

## **Louisiana Department of Education Dispute Resolution Comparison Chart**

***[The options are listed from least to most adversarial--not in a required or sequential order.]***

	<b>IEP Facilitation</b>	<b>Mediation</b>	<b>Informal Complaint</b>	<b>Formal State Complaint</b>	<b>Due Process Hearing</b>
<b><i>Who can initiate the Process?</i></b>	Parent or Local School System or Public Agency, but participation is voluntary	Parent or Local School System or Public Agency, but participation is voluntary	Parent or Local School System or Public Agency, but participation is voluntary	Any organization, including those from out of state	Parent, Local School System or Public Agency
<b><i>Is there a time limit?</i></b>	No	No	Within 1 year of the violation, act, or omission	Within 1 year of the violation, act, or omission	Within 1 year of the violation or when the party knew or should have known about the problem
<b><i>What type of issues can be resolved?</i></b>	Content of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP)	Any matter relating to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education	Alleged violations of the IDEA, state law, or Department exceptionality regulations	Alleged violations of the IDEA, state law, or Department exceptionality regulations	Any matter relating to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education
<b><i>Who resolves the issues or decides if a violation occurred?</i></b>	The IEP facilitator is a neutral party who helps the IEP Team members to make decisions & reach a consensus	The mediator is a neutral party who is trained to help the participants make decisions & prepare a written agreement	The local ERP representative helps requestor and school make decisions & reach an agreement	The Department's designated complaint investigator	An administrative law judge (ALJ) assigned by the Division of Administrative Law (DAL)
<b><i>How long does the process take to complete?</i></b>	None Specified—but usually a three hour minimum	None Specified—but usually a three hour minimum	The Early Resolution Process (ERP) ends 14 days after the informal complaint is filed, unless it is extended by the participants	The investigation ends 45 days after the ERP, unless it is extended by the participants	The ALJ will hold the hearing & issue a written decision within 45 days after the resolution period ends, unless the participants continue the hearing