# OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES – STATE OF CALIFORNIA

# SPECIAL EDUCATION DIVISION QUARTERLY DATA REPORT SECOND QUARTER 2023 – 2024 FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2023, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023

The Interagency Agreement, referred to as the "IA," between the California Department of Education and the Office of Administrative Hearings, referred to as "OAH," requires OAH to report certain information on a quarterly basis. The information included in this report is related to mediations and hearings, as well as information required by state and federal law. Where specific information in this report is identified by reference to a "task," the "task" refers to a section of the IA by section, paragraph, and subdivision of Exhibit A of the IA.

The information contained in this report for the relative quarter of fiscal year 2023-2024 reflects the current data as of March 2024.

This report organizes the information in the following categories:

- Case Filings
- Closed Cases
- Due Process Hearings
- Resolution Sessions
- Mediations
- Expedited Hearings

# CASE FILINGS

The data in these tables is required under Task 4.3 (b)(1). Additional detail and breakdown are provided to aid in understanding the case filing activity during the relevant quarter.

#### TYPES OF CASES FILED BY DISTRICTS

Type of Case Filed by Districts	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Request for Due Process Hearing with Mediation	80	69			149
Request for Due Process Hearing Only	0	0			0
Request for Due Process Hearing with Dual Issues	2	4			6
Request for Due Process Hearing with Expedited Issues	2	5			7
Request for Mediation Only	22	18			40
Total Cases Filed by Districts	106	96			202

In this table, each number in the "Total Cases Filed by Districts" row is the sum of the numbers in the column above it. Each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

# TYPES OF CASES FILED ON BEHALF OF STUDENTS

Type of Case Filed on Behalf of Students	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Request for Due Process Hearing with Mediation	1,032	974			2,006
Request for Due Process Hearing Only	1	3			4
Request for Due Process Hearing with Dual Issues	10	34			44
Request for Due Process Hearing with Expedited Issues	1	1			2
Request for Mediation Only	10	9			19
Total Cases Filed on Behalf of Students	1,054	1,021			2,075

Each number in the "Total Cases Filed on Behalf of Students" row in this table is the sum of the numbers in the column above it. Each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

# TOTAL CASES FILED BY REQUESTING PARTY

Cases Filed by Requesting Party	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Total Cases Filed by Districts	106	96			202
Total Cases Filed on Behalf of Students	1,054	1,021			2,075
Total Cases Filed	1,160	1,117			2,277

In this table, each number in the "Total Cases Filed" row is the sum of the numbers in the column above it. Each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

# TOTAL CASES FILED BY RESOLUTION PROCESS

Cases Filed by Type of Resolution Process	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Total Requests for Due Process Hearing, including with Mediation	1,128	1,090			2,218
Total Requests for Mediation Only	32	27			59
Total Cases Filed	1,160	1,117			2,277

The "Total Cases Filed" row in this table is the sum of the numbers in the column above it. Each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

#### **CLOSED CASES**

The data in these tables is required by Task 4.3(b)(3 and 10).

There are times when a decision is issued on expedited issues and a hearing on the remaining issues may not occur during the quarter. This may happen if the parties may reach an agreement on the remaining issues, the party that filed the case may decide to withdraw the case, the hearing may be scheduled for a date after the quarter ends, or there may be another reason. When this happens the number of cases closed because a decision was issued may not be the same as the number of hearings held, which is reported later in this report. An explanation for the difference, when there is one, will be added to explain the difference.

# CASES WITH DECISIONS ISSUED THAT WERE NOT CLOSED DUE TO DECISION ISSUANCE

There were three cases in the relevant quarter with decisions issued that were not closed due to decision issuance. One dual case had an expedited decision issued during the relevant quarter, then closed because the parties settled, but not at mediation or resolution session. Two dual cases had expedited decisions issued during the quarter and remained open following the end of the quarter for hearings on the non-expedited issues. Both cases closed due to petitioner withdrawal following the end of the quarter.

There were no cases in the first quarter of the 2023-2024 fiscal year with decisions issued that were not closed due to decision issuance.

#### **REASONS CASES WERE CLOSED**

Reason Case Was Closed	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Decision Issued	15	22			37
Chose Not to Participate in Mediation for a Mediation-Only Case	9	6			15
Filing Party Failed to Amend a Complaint When Required	0	0			0
Inactivity	0	1			1
Motion to Dismiss was Granted	2	1			3
Parties Did Not Settle in a Mediation-Only Case	30	18			48
Parties Fully Settled at Mediation	71	85			156
Parties Settled During Resolution Session	23	15			38
Parties Settled, but Not at Mediation or Resolution Session	856	849			1,705
Filing Party Withdrew Their Case	97	97			194
Other	0	0			0
Total Cases Closed	1,103	1,094			2,197

Each number in the "Total Cases Closed" row in this table is the sum of the numbers in the column above it. Each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

# **DUE PROCESS HEARINGS**

The data in these tables is required by Task 4.3(b)(4-9).

This data includes expedited hearings among all other hearings. For information specific to only the expedited hearing requests, refer to the <u>Expedited Hearing Requests</u> section of this report.

#### DUE PROCESS HEARINGS PENDING

At the time of this report, there are 1,212 due process hearings pending.

#### **DUE PROCESS HEARING DECISIONS**

Timelines of Issued Decisions	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Issued within Timeline, Including within Expedited Timeline	4	10			14
Issued within Extended Timeline	11	15			26
Issued after Timeline and Extension Expired	0	0			0
Total Number of Decisions Issued	15	25			40

In this table, each number in the "Total Number of Decisions Issued" row is the sum of the numbers in the column above it. Each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

#### **RESOLUTION SESSIONS**

The data in these tables is required by Task 4.3(b)(2).

