's special education program. The term assessment is used to mean evaluation or testing. Federal and state laws are cited throughout this notice using English abbreviations, which are explained in a glossary at the end of this notification.*

### **What is the Notice of Procedural Safeguards?**

This information provides you as parents, legal guardians, and surrogate parents of children with disabilities from 3 years of age through age 21 and students who have reached age 18, the age of majority, with an overview of your educational rights or procedural safeguards.

The Notice of Procedural Safeguards is required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (in English, referred to as IDEA) and must be provided to you:

- When you ask for a copy

- The first time your child is referred for a special education assessment
- Each time you are given an assessment plan to evaluate your child
- Upon receipt of the first state or due process complaint in a school year, and
- When the decision is made to make a removal that constitutes a change of placement

(20 United States Code [USC] Section 1415[d]; 34 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Section 300.504; California Education Code [EC] Section 56301[d] [2], EC Section 56321, and EC Section 56341.1[g] [1])

### **What is the IDEA?**

IDEA is a federal law that requires school districts to provide a “free appropriate public education” (FAPE) to eligible children with disabilities. A free appropriate public education means that special education and related services are to be provided as described in an individualized education program (IEP) and under public supervision to your child at no cost to you.

### **May I participate in decisions about my child’s education?**

You must be given the opportunity to participate in any decision-making meeting regarding your child’s special education program. You have the right to participate in IEP team meetings about the identification (eligibility), assessment, or educational placement of your child and other matters relating to your child’s FAPE. (20 USC Section 1414[d] [1]B–[d][1][D]; 34 CFR Section 300.321; EC Section 56341[b], and EC Section 56343[c])

The parent or guardian, and the local educational agency (LEA), has the right to participate in the development of the IEP and to initiate their intent to electronically audiotape the proceedings of the IEP team meetings. At least 24 hours prior to the meeting, the parent or guardian shall notify the members of the IEP team of their intent to record a meeting. If the parent or guardian does not consent to the LEA audiotape recording an IEP meeting, the meeting shall not be recorded on an audiotape recorder.

Your rights include information about the availability of FAPE, including all program options, and all available alternative programs, both public and nonpublic. (20 USC sections 1401[3], and 1412[a][3]; 34 CFR Section 300.111; EC sections 56301, 56341.1[g][1], and 56506)

### **Where can I get more help?**

When you have a concern about your child's education, it is important that you contact your child's teacher or administrator to talk about your child and any problems you see. Staff in your school district or special education local plan area (SELPA) may answer questions about your child's education, your rights, and procedural safeguards. Also, when you have a concern, this informal conversation often solves the problem and helps to maintain open communication.

You may also want to contact one of the California parent organizations such as the Family Empowerment Centers on Disability (FECs) or the Parent Training and Information Centers (PTICs) located across the state. These organizations were established to increase collaboration between parents and educators to improve the educational system and provide information, training, and additional resources for families of students and young adults with disabilities. Contact information for these organizations is found on the California Department of Education (CDE) Special Education California Parent Organizations web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/qa/caprntorg.asp>.

Additional resources are listed at the end of this document to help you understand the procedural safeguards.

### **What if my child is deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind?**

The State Special Schools provide services to students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind at each of its three facilities: the California Schools for the Deaf in Fremont and Riverside and at the California School for the Blind in Fremont. Residential and day school programs are offered to students from infancy to age 21 at both State Schools for the Deaf. Such programs are offered to students aged 5 through 21 at the California School for the Blind. The State Special Schools also offer assessment services and technical assistance. For more information about the State Special Schools, please visit the CDE, State Special Schools web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ss/index.asp>, or ask for more information from the members of your child's IEP team.

