



SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

The following resources can provide information and support as well as dispute resolution options regarding questions, concerns, and conflict with Special Education in K-12 Public Schools in King County.

Information and General Support	
RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION
<p>The Arc of King County Information & Family Support Team 206-829-7053 ask@arcofkingcounty.org</p>	<p>The Arc of King County can help families understand the special education process, parent and student rights, and basic strategies when working with schools. The Arc also offers occasional workshops on special education topics throughout the year as well as many opportunities for families to connect with and learn from one another. Occasionally and given enough notice, Parent to Parent staff may be able to identify a parent volunteer who can attend a school meeting in order to support a parent or family.</p>
<p>Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) www.oeo.wa.gov 866-297-2597</p>	<p>Facilitates resolution of individual complaints regarding issues or concerns that impact any student in Washington's public school system. Provides public information, consultation, and referrals regarding Washington State public education system. Trains families, educators, and community-based professionals about the public education system, conflict resolution, and effective parent engagement.</p>
<p>Washington PAVE www.washingtonpave.org 800-572-7368</p>	<p>PAVE is a parent-driven organization that works with families using trained parent volunteers to problem-solve special education related problems and concerns. While their main office is located in Tacoma, they provide peer services statewide. PAVE specializes in support for military parents and provides support for IEP meetings upon request.</p>
<p>Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Special Education Parent Liaison http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/Families/Assistance.aspx 360-725-6075</p>	<p>The OSPI Special Education Parent Liaison is available as a resource to parents in non-legal special education matters to answer questions, provide information and referral, and assist parents to understand complaint processes and district procedures. The Special Education Parent Liaison does not advocate on behalf of any one party.</p>
<p>Washington Autism Alliance & Advocacy (WAAA) www.washingtonautismadvocacy.org 425-836-6513</p>	<p>Located in Redmond and specializing in Autism, WAAA offers support on special education issues including information, training, and possible legal consultation.</p>
<p>Open Doors for Multicultural Families www.multiculturalfamilies.org 253-216-4479 info@multiculturalfamilies.org</p>	<p>Located in south King County, Open Doors offers information, training, and support to families with loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities about special education for many languages and cultural groups. Open Doors also offers homeless prevention, early intervention, and other disability-related services.</p>

<p>Wrights Law www.wrightslaw.com</p>	<p>Extensive parent-friendly information about special education law and advocacy nation-wide. Resourceful newsletter available.</p>
<p>US Department of Education: IDEA website http://idea.ed.gov/</p>	<p>The federal government's website about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that dictates special education law. Has extensive information about each area addressed in IDEA.</p>

Support for IEP Meetings	
RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION
<p>Sound Options Mediation www.somtg.com 1-800-692-2540</p>	<p>Provides IEP Meeting Facilitation. http://somtg.com/documents/IEPMeetingFacilitation.pdf</p>
<p>Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) www.oeo.wa.gov 866-297-2597</p>	<p>OEO can serve as a neutral third party between families and public schools and may attend IEP meetings on occasion.</p>
<p>Washington PAVE www.washingtonpave.org 800-572-7368</p>	<p>PAVE utilizes trained parent volunteers to problem-solve with families around special education related problems and concerns. Parent volunteers may be available to support families for IEP meetings upon request.</p>

Dispute Resolution Options
<p>Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) www.oeo.wa.gov 866-297-2597</p> <p>Facilitates resolution of individual complaints regarding issues or concerns that impact any student in Washington's public-school system. Services are free.</p>
<p>Sound Options Mediation www.somtg.com 1-800-692-2540</p> <p>Funded by OSPI to provide free mediation services to parents and schools by mutual agreement to collaboratively resolve special education conflicts. Here are some helpful downloads regarding mediation services in special education: http://somtg.com/downloads/</p>
<p>OSPI Citizen's Complaint http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/DisputeResolution/CitizenComplaint.aspx</p> <p>A citizen complaint is a written statement to OSPI alleging that a federal or state special education rule or law has been violated by a school district, another public agency serving special education students, an educational service district, or the state. OSPI can only investigate allegations that occurred within the past calendar year (from the date that OSPI received the complaint).</p>

Special Education Due Process Hearings

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/DisputeResolution/DueProcess.aspx>

A due process hearing is a formal, legal proceeding conducted by an administrative law judge (ALJ). A written request for a due process hearing is made by a parent or district relating to issues about the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or provision of Free Appropriate Public Education to a student. Requests must be made within—and allege violations that occurred not more than—**two years** before the date you knew or should have known about the allegation.

