The Schools of Choice Unit, as directed by [Senate Bill 22-197](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022A/bills/2022a_197_enr.pdf) is charged with creating a list of neutral third-parties who can assist with resolution in an instance where an innovation zone with alternative governance, a school within a zone, or a district are looking to resolve disagreements regarding the administration of an approved innovation plan.

**Current List:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Contact Information** | **Evidence of Experience with or Understanding of the Innovation Schools Act** |
| Bentz, Melora | Phone: 720-440-2928Email: melora@middlepathmediation.comWebsite: | Attended Senate Bill 22-197 specific training |
| Frick, Ann | Phone: 303-572-1919Email: africk@jaginc.com Website: <https://jaginc.com/frick-ann/>  | Trial judge that presided over and wrote the trial court opinion out of Denver District Court on Innovation school statute, which was affirmed by the CO Supreme Court. |
| Gallegos, Mac | Phone: 719-248-4901Email: mac@macgallegosmediation.net Website: macgallegosmediation.com  | Attended Senate Bill 22-197 specific training Identified contract mediator with the Colorado Office of Dispute Resolution |
| Panetta, Holly | Phone: 720-507-3257Email: holly.panetta@gmail.comWebsite: [www.peakempowermentllc.net](http://www.peakempowermentllc.net)  | Attended Senate Bill 22-197 specific trainingIdentified contract mediator with the Colorado Office of Dispute Resolution  |
| Tweedy, John | Phone: 303-834-9471Email: john@tweedy-law.com Website: [www.tweedy-law.com](http://www.tweedy-law.com)  | 30 years of experience with education law, including charters and special education Previous contract mediator with the Colorado Office of Dispute Resolution. Member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, the Mediation Association of Colorado, the Colorado Bar Association and the Boulder Bar Association  |
| Wellman, Heather | Phone: 719-485-6550Email: heather.wellman.phd@gmail.comWebsite: [www.thewellmanway.com](http://www.thewellmanway.com)  | Attended Senate Bill 22-197 specific trainingIdentified contract mediator with the Colorado Office of Dispute Resolution |

The Schools of Choice Unit maintains an open call for providers who would like to be added to our list that schools, zones, and districts can refer to when needing to find a neutral third party to help resolve such disagreements.

In order to be added to the list, statute requires that a neutral third party meets the following two conditions:

1. Neutral third party is on an approved list with either the American Arbitration Association or is with Colorado’s Office of Dispute Resolution. [Colorado Judicial Branch - Administration - Court Services - Office of Dispute Resolution (state.co.us)](https://www.courts.state.co.us/Administration/Unit.cfm?Unit=odr)
2. Neutral third party has experience with or knowledge of Innovation Schools.

If you are interested in being added to this list, please complete [this form](https://forms.gle/Pm2xTRxR16eacN16A) and we will work to add you to the list! Also, if you are concerned about meeting the “experience/knowledge of innovation schools” requirement, there is space for you to note that in the form. We can then follow-up directly with you about training opportunities coming available (free of charge) to develop greater familiarity with the Innovation Schools Act and its application in Colorado.

Also, if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate in reaching out to our Senior Policy Consultant with the Schools of Choice Unit, Janyse Skalla at Skalla\_J@cde.state.co.us