

“Mediation helped us reach an agreement that was much better for my child.”

“Mediation opened the channels of communication and allowed everyone to be creative in their approach to the child.”

“Mediation was the only way my voice could be heard.”

TO REQUEST MEDIATION

Send requests for mediation by mail, fax or email to your child’s school and to the New York Peace Institute’s Brooklyn Mediation Center.

New York Peace Institute
Brooklyn Mediation Center
210 Joralemon Street, Suite 618
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone: 718.834.6671 Fax: 718.834.6681
chimes@nypeace.org

Be sure to include the following information in your request for mediation.

- Parent name, address and phone numbers
- Student’s name, date of birth and school
- A description of the problem and some possible solutions

To obtain a Manual of Guidelines and Procedures on Special Education Mediation visit www.nypeace.org

For more information about Special Education Mediation visit www.directionservice.org

about the NEW YORK PEACE INSTITUTE

The New York Peace Institute is committed to promoting peace in our communities. Whether a dispute involves two people, or several groups, we can help.

We work in three areas:

- Dispute resolution services
- Mediator training and credentialing
- Customized consulting and training for organizations and communities

We originated as the Safe Horizon Mediation Program in 1981. With more than 30 years experience, we are one of the largest community dispute resolution centers in the United States, and we are a nationally recognized leader in the field of conflict response.

BROOKLYN MEDIATION CENTER
210 JORALEMON ST. SUITE, 618
BROOK LYN, NY 11201
T: 718.834.6671 F: 718.834.6681

MANHATTAN MEDIATION CENTER
346 BROADWAY SUITE, 400W
NEW YORK, NY 10013
T: 212.577.1740 F: 212.577.1748

www.nypeace.org
info@nypeace.org

LET US GET IN THE MIDDLE.



LET US GET IN THE MIDDLE.



special education mediation



WHEN PARENTS AND SCHOOLS DISAGREE

“I don’t want my child in a Special Education class.”

“If the child’s behavior continues, we can’t support him in our school.”

“I don’t think my child is getting enough services.”

“This child doesn’t belong in a general education class, and the parent isn’t listening.”

MEDIATION CAN HELP

Mediation is a process in which parents of a child with a disability and a school meet with a neutral person (a mediator) to work out their differences. It is often chosen instead of an impartial hearing as a way of resolving disputes about a student’s placement, services, evaluation, or classification. In most cases, the mediator is able to help develop an agreement that is acceptable to both the parent and the school in a way that:

- Allows all concerns to be heard
- Builds trust and improves communication
- Explores creative solutions
- Gives everyone a chance to have equal say in all decisions

ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION MEDIATION

A FREE SERVICE

Mediation is provided at no cost to parents and schools.

A VOLUNTARY PROCESS

Mediation can be requested by either parent or school, but will only take place if both parties agree to the process.

DIFFERENT FROM AN IMPARTIAL HEARING

An impartial hearing is a court proceeding where a hearing officer makes a decision based on evidence and testimony. Mediation is a dispute resolution process where a mediator assists parents and schools to work out disagreements about a child’s educational plan. The mediator does not make decisions, but rather helps participants reach their own solutions.

BINDING AGREEMENTS

Any agreement reached is binding and is written up at the mediation. After the mediation, the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is updated to reflect the terms of the agreement.

QUALIFIED MEDIATORS

Special Education mediators have had extensive conflict resolution training and are knowledgeable about education law and the operations of the New York City school system. They are professionals from various occupations and are not employed by the Department of Education.

DUE PROCESS RIGHTS PROTECTED

Parents can request both an impartial hearing and mediation at the same time. The impartial hearing can be cancelled if all the concerns are resolved in mediation.

