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**
- ✓ 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.
✓ 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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