



# South Lyon Community Schools Special Education Handling Issues, Concerns and Disputes

## ➔ Step 1: Resolve Concerns Early and at the Lowest Level Possible

Schools and parents/guardians are encouraged to communicate with each other as soon as possible when concerns or issues arise regarding a child's special education program and services. Relationships are critical, so as a parent, you should always begin at the level closest to your child first to address problems, as follows:

- ↓ Your child's teacher/provider or teaching team
- ↓ The building principal
- ↓ Your local [Director of Special Education](#)
- ↓ The Oakland Schools [Special Populations Compliance Department](#)

## ➔ Step 2: Request an IEP Meeting

[The Arc of Oakland County](#) can also assist parents with navigating concerns with their local district. Parents or schools may request an IEP meeting to resolve the concerns. In addition, [Special Education Mediation Services](#) can provide IEP meeting facilitation and mediation services.

## ➔ Step 3: When a Concern Becomes a Dispute

### Special Education State Compliant Process

When a concern becomes a dispute, it is optional to file a formal complaint regarding an IEP and the provision of special education programs and services. For more information, consult the office of Special Education's [Special Education Problem Solving Process](#) document, which includes a copy of the Model Special Education State Complaint form used to submit a complaint.

Consult the [Procedural Safeguards](#) for more information on state complaints.

### Special Education Due Process Hearing

Schools or parents may request a due process hearing to resolve disputes about matters related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, provision of a free appropriate public education, or a manifestation determination of their child. The complete listing of hearable issues can be found in [MARSE](#) under Rule 340.1724f. For more information, review the [Notice of Procedural Safeguards](#) and the [Special Education Due Process Complaint Procedures](#), which includes a copy of the Model Due Process Complaint/Request hearing form. Contact your local [Director of Special Education](#) for more information on due process hearings.