## **Notice, Consent, Assessment, Surrogate Parent Appointment, and Access to Records**

---

### **Prior Written Notice**

#### **When is a notice needed?**

This notice must be given when the school district proposes or refuses to initiate a change in the identification, assessment, or educational placement of your child with special needs or the provision of a FAPE. (20 USC sections 1415[b][3] and (4), 1415[c][1], and 1414[b][1]; 34 CFR Section 300.503; EC sections 56329 and 56506[a])

The school district must inform you about proposed evaluations of your child in a written notice or an assessment plan within 15 days of your written request for evaluation. The notice must be understandable and in your native language or other mode of communication, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so. (34 CFR Section 300.304; EC Section 56321)

#### **What will the notice tell me?**

The prior written notice must include the following:

1. A description of the actions proposed or refused by the school district
2. An explanation of why the action was proposed or refused
3. A description of each assessment procedure, record, or report the agency used as a basis for the action proposed or refused
4. A statement that parents of a child with a disability have protection under the procedural safeguards
5. Sources for parents to contact to obtain assistance in understanding the provisions of this part
6. A description of other options that the IEP team considered and the reasons those options were rejected; and
7. A description of any other factors relevant to the action proposed or refused. (20 USC sections 1415[b][3] and [4], 1415[c][1], and 1414[b][1]; 34 CFR Section 300.503)

### **Parental Consent**

#### **When is my approval required for assessment?**

You have the right to refer your child for special education services. You must give informed, written consent before your child's first special education assessment can

proceed. The parent has at least 15 days from the receipt of the proposed assessment plan to arrive at a decision. The assessment may begin immediately upon receipt of the consent and must be completed and an IEP developed within 60 days of your consent.

### **When is my approval required for services?**

You must give informed, written consent before your school district can provide your child with special education and related services.

### **What are the procedures when a parent does not provide consent?**

If you do not provide consent for an initial assessment or fail to respond to a request to provide the consent, the school district may pursue the initial assessment by utilizing due process procedures.

If you refuse to consent to the initiation of services, the school district must not provide special education and related services and shall not seek to provide services through due process procedures.

If you consent in writing to the special education and related services for your child but do not consent to all of the components of the IEP, those components of the program to which you have consented must be implemented without delay.

If the school district determines that the proposed special education program component to which you do not consent is necessary to provide a FAPE to your child, a due process hearing must be initiated. If a due process hearing is held, the hearing decision shall be final and binding.

In the case of reevaluations, the school district must document reasonable measures to obtain your consent. If you fail to respond, the school district may proceed with the reevaluation without your consent. (20 USC sections 1414[a][1][D] and 1414[c]; 34 CFR Section 300.300; EC sections 56506[e], 56321[c] and [d], and 56346).

### **When may I revoke consent?**

If at any time subsequent to the initial provision of special education and related services, the parent of a child revokes consent in writing for the continued provision of special education and related services, the public agency:

1. May not continue to provide special education and related services to the child, but must provide prior written notice in accordance with 34 CFR Section 300.503 before ceasing such services

2. May not use the procedures in subpart E of Part 300 34 CFR (including the mediation procedures under 34 CFR Section 300.506 or the due process procedures under 34 CFR Sections 300.507 through 300.516) in order to obtain agreement or a ruling that the services may be provided to the child
3. Will not be considered to be in violation of the requirement to make a FAPE available to the child because of the failure to provide the child with further special education and related services
4. Is not required to convene an IEP team meeting or develop an IEP under 34 CFR sections 300.320 and 300.324 for the child for further provision of special education and related services

Please note, in accordance with 34 CFR Section 300.9 (c)(3), that if the parents revoke consent in writing for their child's receipt of special education services after the child is initially provided special education and related services, the public agency is not required to amend the child's education records to remove any references to the child's receipt of special education and related services because of the revocation of consent.

---

## **Surrogate Parent Appointment**

### **What if a parent cannot be identified or located?**

School districts must ensure that an individual is assigned to act as a surrogate parent for the parents of a child with a disability when a parent cannot be identified and the school district cannot discover the whereabouts of a parent.

A surrogate parent may also be appointed if the child is an unaccompanied homeless youth, an adjudicated dependent or ward of the court under the state Welfare and Institution Code, and is referred to special education or already has an IEP. (20 USC Section 1415[b][2]; 34 CFR Section 300.519; EC Section 56050; Government Code Section 7579.5 and 7579.6)

## **Nondiscriminatory Assessment**

---

### **How is my child assessed for special education services?**

You have the right to have your child assessed in all areas of suspected disability. Materials and procedures used for assessment and placement must not be racially, culturally, or sexually discriminatory.

Assessment materials must be provided and the test administered in your child's native language or mode of communication and in the form most likely to yield accurate information on what the child knows and can do academically, developmentally, and functionally, unless it is clearly not feasible to so provide or administer.