#### **RESOLUTION SESSION OUTCOMES AS REPORTED**

Resolution Session Statuses	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Number of Resolution Sessions Reported as Held	176	348			524
Number of Resolution Sessions Reported as Waived with Intent to Use Mediation in Lieu Of	321	235			556
Number of Resolution Sessions Reported as Not Held or No Data was Reported	547	429			976

In the "Resolution Session Outcomes as Reported" table, each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

Previously, the method used to calculate the "Number of Resolution Sessions Reported as Not Held or No Data Was Reported" included all requests for due process hearing. Beginning with the second quarter of fiscal year 2023-2024, this calculation was adjusted to comply with Task 4.5 of the IA. The figure for the first quarter has been adjusted accordingly herein.

## **MEDIATIONS**

The data in these tables is required by Task 4.3(a)(1 and 5-9).

#### **MEDIATION REQUESTS**

Number of Mediation Requests by Case Type	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Number of Mediation Requests Not Related to Hearings	32	27			59
Number of Mediation Requests Related to Hearings	1,127	1,087			2,214
Total Number of Mediation Requests	1,159	1,114			2,273

Each number in the "Total Number of Mediation Requests" row in this table is the sum of the numbers in the column above it. Each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

#### **MEDIATIONS HELD**

Mediations Held by Case Type	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Mediations Held Not Related to Hearing Requests	30	19			49
Mediations Held Related to Hearing Requests	567	525			1,092
Total Number of Mediations Held	597	544			1,141

In this table, each number in the "Total Number of Mediations Held" row is the sum of the numbers in the column above it. Each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

#### **MEDIATIONS NOT HELD**

When a mediation is "not held," this means it was canceled by one or both of the parties, continued to a different date, or canceled due to that case being closed.

Mediation Not Held	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Mediations Requested (see table on p. 8)	1,159	1,114			2,273
Mediations Held (see table on p. 8)	597	544			1,141
Total Number of Mediations Not Held	562	570			1,132

The "Total Number of Mediations Not Held" row is calculated by subtracting the number in the second row ("Mediations Held") from the number in the first row ("Mediations Requested") of the same column. Each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

#### **MEDIATION AGREEMENTS**

The figures in this table represent instances where the filing party in a case reported a settlement was reached at mediation.

Mediation Agreements by Case Type	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Mediation Agreements Not Related to Hearing Requests	0	1			1
Mediation Agreements Related to Hearing Requests	59	57			116
Total Number of Mediation Agreements	59	58			117

In this table, each number in the "Total Number of Mediation Agreements" row is the sum of the numbers in the column above it. Each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

#### MEDIATIONS HELD NOT RESULTING IN AGREEMENT

Mediations without Agreements	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Mediations Held (see table p. 8)	597	544			1,141
Mediations Resulting in Agreements (see prior table)	59	58			117
Total Number of Mediations without Agreement	538	486			1,024

The "Total Number of Mediations without Agreement" row is calculated by subtracting the number in the second row ("Mediations Resulting in Agreements") from the number in the first row ("Mediations Held") of the same column. Each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

## **COMPLIANCE COMPLAINT MEDIATIONS**

The data in this table is required under Task 4.3 (a)(2-4).

Beginning on July 1, 2020, OAH began conducting compliance complaint mediations pursuant to the current IA with the California Department of Education, referred to as the "CDE." These mediations are not related to due process mediations and/or hearings.

Compliance complaints alleging a violation of special education law can be filed with the CDE, and the parties to the complaint can participate in mediation.

Compliance Complaint Mediations	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Number of Mediation Requests Related to Compliance Complaints Filed with the CDE	3	1			4
Mediations Held Related to Compliance Complaints Filed with the CDE	3	1			4
Mediation Agreements Related to Compliance Complaints Filed with the CDE	1	1			2

In the "Compliance Complaint Mediations" table above, each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

# **EXPEDITED HEARINGS**

The data in these tables is required by Task 4.3(c)(1-5).

## **EXPEDITED HEARING REQUESTS**

Expedited Hearing Requests by Requesting Party	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Number of Expedited Hearings Requested by Districts	4	9			13
Number of Expedited Hearings Requested on Behalf of Students	11	35			46
Total Number of Expedited Hearing Requests	15	44			59

Each number in the "Total Number of Expedited Hearing Requests" row in this table is the sum of the numbers in the column above it. Each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

# **REASONS FOR CLOSURE FOR EXPEDITED HEARING REQUESTS**

Reason Expedited Case was Closed	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year to Date
Decision Issued	3	1			4
Parties Settled at Mediation	2	1			3
Parties Settled at Resolution Session	0	0			0
Parties Settled, but Not at Mediation or Resolution Session	17	24			41
Party Withdrew Expedited Hearing Request	2	5			7
Total Expedited Cases Closed	24	31			55

In this table, each number in the "Total Expedited Cases Closed" row is the sum of the numbers in the column above it. Each number in the "Year to Date" column is the sum of the numbers in the row next to it.

## **RESOLUTION SESSIONS HELD FOR EXPEDITED HEARING REQUESTS**

In the relevant quarter there were 12 resolution sessions reported as held for expedited hearings requested. For fiscal year 2023-2024, there have been 13 resolution sessions reported as held for expedited hearings requested.

## CHANGES OF PLACEMENT ORDERED IN EXPEDITED DECISIONS

In the relevant quarter there were three changes of placement ordered in the decisions issued following expedited hearings. For fiscal year 2023-2024, there have been four changes of placement ordered in the decisions issued following expedited hearings.

# **QUARTERLY REPORT CONTENT**

Beginning with the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2018-2019, the content of the OAH Special Education Division's Quarterly Data Report was updated to conform with the information statutorily required by Ed Code 56504.5 (d) and CCR Title 5, 3092 (b).