

Kansas Administrative Regulations

State Department of Education

Article 40.—Special Education

91-40-28. Special education mediation and due process hearings.

(a) If a disagreement arises between a parent and an agency concerning the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the parent's exceptional child, or the provision of FAPE to the child, the parent or the agency, or both, may request mediation or initiate a due process hearing.

(b) (1) If mediation is requested by either party, the provisions of K.S.A. 72-996 and amendments thereto shall be followed, together with the requirement in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) When agreement is reached to mediate, the agency shall immediately contact the state board or its designee. A mediator shall be appointed by the state board from its list of qualified mediators, based upon a random or other impartial basis.

(c) If a disagreement as described in subsection (a) arises, the parent or the agency, or both, may initiate a special education due process hearing by filing a due process complaint notice. Each due process hearing shall be provided for by the agency directly responsible for the education of the child.

(d)(1) If a special education due process complaint notice is filed, the provisions of K.S.A. 72-972a through 72-975 and amendments thereto shall be followed, together with the requirements in this subsection.

(2) Not more than five business days after a due process complaint notice is received, the agency providing for the hearing shall furnish to the parent the following information:

(A) The agency's list of qualified due process hearing officers;

(B) written notification that the parent has the right to disqualify any or all of the hearing officers on the agency's list and to request that the state board appoint the hearing officer; and

(C) written notification that the parent has the right, within five days after the parent receives the list, to advise the agency of any hearing officer or officers that the parent chooses to disqualify.

(3) (A) If a parent chooses to disqualify any or all of the agency's hearing officers, the parent, within five days of receiving the list, shall notify the agency of the officer or officers disqualified by the parent.

(B) An agency may appoint from its list any hearing officer who has not been disqualified by the parent.

(4) Not more than three business days after being notified that a parent has disqualified all of the hearing officers on its list, an agency shall contact the state board and request the state board to appoint a hearing officer. In making this request, the agency shall advise the state board of the following information:

(A) The name and address of the parent;

(B) the name and address of the attorney, if any, representing the parent, if known to the agency; and

(C) the names of the agency's hearing officers who were disqualified by the parent.

(5) Within three business days of receiving a request to appoint a hearing officer, the parent and agency shall be provided written notice by the state board of the hearing officer appointed by the state board.

(e) If a due process hearing is requested by a parent or an agency, the agency shall provide written notice to the state board of that action. The notice shall be provided within five business days of the date the due process hearing is requested.

(f) (1) Unless the agency and parent have agreed to waive a resolution meeting or to engage in mediation, the agency and parent shall participate in a resolution meeting as required by K.S.A. 72-973 and amendments thereto. The parent and agency shall determine which members of the IEP team will attend the meeting.

(2) If a parent who files a due process complaint fails to participate in a resolution meeting for which the agency has made reasonable efforts to give the parent notice, the timelines to complete the resolution process and begin the due process hearing shall be delayed until the parent attends a resolution meeting or the agency, at the end of the

30-day resolution period, requests the hearing officer to dismiss the due process complaint.

(3) If an agency fails to hold a resolution meeting within 15 days of receiving a due process complaint or to participate in a meeting, the parent may request the hearing officer to begin the due process hearing and commence the 45-day timeline for its completion.

(g) The 45-day timeline for completion of a due process hearing shall start on the day after one of the following events occurs:

(1) Both parties to the due process proceedings agree, in writing, to waive the resolution meeting.

(2) The parties participate in a resolution meeting or in mediation but agree, in writing, that resolution of their dispute is not possible by the end of the 30-day resolution period.

(3) Both parties agreed, in writing, to continue to engage in mediation beyond the end of the 30-day resolution period, but later one or both of the parties withdraw from the mediation process.

(Authorized by K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 72-963; implementing K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 72-963a, 72-973, and 72-996; effective May 19, 2000; amended March 21, 2008.)

***** Authenticated Kansas Administrative Regulation *****