No single procedure can be the sole criterion for determining eligibility and developing FAPE for your child. (20 USC sections 1414[b][1]–[3], 1412[a][6][B]; 34 CFR Section 300.304; EC sections 56001[j] and 56320)

## **Independent Educational Assessments**

---

### **May my child be tested independently at the district's expense?**

If you disagree with the results of the assessment conducted by the school district, you have the right to ask for and obtain an independent educational assessment for your child from a person qualified to conduct the assessment at public expense.

The parent is entitled to only one independent educational evaluation at public expense each time the public agency conducts an evaluation with which the parent disagrees.

The school district must respond to your request for an independent educational assessment and provide you information about where to obtain an independent educational assessment.

If the school district believes that the district's assessment is appropriate and disagrees that an independent assessment is necessary, the school district must request a due process hearing to prove that its assessment was appropriate. If the district prevails, you still have the right to an independent assessment but not at public expense. The IEP team must consider independent assessments.

District assessment procedures allow in-class observation of students. If the school district observes your child in his or her classroom during an assessment, or if the school district would have been allowed to observe your child, an individual conducting an independent educational assessment must also be allowed to observe your child in the classroom.

If the school district proposes a new school setting for your child and an independent educational assessment is being conducted, the independent assessor must be allowed to first observe the proposed new setting. (20 USC sections 1415[b][1] and [d][2][A]; 34 CFR Section 300.502; EC Section 56329[b] and [c])

## **Access to Educational Records**

### **May I examine my child's educational records?**

You have a right to inspect and review all of your child's education records without unnecessary delay, including prior to a meeting about your child's IEP or before a due process hearing. The school district must provide you access to records and copies, if requested, within five business days after the request has been made orally or in writing. (EC sections 49060, 56043[n], 56501[b][3], and 56504)

## **How Disputes Are Resolved**

---

### **Due Process Hearing**

#### **When is a due process hearing available?**

You have the right to request an impartial due process hearing regarding the identification, assessment, and educational placement of your child or the provision of FAPE. The request for a due process hearing must be filed within two years from the date you knew or should have known about the alleged action that forms the basis of the due process complaint. (20 USC Section 1415[b][6]; 34 CFR Section 300.507; EC sections 56501 and 56505[I])



## **Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution**

### **May I request mediation or an alternative way to resolve the dispute?**

A request for mediation may be made either before or after a request for a due process hearing is made.

You may ask the school district to resolve disputes through mediation or alternative dispute resolution (ADR), which is less adversarial than a due process hearing. The ADR and mediation are voluntary methods of resolving a dispute and may not be used to delay your right to a due process hearing.

### **What is a pre-hearing mediation conference?**

You may seek resolution through mediation prior to filing a request for a due process hearing. The conference is an informal proceeding conducted in a nonadversarial manner to resolve issues relating to the identification, assessment, or educational placement of a child or to a FAPE.

At the prehearing mediation conference, the parent or the school district may be accompanied and advised by nonattorney representatives and may consult with an attorney prior to or following the conference. However, requesting or participating in a prehearing mediation conference is not a prerequisite to requesting a due process hearing.

All requests for a prehearing mediation conference shall be filed with the Superintendent of the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). The party initiating a prehearing mediation conference by filing a written request with the Superintendent of the OAH shall provide the other party to the mediation with a copy of the request at the same time the request is filed.

The prehearing mediation conference shall be scheduled within 15 days of receipt by the Superintendent of the OAH of the request for mediation and shall be completed within 30 days after receipt of the request for mediation unless both parties agree to extend the time. If a resolution is reached, the parties shall execute a legally binding written agreement that sets forth the resolution. All discussions during the mediation process shall be confidential. All prehearing mediation conferences shall be scheduled in a timely manner and held at a time and place reasonably convenient to the parties. If the issues fail to be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties, the party who requested the mediation conference has the option of filing for a due process hearing. (EC sections 56500.3 and 56503)

## Due Process Rights

---

### What are my due process rights?

You have a right to:

