Dispute IEP

Note: This flowchart is a broad outline of your choices in resolving a dispute. Your legal options will depend on state, local and federal laws. Consult with trusted members of your team in pursuing dispute resolution. You can also visit our state's resource guide for more information.

My Dispute is...

Legal: I think the school is not living up to the standards of IDEA or the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Factual: My problem is with a specific program, evaluation or eligibility determination

Consider consulting a lawyer.

I can file a complaint with my state's department of education

I can file a complaint with the U.S. department of education

First, I should try to negotiate a settlement with the school informally (this is the simplest, least costly option)

I can proceed to a mediation or directly to a due process hearing

Complaint forms are available from your state's department of education and the Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education.