

Informal Dispute Resolution

What is the District's Informal Dispute Resolution?

The District's Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) is an informal, voluntary, and optional process where the District works with Parents to: (1) identify the special education issue(s) in dispute and (2) quickly and informally resolve the identified issues. In the event that parties do not reach an agreement through the IDR process, Parents have the option to proceed by filing with the California Office of Administrative Hearings ("OAH") a request for Mediation Only or a request for a Due Process hearing and mediation. While IDR is an informal process between the District and Parents where attorneys and advocates are generally not involved, Parents have the right to have an attorney or advocate present during the IDR negotiation process and/or to review any settlement agreement reached between the parties.

How is the IDR process initiated?

If a Parent disagrees with all or any portion of a child's IEP, at the end of the IEP meeting the Administrative Designee of the student's IEP team will endeavor to identify:

- The disputed issues;
- Which parts of the IEP are agreed upon;
- Any other disputes from the past two years that Parent has with the District regarding the Student's educational programming that have not been resolved; and
- Which process the Parents would like to use to resolve the dispute.

The Administrative Designee will inform the Parent of their due process rights and of the various dispute resolution options (i.e., IDR, OAH Mediation Only, and OAH Due Process Hearing and Mediation). The Administrative Designee will refer the Parent to the District's Notice of Procedural Safeguards and Parent Rights which describes the various dispute resolution processes. The Procedural Safeguards are available on the District website: <http://do.bonita.k12.ca.us/District/Educational-Services/Special-Education/Parent-Rights/index.html>.

If the Parent selects the IDR process, the Administrative Designee will direct the parent to the IDR process and to contact the Special Education Department. The Special Education Department will:

- Provide the Parent with the District's Notice of Procedural Safeguards and Parents' Rights;
- Provide the Parent with a list of advocates and attorneys from the Office of Administrative Hearings, in the event the Parent desires assistance in the IDR process;

- Provide the Parent with the District's Parent Options for IEP Dispute Resolution;
- Provide the Parent with a copy of their child's last IEP; and
- Assist the Parent in completing IDR Form A, (Amendment A) which outlines the issues in dispute and confirms the Parent's election to pursue IDR.

After the IDR Form is submitted to the Special Education Department, a member of the special education department will work with the Parent to try and resolve the disagreement(s) identified on the IDR Form. The Special Education Department will contact the Parent to schedule a time to meet to try to resolve the dispute. The Parent may bring an attorney or advocate to this meeting.



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
IDR FORM – REQUEST FOR INFORMAL DISPUTE
RESOLUTION (IDR)

Student: _____ DOB: _____ Gender: M F

School of Attendance: _____ School of Residence: _____

Eligibility: _____ IEP Date: _____

Date IEP Signed: _____ Placement: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian Name(s): _____

Home Address: _____

Phone: Home: () _____ Work: () _____ Fax: () _____ Cell: () _____

List the issues that are in dispute from the IEP, and any other Disputes that Parent would like to resolve with regard to Student’s special education programming. These issues should be jointly developed by a member of the special education department and the Parent. Attach a copy of the IEP in which the dispute arises and pertinent assessment reports. Parents may list additional issues and attach them to the IDR Form.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

I request to proceed through Informal Dispute Resolution and I have been provided a copy of the District's Procedural Safeguards and a copy of my child's most recent IEP as of the date signed below.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Received on: _____

District Representative

IDR Meeting Date: _____

IDR Meeting Location: _____