1. Have a fair and impartial administrative hearing at the state level before a person who is knowledgeable of the laws governing special education and administrative hearings (20 USC sections 1415[f][1][A], and 1415[f][3][A]-[D]; 34 CFR Section 300.511; EC Section 56501[b][4])
2. Be accompanied and advised by an attorney and/or individuals who have knowledge about children with disabilities (EC Section 56505 [e][1])
3. Present evidence, written arguments, and oral arguments (EC Section 56505[e][2])
4. Confront, cross-examine, and require witnesses to be present (EC Section 56505[e][3])
5. Receive a written or, at the option of the parent, an electronic verbatim record of the hearing, including findings of fact and decisions (EC Section 56505[e][4])
6. Have your child present at the hearing (EC Section 56501[c][1])
7. Have the hearing be open or closed to the public (EC Section 56501[c][2])
8. Receive a copy of all documents, including assessments completed by that date and recommendations, and a list of witnesses and their general area of testimony within five (5) business days before a hearing (EC sections 56505[e][7] and 56043[v])
9. Be informed by the other parties of the issues and their proposed resolution of the issues at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the hearing (EC Section 56505[e][6])
10. Have an interpreter provided (California Code of Regulations, Title 5 (5 CCR) Section 3082[d])
11. Request an extension of the hearing timeline (EC Section 56505[f][3])

12. Have a mediation conference at any point during the due process hearing (EC Section 56501[b][2]), and
13. Receive notice from the other party at least ten days prior to the hearing that the other party intends to be represented by an attorney (EC Section 56507[a]). (20 USC Section 1415[e]; 34 CFR sections 300.506, 300.508, 300.512 and 300.515)

## **Filing a Written Due Process Complaint**

---

### **How do I request a due process hearing?**

You need to file a written request for a due process hearing. You or your representative needs to submit the following information in your request:

1. Name of the child
2. Address of the residence of the child
3. Name of the school the child is attending
4. In the case of a homeless child, available contact information for the child and the name of the school the child is attending, and
5. A description of the nature of the problem, including facts relating to the problem(s) and a proposed resolution of the problem(s)

Federal and state laws require that either party filing for a due process hearing must provide a copy of the written request to the other party. (20 USC sections 1415[b][7], and 1415[c][2]; 34 CFR Section 300.508; EC Section 56502[c][1])

Prior to filing for a due process hearing, the school district shall be provided the opportunity to resolve the matter by convening a resolution session, which is a meeting between the parents and the relevant members of the IEP team who have specific knowledge of the facts identified in the due process hearing request. (20 USC Section 1415[f][1][B]; 34 CFR Section 300.510)

### **What does a resolution session include?**

Resolution sessions shall be convened within 15 days of receiving notice of the parents' due process hearing request. The sessions shall include a representative of the school district who has decision-making authority and not include an attorney of the school district unless the parent is accompanied by an attorney. The parent of the child may discuss the due process hearing issue and the facts that form the basis of the due process hearing request.

The resolution session is not required if the parent and the school district agree in writing to waive the meeting. If the school district has not resolved the due process hearing issue within 30 days, the due process hearing may occur. If a resolution is reached, the parties shall execute a legally binding agreement. (20 USC Section 1415[f][1][B]; 34 CFR Section 300.510)

### **Does my child's placement change during the proceedings?**

The child involved in any administrative or judicial proceeding must remain in the current educational placement unless you and the school district agree on another arrangement. If you are applying for initial admission of your child to a public school, your child will be placed in a public school program with your consent until all proceedings are completed. (20 USC Section 1415[j]; 34 CFR Section 300.518; EC Section 56505[d])

### **May the decision be appealed?**

The hearing decision is final and binding on both parties. Either party may appeal the hearing decision by filing a civil action in state or federal court within 90 days of the final decision. (20 USC sections 1415[i][2] and [3][A], and 1415[l]; 34 CFR Section 300.516; EC Section 56505[h] and [k], EC Section 56043[w])

### **Who pays for my attorneys' fees?**

In any action or proceeding regarding the due process hearing, the court, in its discretion, may award reasonable attorneys' fees as part of the costs to you as parent of a child with a disability if you are the prevailing party in the hearing. Reasonable attorneys' fees may also be made following the conclusion of the administrative hearing, with the agreement of the parties. (20 USC Section 1415[i][3][B]–[G]; 34 CFR Section 300.517; EC Section 56507[b])

Fees may be reduced if any of the following conditions prevail:

1. The court finds that you unreasonably delayed the final resolution of the controversy
2. The attorneys' hourly fees exceed the prevailing rate in the community for similar services by attorneys of reasonably comparable skill, reputation, and experience
3. The time spent and legal services provided were excessive, or
4. Your attorney did not provide to the school district the appropriate information in the due process request notice.

