



Special Magistrate School Procedures

On October 19, 2022, the Florida State Board of Education formally adopted a rule to establish a special magistrate for parents to address unresolved disputes involving a student's health, welfare, or safety as described in s. 1001.42(8)(c), F.S. The process for requesting a special magistrate for unresolved disputes, specifically at a charter school can be found in rule 6A-6.0791, F.A.C.

Role of the Special Magistrate

A special magistrate is a member of the Florida Bar in good standing and who has at least 5 years of experience in administrative law. A hearing before the Special Magistrate provides a parent or guardian with the opportunity to demonstrate a violation of certain rights or procedures of the charter school and where the school and the school district are given the opportunity to support the charter school's action. After a hearing, the Special Magistrate will provide a written decision that operates as a recommendation for consideration by the State Board of Education.

Types of Disputes That May Qualify for Special Magistrate Review

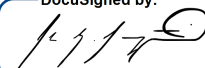
The type of dispute a special magistrate can consider is limited to matters described in the six areas, as set forth in [section 1001.42\(8\)\(c\)1.-6., Florida Statutes](#)

Procedures for Initiating a Request for a Special Magistrate is as follows:

Prior to requesting a hearing before a special magistrate, parents must first contact the following:

1. *Charter School* -to seek resolution at the charter school level, through the school's principal. The school's principal will provide a response within 7 days of receipt of the complaint.
2. *School District*- to seek resolution through the sponsoring school district if the dispute remains unresolved at the school level. BridgePrep Academy is committed to working closely with the school district to amicably resolve such concerns within 30 days of receipt.
3. *Florida Department of Education*- if continued resolution is required after district intervention, the parent/guardian may contact the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) directly to request that the matter be reviewed by a special magistrate. Please see the FLDOE link for further guidance and direction: [Special Magistrate Requests \(fldoe.org\)](https://fldoe.org)

Board Chair Signature

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Date 11/30/2023