



# The Laboratory Charter School of Communication and Languages

## Policy

### Dispute Resolution for Students With Disabilities

#### Resolution # 032020248

##### 1. Introduction

Laboratory Charter School (LCS) is committed to ensuring the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all students with disabilities in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). As part of this commitment, LCS acknowledges the importance of resolving disputes in a timely and effective manner. This Dispute Resolution Policy outlines the procedures and mechanisms available to parents/guardians and the school to address disagreements related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or provision of special education services.

##### 2. Procedural Safeguards

LCS adheres to all procedural safeguards mandated by the IDEA, including those outlined in 34 CFR 300.504. These safeguards ensure that the rights of students with disabilities and their parents/guardians are protected throughout the dispute resolution process.

##### 3. Mediation (34 CFR 300.506)

Mediation is a voluntary process designed to facilitate communication and resolve disputes between parents/guardians and LCS. The following procedures govern the mediation process:

Either party may request mediation to resolve a dispute related to the provision of special education services.

LCS will appoint a qualified and impartial mediator to facilitate the mediation session.

Mediation sessions will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time and location.

The mediator will assist the parties in reaching a mutually acceptable resolution. However, any agreement reached during mediation is non-binding unless both parties voluntarily agree to its terms.

Mediation sessions are confidential, and information shared during mediation cannot be used as evidence in any subsequent due process hearing or civil proceeding.

#### **4. Impartial Due Process (34 CFR 300.507)**

Impartial due process hearings provide parents/guardians with a formal mechanism to resolve disputes with LCS regarding the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or provision of special education services. The following procedures govern the impartial due process hearing process:

A parent/guardian may request an impartial due process hearing by submitting a written request to the designated official at LCS.

LCS will appoint an impartial hearing officer to preside over the due process hearing.

The hearing officer will schedule and conduct the hearing in accordance with established timelines and procedures.

Both parties have the right to present evidence, call witnesses, and cross-examine witnesses during the hearing.

The hearing officer will issue a written decision based on the evidence presented at the hearing and applicable law and regulations.

The decision of the hearing officer is final and binding on both parties, unless appealed through judicial review.

#### **5. State Complaints (34 CFR 300.151)**

State complaints provide a mechanism for addressing allegations of violations of the IDEA or state special education laws and regulations. The following procedures govern the state complaint process:

A parent/guardian, organization, or individual may file a written complaint with the appropriate state educational agency (SEA) alleging a violation of the IDEA or state special education laws and regulations.

The SEA will conduct an investigation into the allegations raised in the complaint and issue a written decision within established timelines.

If the SEA finds that a violation has occurred, it will require corrective action by LCS to remedy the violation.

Both parties have the right to appeal the decision of the SEA through appropriate legal channels.

## **6. Compliance with Procedures**

LCS is committed to ensuring compliance with all procedures outlined in this Dispute Resolution Policy and relevant federal and state laws and regulations. Any staff member found to have violated these procedures may be subject to disciplinary action.

## **7. Training and Awareness**

LCS will provide training to staff, parents/guardians, and relevant stakeholders on the provisions of this Dispute Resolution Policy and their rights and responsibilities under IDEA's dispute resolution processes.

## **8. Accessibility**

LCS will ensure that information regarding dispute resolution procedures is readily accessible to parents/guardians and individuals with disabilities in accessible formats and languages as necessary.

## **9. Review and Revision**

This Dispute Resolution Policy will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

## **10. Contact Information**

For questions or concerns regarding this Dispute Resolution Policy, please contact:

**Ms. Johnson, Enrollment Specialist**

[enrollment@labcharter.com](mailto:enrollment@labcharter.com)

## **11. Effective Date**

This Dispute Resolution Policy is effective as of June, 2019, and supersedes any previous policies or procedures related to dispute resolution at LCS.