Attorneys' fees will not be reduced, however, if the court finds that the State or the school district unreasonably delayed the final resolution of the action or proceeding

or that there was a violation of this section of law. (20 USC Section 1415[i][3][B]-[G]; 34 CFR Section 300.517)

Attorneys' fees relating to any meeting of the IEP team may not be awarded unless an IEP team meeting is convened as a result of a due process hearing proceeding or judicial action. Attorneys' fees may also be denied if you reject a reasonable settlement offer made by the district/public agency 10 days before the hearing begins and the hearing decision is not more favorable than the offer of settlement. (20 USC Section 1415[i][3][B]-[G]; 34 CFR Section 300.517)

**To obtain more information or to file for mediation or a due process hearing, contact:**

Office of Administrative Hearings

Attention: Special Education Division

2349 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200

Sacramento, CA 95833-4231

Phone: 916-263-0880

Fax: 916-263-0890

The OAH can also be contacted by email using the Secure e-File Transmission (SFT) system. The SFT may be found on OAH's website at <https://www.applications.dgs.ca.gov/OAH/oahSFTWeb>

## **School Discipline and Placement Procedures for Students with Disabilities**

---

### **School Discipline and Alternative Interim Educational Settings**

#### **May my child be suspended or expelled?**

School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether a change in placement is appropriate for a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct from his or her setting to:

- An appropriate interim alternative education setting, another setting, or suspension for not more than 10 consecutive school days
- Additional removals of not more than 10 consecutive school days in the same school year for separate incidents of misconduct

### **What occurs after a removal of more than ten (10) days?**

After a child with a disability has been removed from his or her current placement for 10 school days in the same school year, during any subsequent days of removal the public agency must provide services to enable the child to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP. Also, a child will receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications, which are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur.

If a child exceeds 10 days in such a placement, an IEP team meeting must be held to determine whether the child's misconduct is caused by the disability. This IEP team meeting must take place immediately, if possible, or within 10 days of the school district's decision to take this type of disciplinary action.

As a parent you will be invited to participate as a member of this IEP team. The school district may be required to develop an assessment plan to address the misconduct or, if your child has a behavior intervention plan, review and modify the plan as necessary.

### **What happens if the IEP team determines that the misconduct is not caused by the disability?**

If the IEP team concludes that the misconduct was not a manifestation of the child's disability, the school district may take disciplinary action, such as expulsion, in the same manner as it would for a child without a disability. (20 USC Section 1415[k][1] and [7]; 34 CFR Section 300.530)

If you disagree with the IEP team's decision, you may request an expedited due process hearing, which must occur within 20 school days of the date on which you requested the hearing. (20 USC Section 1415[k][2]; 34 CFR Section 300.531[c])

Regardless of the setting the school district must continue to provide FAPE for your child. Alternative educational settings must allow the child to continue to participate in the general curriculum and ensure continuation of services and modifications detailed in the IEP. (34 CFR Section 300.530; EC Section 48915.5[b])

## **Children Attending Private School**

---

### **May students who are parentally placed in private schools participate in publicly funded special education programs?**

Children who are enrolled by their parents in private schools may participate in publicly funded special education programs. The school district must consult with private schools and with parents to determine the services that will be offered to private school students. Although school districts have a clear responsibility to offer FAPE to students with disabilities, those children, when placed by their parent in private schools, do not have the right to receive some or all of the special education and related services necessary to provide FAPE. (20 USC Section 1415[a][10][A]; 34 CFR sections 300.137 and 300.138; EC Section 56173)

If a parent of an individual with exceptional needs who previously received special education and related services under the authority of the school district enrolls the child in a private elementary school or secondary school without the consent of or referral by the local educational agency, the school district is not required to provide special education if the district has made FAPE available. A court or a due process hearing officer may require the school district to reimburse the parent or guardian for the cost of special education and the private school only if the court or due process hearing officer finds that the school district had not made FAPE available to the child in a timely manner prior to that enrollment in the private elementary school or secondary school and that the private placement is appropriate. (20 USC Section 1412[a][10][C]; 34 CFR Section 300.148; EC Section 56175)

### **When may reimbursement be reduced or denied?**

The court or hearing officer may reduce or deny reimbursement if you did not make your child available for an assessment upon notice from the school district before removing your child from public school. You may also be denied reimbursement if you did not inform the school district that you were rejecting the special education placement proposed by the school district, including stating your concerns and intent to enroll your child in a private school at public expense.

