

Quality Control Mechanisms

The June 2008 Interagency Agreement between the California Department of Education (CDE) and the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) provides that, by July 31, 2008, “OAH will. . . provide descriptions of the quality control mechanisms used to ensure that hearings are fair and decisions are accurate.” OAH utilizes the following quality control mechanisms to ensure these standards.

For new Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) in the Special Education Division:

- OAH has established an initial training program which satisfies the qualification and training requirements for hearing officers and mediators.
- Pursuant to the Interagency Agreement, the Supervisor of the Special Education Division makes a determination that an ALJ meets the standards for qualification and training before OAH assigns the ALJ to hear a special education matter.

For all Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) in the Special Education Division:

- OAH has established a continuing education program for all ALJs which far exceeds the requirements in the Interagency Agreement.
- Twice each fiscal year, OAH performs a complete quality control audit of special education case files in order to ensure the timely resolution of such disputes.
- Before issuance, each decision and order is reviewed by a peer and the Presiding Judge (PJ) of the ALJ who has prepared the decision or order.
- After issuance, the Supervisor of the Special Education Division reviews each decision and provides feedback to the ALJ who wrote the decision and to the PJ of that ALJ.
- Each ALJ and mediator is observed on an as needed basis by their Presiding Judges and the Division Supervisor.