

WAC 392-172A-05060 Mediation purpose—Availability. (1) The purpose of mediation is to offer both the parent and the school district an opportunity to resolve disputes and reach a mutually acceptable agreement concerning the identification, evaluation, educational placement or provision of FAPE to the student through the use of an impartial mediator.

(2) Mediation is voluntary and requires the agreement of both parties. It may be terminated by either party at any time during the mediation process.

(3) Mediation cannot be used to deny or delay a parent's right to a due process hearing under this chapter, or to deny any other rights afforded under this chapter.

(4) Mediation services are provided by the OSPI at no cost to either party, including the costs of meetings described in WAC 392-172A-05075. To access the statewide mediation system, a request for mediation services may be made in writing or verbally to administrative agents for the OSPI. Written confirmation of the request shall be provided to both parties by an intake coordinator and a mediator shall be assigned to the case.

(5) The OSPI will provide mediation services for individuals whose primary language is not English or who use another mode of communication unless it is clearly not feasible to do so. Each session in the mediation process shall be scheduled in a timely manner and shall be held in a location that is convenient to the parties to the dispute.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.155.090(7) and 42 U.S.C. 1400 et. seq. WSR 07-14-078, § 392-172A-05060, filed 6/29/07, effective 7/30/07.]