BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

CASTRO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026010414

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE AND SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND DUE PROCESS HEARING

FEBRUARY 13, 2026

On January 14, 2026, Parent on behalf of Student filed a request for a due process hearing with the Office of Administrative Hearings, called OAH, naming Castro Valley Unified School District, called Castro Valley. OAH set hearing dates for March 3, 4, and 5, 2026.

On February 12, 2026, the parties filed a joint request to continue the due process hearing based upon the unavailability of Castro Valley's counsel, who is scheduled to appear before OAH for a different, earlier-filed matter scheduled for hearing on March 3, 4, and 5, 2026.

OAH must conduct a due process hearing and issue a decision within 45 days of receiving the due process complaint, unless an extension is granted. (34 C.F.R. § 300.515(a); Ed. Code, §§ 56502, subd. (f), 56505, subd. (f)(3).) Resolving the due process hearing quickly is legally required. Hearings may only be continued if "good cause" is established. (Ed. Code, § 56505, subd. (f)(3).) OAH is guided by the Administrative Procedure Act and the California Rules of Court when ruling on continuance motions. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1020; Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332.)

Good cause to continue a hearing may include:

- An essential lay or expert witness is unavailable because of death, illness, or other excusable circumstances;
- A party is unavailable because of death, illness, or other excusable circumstances;
- A party's attorney is unavailable because of death, illness, or other excusable circumstances;
- A new attorney substitutes in, but only if the party establishes that the substitution is required in the interests of justice;
- A new party is added, and the new party has not had a reasonable opportunity to prepare for trial, or other parties have not had a reasonable opportunity to prepare for trial regarding the new party's involvement;
- A party is unable to obtain essential testimony, documents, or other material evidence despite diligent efforts; or
- The case has a significant and unexpected change which makes the case not ready for trial.

Generally, continuances are disfavored. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(c).)

The parties established good cause to continue the due process hearing based upon the unavailability of Castro Valley's counsel. Additionally, this is the first request for a continuance in this matter, and the parties are requesting the matter proceed on the next available hearing dates.

The request is granted. All previously scheduled dates are vacated. The new dates are:

PREHEARING CONFERENCE will be held on March 6, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

DUE PROCESS HEARING will be held on March 17, 2026, through March 19, 2026.

The prehearing conference and due process hearing will be held by videoconference, unless otherwise ordered. The due process hearing will begin at 9:30 AM on all days, and generally end at 3:30 PM, unless otherwise ordered. The hearing will continue day to day, as needed, Mondays and Fridays included, at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge. Prehearing conference statements and motions are due to OAH no later than three business days before the prehearing conference. Late motions will only be considered if good cause is established for the late filing.

The parties must immediately give potential witnesses the hearing dates, and must subpoena witnesses, if necessary, so they are available to testify. Failing to properly notify or subpoena a witness is not good cause to delay the hearing.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Cararea Lucier

Cararea Lucier
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings