

A new way to solve problems before they become conflicts. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) and SPEDTex now offer a free, voluntary support option to help families and schools resolve special education concerns early, before they escalate. This process, called Early Resolution (ER), provides a trained facilitator to guide a productive conversation, build relationships, and help develop mutually acceptable solutions, all while preserving positive relationships.



How Early Resolution Works

- **Voluntary Participation:** Either families or school can withdraw at any time.
- **Collaborative Approach:** Parents, guardians, adult students, and school staff work together to develop mutually agreeable solutions.
- **Control Over Decisions:** Participants negotiate their own resolutions, rather than having a third-party decide.
- **Quick Implementation:** Agreements can usually be implemented shortly after the session.
- **Confidential:** Sessions are private, with no notes retained by SPEDTex consultants.

Limitations

Early Resolution is **not available** for:

- ▶ Cases already in TEA Mediation or Due Process Hearing
- ▶ Concerns outside the scope of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), (e.g., general education issues, cameras in classrooms)
- ▶ Educator ethics or personnel issues
- ▶ Issues that cannot be resolved through dialogue

For concerns that cannot be addressed through Early Resolution, SPEDTex provides resources and guidance for next steps.



Who Can Participate

- Parents, guardians, or adult students
- School representatives



What to Expect in a Session

- **Duration:** Typically, 30 - 60 minutes
- **Facilitation:** A SPEDTex consultant guides the discussion neutrally, focusing on the student and helping families and schools explore solutions
- **Discussion:** Families and schools share concerns, asks questions, and works toward a mutually agreeable plan
- **Outcome:** If successful, a written local resolution is created between the school and family



Roles and Responsibilities

Schools

- Commit necessary resources (staff, time, equipment) to implement agreed-upon solutions
- Document and monitor progress

Parents/Guardians/Adult Students

- Participate actively in developing solutions
- Provide feedback and monitor the effectiveness of agreements

SPEDTex Consultant

- Facilitate discussion and keep focus on the student
- Provide information on IDEA laws and regulations
- Summarize key points and guide toward a clear agreement



Examples of Early Resolution in Action

- Parent and School agree on a new teaching strategy and monitor its effectiveness together
- School provides additional support staff or equipment to meet a student's needs
- Parties collaboratively adjust an intervention plan based on student progress



Benefits of Early Resolution

- Maintain positive relationships between families and schools
- Promote collaborative problem-solving
- Build trust and rapport
- Keep the focus on student success

Positive ♦ Collaborative ♦ Student-Focused

