

IDEA Mediations in Alabama

The Alabama State Department of Education offers mediation as a strategy to resolve problems or disputes between parents of special education students and school systems. The department implements the IDEA mandate to establish such a system by utilizing a rotation of four independently contracted vendors to serve as Independent IDEA Mediators. Ms. Sharon Brown, Ms. Nika Gholston, Ms. Kia Scott, and Mr. Frank Snowden are the mediators currently serving as Independent IDEA Mediators. Qualifications and requirements for Independent IDEA Mediators are found in [RFP ALSDE 2016-07](#) and [RFP ALSDE 2016-09](#).

If both parents and school officials agree to participate in the mediation process, a mediator will schedule with the parties to go onsite and provide mediation services. There is **no cost** to parents or to the school system for the department's mediation service.

The procedure is informal. If you want to request mediation, you may contact Ms. Bernice Rush-Harrison by calling (334) 242-8114 or contact her by e-mail at brush-harrison@alsde.edu. She will assign the mediation to the next mediator on the list and that mediator will make the necessary arrangements with those involved.