Your notice to the school district must be given either:

- At the most recent IEP team meeting you attended before removing your child from the public school, or
- In writing to the school district at least 10 business days (including holidays) before removing your child from the public school. (20 USC Section 1412[a][10][C]; 34 CFR Section 300.148; EC Section 56176)

When may reimbursement not be reduced or denied?

A court or hearing officer must not reduce or deny reimbursement to you if you failed to provide written notice to the school district for any of the following reasons:

- The school prevented you from providing notice
- You had not received a copy of this Notice of Procedural Safeguards or otherwise been informed of the requirement to notify the district
- Providing notice would likely have resulted in physical harm to your child
- Illiteracy and inability to write in English prevented you from providing notice, or
- Providing notice would likely have resulted in serious emotional harm to your child

(20 USC Section 1412[a] [10] [C]; 34 CFR Section 300.148; EC Section 56177)

## State Complaint Procedures

---

### **When may I file a state compliance complaint?**

Complaints alleging violations of federal and state special education laws or regulations may be mailed to:

[California Department of Education

Special Education Division

Complaint Support Unit

1430 N Street, Suite 2401

Sacramento, CA 95814]

You may also email your complaint to [speceducation@cde.ca.gov](mailto:speceducation@cde.ca.gov)

For complaints involving issues not covered by federal or state special education laws or regulations, consult your district's uniform complaint procedures.

To obtain more information about dispute resolution, including how to file a complaint, contact the CDE, Special Education Division, Complaint Support Unit, by



telephone at 800-926-0648; by fax at 916-327-3704; or by visiting the CDE, Special Education web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/index.asp>.

## Senate Bill 511, Family Empowerment Centers

### Background

The Family Empowerment Centers (FECs) were established in 2001 by enactment of Chapter 690 of the Statutes of 2001 (Senate Bill 511, Alpert), enacted as Education Code (EC) 56400-56415. The FECs provide services to families with children with disabilities ages three to twenty-two. The intent of the legislature is to ensure that parents, guardians, and families of children and young adults with disabilities have access to accurate information, specialized training, and peer-to-peer support.

### FEC Contact and Service Information

| Organization                                              | Counties Served     | Website                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ability Path's Family Resource Center of San Mateo County | San Mateo           | <a href="https://www.smcfrc.org/">https://www.smcfrc.org/</a>           |
| Alpha Family Resource Center                              | Santa Barbara       | <a href="https://alphasb.org/">https://alphasb.org/</a>                 |
| Exceptional Family Resource Center (EFRC)                 | Imperial, San Diego | <a href="https://efrconline.org/">https://efrconline.org/</a>           |
| Exceptional Parents Unlimited (EPU)                       | Fresno, Kings       | <a href="https://www.epuchildren.org/">https://www.epuchildren.org/</a> |
| Exceptional Parents Unlimited (EPU)                       | Madera              | <a href="https://www.epuchildren.org/">https://www.epuchildren.org/</a> |

|                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Family Focus Resource and Empowerment Center                          | North Los Angeles (San Fernando, Santa Clarita, Antelope Valley)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <a href="https://csun.edu/family-focus-resource-center">https://csun.edu/family-focus-resource-center</a>                                                                                           |
| Family Resource Navigators                                            | Alameda                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <a href="https://familyresourcenavigators.org/">https://familyresourcenavigators.org/</a>                                                                                                           |
| Family SOUP                                                           | Colusa, Sutter, Yuba                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <a href="http://www.familysoup.org/">http://www.familysoup.org/</a>                                                                                                                                 |
| H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Family Resource Center and Empowerment Center | Kern                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <a href="http://www.heartsfrc.org/">http://www.heartsfrc.org/</a>                                                                                                                                   |
| Heluna Health/Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center              | Los Angeles (Alhambra, Arcadia, Boyle Heights, City Terrace, Commerce, East Los Angeles, East Pasadena, El Sereno, Eagle Rock/Highland Park, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, Lincoln Heights, Montebello, Monterey Park, Mount Washington, Pico Rivera, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena, Santa Fe Springs, Temple City, Whittier) | <a href="https://www.helunahealth.org/partners/eastern-los-angeles-regional-family-resource-center/">https://www.helunahealth.org/partners/eastern-los-angeles-regional-family-resource-center/</a> |

