

**Florida Department of Education
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
Dispute Resolution**

Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Mediation Guiding Principles

As a party to the mediation, we agree and understand that:

- The mediation is about the student.
- We will focus on the issues and resolution.
- We will share information openly.
- We will put our anger aside and work toward compromise.
- The mediator will not be called as a witness in any future legal proceedings.
- Each party will be given an uninterrupted opportunity to express their views.
- The mediator will have the authority to remove any disruptive or threatening participants, or end the mediation session.
- All information shared during the course of the mediation session is confidential.
- The mediation agreement is a legally binding contract, which is enforceable in a state court of competent jurisdiction or in a U.S. district court.
- A copy of the mediation agreement will be included in the student's school file.
- Again, the mediation is about the student.