

Jennifer Harris

Jennifer Harris is an Education Ombudsman and Legal Analyst with the Office of the Education Ombudsman (OEO). She is an attorney and mediator, specializing in K-12 education and a member of the Washington State Bar and the Washington Mediation Association. She also has experience as an English as Second Language teacher.

Ms. Harris holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Washington's School of Law, and a Masters of Public Administration degree from the University of Washington's Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs. She completed her undergraduate work at Oberlin College.

Before joining OEO, Ms. Harris worked as a K-12 public education researcher at the University of Washington's College of Education, UW Center on Reinventing Public Education, and UCLA's Anderson School of Management. This work took her into schools, district and state-level education agencies in numerous states around the country, examining the role that instructional leadership and principal-autonomy have in promoting student success and reducing the achievement gap. Her experience with how school-level issues connect to larger systems informs her approach to resolving conflict in the education arena.

Ms. Harris leads OEO's communication and conflict resolution skills workshops, providing trainings for teachers, prospective principals, school board members, and other education-related staff. She has practiced conflict resolution since 1996 and has been a mediator with the Dispute Resolution Center of Seattle/King County for 13 years, frequently assisting with Center trainings. She also worked for many years as a lead mediator in the small claims division of the King County District Court mediation program.