|                                                          |                                                 |                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Matrix Parent Network & Resource Center                  | Napa, Solano, Sonoma                            | <a href="https://www.matrixparents.org/">https://www.matrixparents.org/</a>             |
| Matrix Parent Network                                    | Marin                                           | <a href="https://www.matrixparents.org/">https://www.matrixparents.org/</a>             |
| Parents Helping Parents, Inc.                            | Santa Clara                                     | <a href="https://www.php.com/">https://www.php.com/</a>                                 |
| Parents Helping Parents San Luis Obispo                  | San Luis Obispo                                 | <a href="http://www.phpslo.org/">http://www.phpslo.org/</a>                             |
| The Parents' Place Family Resource Center                | Los Angeles (San Gabriel Valley, Pomona)        | <a href="http://www.parentsplacefrc.com/">http://www.parentsplacefrc.com/</a>           |
| Plumas Rural Services, Inc.                              | Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Sierra                   | <a href="https://www.plumasruralservices.org/">https://www.plumasruralservices.org/</a> |
| Rowell Family Empowerment of Northern California (RFENC) | Butte, Glenn, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity | <a href="https://rfenc.org/Home/">https://rfenc.org/Home/</a>                           |

|                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| South Central<br>Los Angeles<br>Regional<br>Center<br>(McClaney<br>Family<br>Resource<br>Center) | Los Angeles<br>(South Los<br>Angeles including:<br>Watts, Leimert<br>Park,<br>Florence/Firestone<br>, West Adams,<br>Bell, Bell Gardens,<br>Compton, Cudahy,<br>Downey,<br>Huntington Park,<br>Lynwood,<br>Maywood, Vernon,<br>South Gate, North<br>Carson, Gardena,<br>Paramount) | <a href="https://sclarc.org/">https://sclarc.org/</a>                                 |
| Special Kids<br>Connect                                                                          | Monterey                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <a href="https://specialkidsconnect.org/">https://specialkidsconnect.org/</a>         |
| Special<br>Parents<br>Information<br>Network<br>(SPIN)                                           | San Benito, Santa<br>Cruz                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <a href="https://www.spinsc.org/">https://www.spinsc.org/</a>                         |
| Support for<br>Families of<br>Children with<br>Disabilities                                      | San Francisco                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <a href="https://www.supportforfamilies.org/">https://www.supportforfamilies.org/</a> |
| Team of<br>Advocates for<br>Special Kids,<br>Inc. (TASK)                                         | Orange                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <a href="https://taskca.org/">https://taskca.org/</a>                                 |

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Team of Advocates for Special Kids, Inc. (TASK) | Los Angeles (Artesia, Avalon, Bellflower, Carson, Cerritos, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway, Hawaiian Gardens, Hermosa Beach, Lakewood, Lomita, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Norwalk, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho, Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, San Pedro, Signal Hill, Torrance, Wilmington) | <a href="https://taskca.org/">https://taskca.org/</a>                 |
| Team of Advocates for Special Kids, Inc. (TASK) | Los Angeles (Signal Hill, Long Beach, Catalina Island)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <a href="https://taskca.org/">https://taskca.org/</a>                 |
| Team of Advocates for Special Kids, Inc. (TASK) | Los Angeles (Lakewood, East Lakewood, Hawaiian Gardens, Bellflower, Norwalk/Little Lake, Artesia, Cerritos)                                                                                                                                                                                | <a href="https://taskca.org/">https://taskca.org/</a>                 |
| Warmline Family Resource Center                 | Alpine, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Yolo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <a href="http://www.warmlinefrc.org/">http://www.warmlinefrc.org/</a> |
| Westside Family Resource Center                 | West Los Angeles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <a href="http://wfrec.org/">http://wfrec.org/</a>                     |