OSPI maintains a list of free and low cost legal assistance for Special Education Due Process Hearings. See link on this page for current list: <http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/DisputeResolution/default.aspx>

Office of Civil Rights Complaint (OCR)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

OCR enforces five federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability and age in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance from the Department of Education (ED).

Anyone who believes that an education institution that receives federal financial assistance has discriminated against someone on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age, or who believes that a public elementary or secondary school, or state or local education agency has violated the *Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act*, may file a complaint. The person or organization filing the complaint need not be a victim of the alleged discrimination but may complain on behalf of another person or group.

A complaint must be filed within **180 calendar days** of the date of the alleged discrimination, unless the time for filing is extended by OCR for good cause shown under certain circumstances. You can initiate a complaint by a phone call.

Phone: 206-607-1600

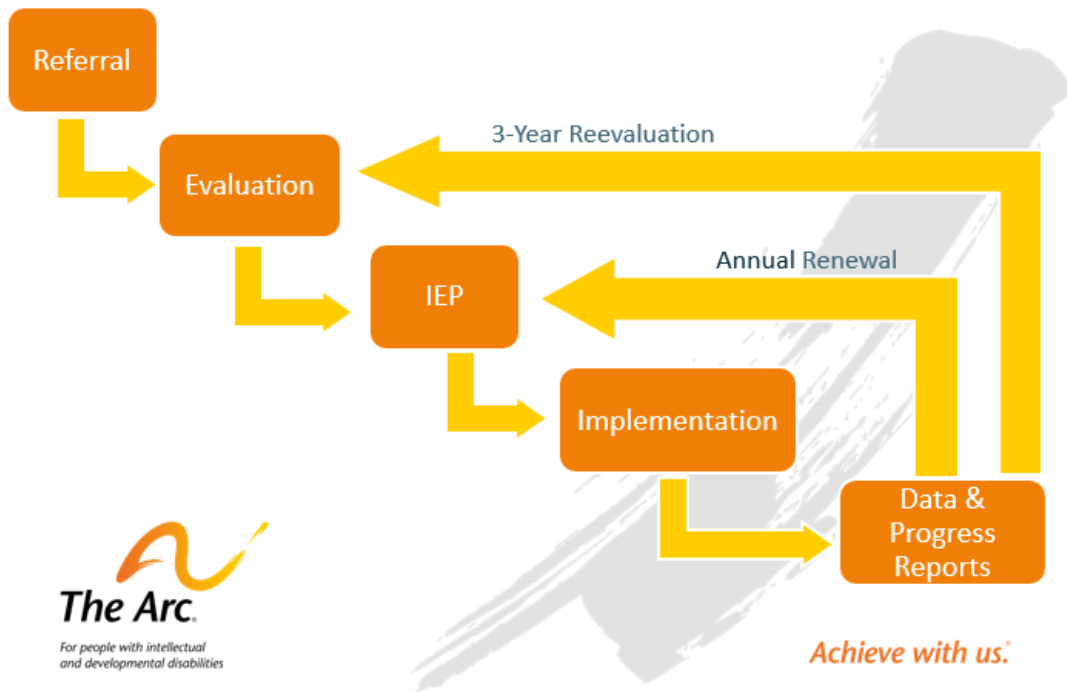
Home School Resources

Any student, regardless of disability, has an option to homeschool. Some school districts have home school support programs, but not all. Contact your school district to learn about the rules and regulations for homeschooling, as well as support programs they may offer.

Students with an IEP can access certain IEP services through the school, even when they choose to home school. For example, if the student is eligible for Occupational Therapy through their IEP, they can continue to get that therapy from school while homeschooling. The family must negotiate this with their IEP team.

For more information and resources: <http://washhomeschool.org/special-needs/>

The IEP Process



When you are concerned about your child's IEP or their success in school it is helpful to identify the part of the IEP process in which the breakdown occurred:



ASK YOURSELF:
Did the current evaluation include the area of concern? Is the student eligible for special education services in that area? What is missing?

ASK YOURSELF:
Are the Present Levels of Performance accurate? Is the annual measurable goal appropriate? What accommodations or modifications are in place? Are there enough service "minutes"? Is the "placement" appropriate?

ASK YOURSELF:
Is the school implementing ALL of the IEP? Do the daily strategies need to be changed? Does the teacher need support? Is the data showing progress?

