

## Oregon Mediations 2002 Summary

Total number of mediations possible: = 101 (this represents the total number of requests for due process, complaint investigation and mediation only requests)

Actual number of mediations held: = 17

Issues that prompted mediation:  
Hottest issue = Placement, closely followed by IEP issues

Approaches that were tried before going to mediation:  
Most comments indicated that multiple IEP meetings were held.

Why people decided to mediate:  
Majority of districts indicated they went to mediation because the parent had filed a request for legal action.  
Majority of parents indicated they went to mediation because they preferred to resolve the issues without taking legal action.

Why people decided to decline mediation:  
21 cases were resolved locally  
19 parents wanted to proceed to investigation/hearing  
16 districts wanted to proceed to investigation/hearing  
In 9 cases both parent and district wanted to proceed to investigation/hearing

Mediator conduct:  
Every district and parent indicated that the mediator was neutral, provided them with information about confidentiality, informed them of the ground rules and gave them an opportunity to discuss issues that were important to them.

Mediator satisfaction:  
All parents who responded indicated that they were satisfied with the mediator and that they would recommend the mediator who worked with them to other parents who were considering mediation.  
All but one school district indicated that they were satisfied with the mediator and would recommend the mediator who worked with them to another school district.

Resolution of the dispute (Total number of responses = 23)  
14 indicated that their dispute was resolved completely.  
6 indicated that their dispute was partially resolved.  
3 indicated that their dispute was not resolved.

## **What Participants are Saying about Oregon's Mediation Process**

(Comments drawn from surveys submitted by participants)

"It's a positive way to work at resolving issues and disagreements". Parent

"Mediation is a very helpful process to resolve thorny issues." School District

"Don't wait, do it!" Parent

"Always go to mediation prior to due process hearings." School District

"I recommend trying mediation." Parent

"It's helpful!" School District

"Mediation works well and is a great way to avoid adversarial meetings." Parent

"It was worth the time spent – parents and school are starting out on a positive note this September." School District