## **SFUSD Contacts:**

---

Ombudsperson: Julia Martin 415-447-7802 martinj5@sfusd.edu

Alternative Dispute Resolution: adr@sfusd.edu

## **Glossary of Abbreviations Used in This Notification**

ADR: Alternative Dispute Resolution

*CFR: Code of Federal Regulations*

*EC: California Education Code*

FAPE: Free Appropriate Public Education

FEC: Family Empowerment Center on Disability

IDEA: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

IEP: Individualized Education Program

PTIC: Parent Training and Information Center

OAH: Office of Administrative Hearings

SELPA: Special Education Local Plan Area

*USC: United States Code*

---



Special Education Services  
3045 Santiago Street  
San Francisco, CA 94116 415-759-2222  
fax: 415-750-8624

### **Notice to Parents/Guardians LEA and Billing for health services**

Like many school districts in California, SFUSD, in cooperation with the California Department of Health Care Services, participates in a program that allows the District to be reimbursed with federal dollars for selected health services provided to students at school who are eligible for Medi-Cal. This program generates funds that support some staffing costs and some equipment needed to provide services. In signing and checking this box, you are indicating that we have your consent to seek reimbursement from the State for Medi-Cal benefits on behalf of your child if your child is eligible for this program or becomes eligible. There is no cost or penalty to you if you consent to this, nor is there a cost or penalty if you do not consent to it. It simply gives the school district the right to access additional governmental supports.

# Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Any resolution process, agreed to by disagreeing parties, in which the services of a neutral professional are used to assist them in reaching agreement and avoiding litigation.

## ADR Strategies in SFUSD



### Collaborative Conference

A trained, skilled, and experienced facilitator guides the participants through a discussion of their concerns with a peaceable resolution and next steps in mind.

### Facilitated IEP

Specifically for IEP teams having difficulty reaching agreement. A neutral facilitator supports the progress of the meeting so that the team can reach a signed agreement to support the student.



### Guided Consultation Session

A Communication Strategy Session specifically to discuss Covid-19 related concerns, such as Online Learning and Covid Recovery Services.



### Communication Strategy Session

An opportunity for an individual to meet with a facilitator to discuss and problem solve a specific communication difficulty.

### Who Are the Facilitators?



Certified with the Bar Association of SF's Bay Area Mediation Program.

15 hours training in special education law and the culture of parental and school district relations.

Training is ongoing and based on the types of actual special education cases.

### Why Choose ADR in SFUSD?

- It's Effective
- It's Free
- It's Convenient
- It's Empowering
- It's Confidential

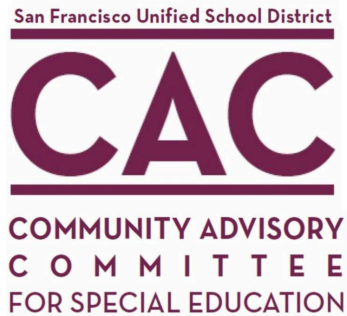
SFUSD's Alternative Dispute Resolution program is funded through grants from the California Department of Education

### Contact Information:

Adriana Aro  
Program Administrator, Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Mobile 415.823.4051  
[adr@sfusd.edu](mailto:adr@sfusd.edu)  
<https://www.sfusd.edu/special-education-adr>







# JOIN US

Advocating for Effective  
Special Education in SFUSD

<http://www.cacspedsf.com>

Email: [cacspedsf@gmail.com](mailto:cacspedsf@gmail.com)

## Learn With Us

|                    |                                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| August 25, 2022    | Back to School / Special Education 101  |
| September 22, 2022 | Mental Health                           |
| October 27, 2022   | Board of Education Town Hall            |
| November 17, 2022  | Early Literacy Supports                 |
| December 5-9, 2022 | Inclusive Schools Week                  |
| January 26, 2023   | Special Education for Families of Color |
| February 23, 2023  | Community Conversation on the LCAP      |
| March 23, 2023     | Behavior Best Practices                 |
| April 27, 2023     | Advocates Worthy of Excellence Awards   |
| May 25, 2023       | Special Education Budget/Local Plan     |
| June 22, 2023      | Sensory Processing                      |

### You Can Help!

- Learn and Share info with parents you know
- Volunteer to be on a CAC committee
- Help families at school enrollment events
- Advocate locally or nationally
- Make San Francisco a friendlier place for kids with disabilities.

### Our Priorities

- Staffing Stability
- Professional Development
- Literacy
- Mental Health and Trauma