



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Commission on Youth



Review of Virginia's Special Education Dispute Resolution System



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October 22, 2024



Senate Bill 220 (Favola) and House Bill 1089 (Coyner) directed the Commission on Youth to:

- Consider the entire special education dispute resolution system in the Commonwealth
- Review the effectiveness of such systems in responding to the concerns of parents, analyze such system in comparison to best practices from other states, and make actionable recommendations for improvement
- Specifically review and make recommendations to improve the Department of Education's system for collecting, tracking, analyzing, and publicly reporting data on parent interactions with such systems and the outcomes of such interactions
- Report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2025



The Commission, in partnership with the Parent Education Advocacy Training Center (PEATC), hosted 5 listening sessions in June 2024

- A virtual session on June 20th
 - There were around 40 people in attendance
- Four in-person sessions
 - June 24th Wytheville
 - June 25th Henrico
 - June 26th Arlington
 - June 27th Norfolk

A wide variety of stakeholders attended the sessions including

- Teachers
- Parents
- Students
- School officials
- Public officials
- Virginia Legislators
- Parent Advocates

Advisory Group Meeting



The Advisory Group for the Review of Virginia's Special Education Dispute Resolution System's Advisory Group meet September 18, 2024

- Update of the implementation of SB 22 (Favola) and HB 1089 (Coyner)
- Listening Session Recap
- Consultant Progress Update
- Advisory Group Discussion
- Public Comment

The Advisory Group will meet again in the Spring and Summer of 2025

- Survey Results
- Advisory Group Discussion
- Develop Findings and Recommendations



Fall 2024 and Winter 2024/2025

- Development and dissemination of questionnaire
- Focused outreach of stakeholders
- Evaluation of statistical trends
- Review of state complaint and due process hearing decisions
- Review of current system and applicable procedure for each dispute resolution process
- Review of dispute resolution data



Draft Report Spring/Summer 2025

- Mandatory alternative dispute resolution systems' compliance with IDEA and State statutes and regulations
- Efficiency and effectiveness of each system
- Best practices of other states
- Recommendations for improvements
 - Ombudsman for Special Education
 - Special Education Mediation
 - Facilitated IEPs
 - Complaints
 - Due Process
 - Department of Education's system for collecting, tracking, analyzing and publicly reporting data on parent interactions and the outcomes of such interactions



Final Report

- Presentation of draft findings and recommendations to Commission on Youth (Early Fall 2025)
- Written Public Comment
- Vote on decision matrix of draft findings and recommendations (Late Fall 2025)
- Final report submitted to the General Assembly prior to November 1, 2025



Questions/Comments?

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