**24:05:30:09.  Mediation.** Each school district shall ensure that procedures are established and implemented to allow parties to disputes involving any matter under this article, including matters arising before the filing of a due process complaint, to resolve disputes through a mediation process. Procedures for mediation are as follows:

 (1)  The district shall ensure that mediation is viewed as voluntary and freely agreed to by both parties and is in no way used to deny or delay an aggrieved party's right to a hearing on a parent's due process complaint, or to deny any other rights afforded under this article; and

 (2)  The mediation conference is an intervening, informal process conducted in a nonadversarial atmosphere that is scheduled in a timely manner and held in a location that is convenient to the parties in the dispute.

 The state shall bear the cost of the mediation process, including the costs of meetings described in § 24:05:30:09.02.

 **Source:** 16 SDR 41, effective September 7, 1989; 23 SDR 31, effective September 8, 1996; 26 SDR 150, effective May 22, 2000; 33 SDR 236, effective July 5, 2007.

 **General Authority:** SDCL 13-37-1.1.

 **Law Implemented:** SDCL 13-37-1.1.