

# Ohio's Dispute Resolution Processes

## Information Chart

	EARLY COMPLAINT RESOLUTION	FACILITATION	MEDIATION	FORMAL WRITTEN COMPLAINT	DUE PROCESS COMPLAINT (HEARING)	EXPEDITED DUE PROCESS (HEARING)
Who can Initiate the Process	Parent or public agency contacts the Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children, for assistance	Parent or public agency, but must be voluntary for both	Parent or public agency, but must be voluntary for both	Any individual or organization	Parent or district/school or student who has reached the age of majority	Parent or district/school or student who has reached the age of majority
Time Limits	None	None	None	One year from date of alleged violation	Two years from when the party knew or should have known of the alleged problem	Two years from when the party knew or should have known of the alleged problem
Purpose	In most cases, to deal with issues related to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), communication or complaint resolution processes	Any meeting related to an evaluation or Individual Education Plan (IEP)	Any matter under IDEA including matters arising from a formal written complaint or due process (with some exceptions)	Alleged violations of IDEA or the Operating Standards for Ohio schools	Any matter relating to the identification, evaluation or educational placement or provision of a free appropriate public education (with some exceptions)	Only for disagreement about disciplinary placement or disagreement with manifestation determination
Timeline to Resolve Issues	None	None, but must meet IEP or evaluation deadlines	None	60 days from when the Office for Exceptional Children receives the complaint unless extension granted or parties resolve earlier	No more 45 days from the end of the resolution (maximum of 30 days). Public agency must convene a resolution meeting within 15 days of receipt of the complaint, unless parties agree to waive it, or agree to mediate (other factors may affect timeline)	No more than 30 school days (20 school days for the hearing and 10 school days to write the decision) from the end of the resolution period (maximum 15 calendar days). No extensions of time permitted.
Who Oversees Process	Education Program Specialist	Coordinator from the Ohio Department of Education	Coordinator from the Ohio Department of Education	Coordinator from the Ohio Department of Education	Due Process Coordinator assigns Hearing Officer	Due Process Coordinator assigns Hearing Officer
Decision Makers	Parties involved	IEP or Evaluation Team	Parties involved	Education Program Specialist or Attorney Complaint Consultant	Hearing Officer	Hearing Officer