



# Reopening Checklist for Special Education

## Summary

*Considerations for Special Education Administrators when reopening after school closures.*

## Definition/Explanation

To assist in organizing and planning for a reopening by considering important factors regarding special education and certain areas of [Dispute Resolution](#).

## Strategies/Resources

*Note: This is not an exhaustive list and more resources are available (see embedded below hyperlinks).*

### Family Engagement Support for Parents of Students with Disabilities:

Make sure parent mentors and local educational agencies (LEAs) have access to the resources available to support parents of students with disabilities.

- ✓ [CADRE Working Together Series](#): Five-part interactive series that is self-directed courses that provide strategies for working together through conflict.
- ✓ [Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership](#): An alliance of parents and professionals working together to improve outcomes for students with disabilities by enhancing communication and collaboration between families, educators, and the community.
- ✓ [GaDOE IEP Facilitation Parent Guide](#):
- ✓ CADRE Dispute Resolution Parent Guides: Easy-to-read guides to assist parents in understanding the IDEA dispute resolution processes of mediation, formal complaints, due process hearings, and resolution sessions.
- ✓ [Parent Support and Legal Aid Providers](#)

### GaDOE Special Education Help Desk Support to LEAs, Parents, and Other Stakeholders:

- ✓ [SPEDHelpDesk@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:SPEDHelpDesk@doe.k12.ga.us)
- ✓ 404-657-9968

### IEP Facilitation Process as a Collaborative Dispute Prevention and Resolution Process:

Raise awareness and provide professional learning to special education teachers, related service providers, administrators, and parents about IEP facilitation process.

- ✓ [GaDOE IEP Facilitation](#): Includes an overview of the IEP facilitation process, a request form, flyer, manual, and video.



## Georgia Department of Education Division for Special Education Services and Supports



- ✓ [Considering-IEP-Facilitation-School-Administrators-Perspective](#): A CADRE pamphlet that describes, from an administrator's perspective, the benefits of IEP facilitation.
- ✓ [Open Forum: COVID-19 State Facilitation Programs](#): A CADRE webinar discussing IEP facilitation during the pandemic.

**Mediation as a Dispute Resolution Process:** Become knowledgeable about the mediation process and recognize instances where LEAs may wish to request mediation to resolve special education disputes with parents.

- ✓ [Mediation](#): Includes an overview of the mediation process, as well as request form, procedures, and frequently asked questions
- ✓ [Considering-Mediation-School Administrators-Perspective](#): A CADRE pamphlet that describes, from an administrator's perspective, the benefits of mediation

**Formal Complaints as a Dispute Resolution Process:** Become knowledgeable about the formal complaint process and the steps an LEA must take if a parent or another individual files a formal complaint.

- ✓ [Formal Complaints](#): Includes an overview of the formal complaint process
- ✓ [I Just Received a Formal Complaint, Now What?](#): A GaDOE presentation about the formal complaint process and steps LEAs need to take if a formal complaint is filed.

**Due Process Hearings as a Dispute Resolution Process:** Become knowledgeable about the due process hearing process and the steps an LEA must take if a parent requests a due process hearing. Also recognize instances where LEAs may wish to request a due process hearing to resolve special education disputes.

- ✓ [Due Process Hearings](#): Includes an overview of the due process hearing process, as well as request form, procedures, and frequently asked questions.
- ✓ [Dispute Resolution Process](#): A GaDOE presentation about the due process hearing process, steps LEAs need to take if a due process hearing is filed, and differences between a due process hearing and an expedited due process hearing.

### Websites:

[Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership](#)

[GaDOE Dispute Resolution](#)

[CADRE](#)

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