BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT

V.

LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2025090649

ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING CONFERENCE, GRANTING MOTION TO CONTINUE PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND HEARING

FEBRUARY 6, 2026

On February 6, 2026, Administrative Law Judge Clifford H. Woosley, Office of Administrative Hearings, held a prehearing conference by videoconference. The Administrative Law Judge is called an ALJ. The Office of Administrative Hearings is called OAH. The prehearing conference is called a PHC.

Parent appeared on behalf of Student. Attorney Julie C. Coate appeared on behalf of Las Virgenes Unified School District. The PHC was recorded. Based upon discussion with the parties, the ALJ issues the following order:

STUDENT'S MOTION TO CONTINUE

The hearing is scheduled for February 18 and 19, 2026, pursuant to a January 12, 2026, PHC order continuing the hearing. Student's counsel had withdrawn the week before and Parents wanted time to find a new attorney.

Parent did not file a prehearing conference statement for today's PHC. Parent also was not prepared to proceed to hearing. Parent asked for additional time, not just to seek new counsel, but to properly prepare for hearing if Parent proceeds without an attorney.

APPLICABLE LAW

A due process hearing must be conducted, and a decision rendered, within 45 days of receipt of the due process notice unless an extension is granted for good cause. (34 C.F.R. § 300.515(a) & (c) (2006); Ed. Code, §§ 56502, subd. (f), 56505, subd. (f)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1020.) As a result, continuances are disfavored. Good cause may include:

- the unavailability of a party, counsel, or an essential witness due to death, illness or other excusable circumstances;
- substitution of an attorney when the substitution is required in the interests of justice;
- a party's excused inability to obtain essential testimony or other material evidence despite diligent efforts; or
- another significant, unanticipated change in the status of the case as a result of which the case is not ready for hearing.

(Ed. Code, § 56505, subd. (f)(3); Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(c).

OAH considers all relevant facts and circumstances, including:

- the proximity of the hearing date; previous continuances or delays
- he length of continuance requested;
- the availability of other means to address the problem giving rise to the request;
- prejudice to a party or witness as a result of a continuance;
- the impact of granting a continuance on other pending hearings;
- whether trial counsel is engaged in another trial;
- whether the parties have stipulated to a continuance; or
- whether the interests of justice are served.

DISCUSSION

Student has been represented by an attorney from the complaint's filing up to the notice of withdrawal. Parent demonstrated they have made, and intend to continuemaking, efforts to find counsel. However, Parent is desirous of proceeding, without an attorney, butis not prepared to proceed with the hearing as scheduled. Parent and requires additional time. Las Virgenes Unified did not oppose a continuance and proposed and discussed possible continuance dates.

Student has demonstrated good cause and the motion to continue is granted. All dates are vacated, and this matter is scheduled as follows:

PREHEARING CONFERENCE will be held on March 16, 2026, at 1:00 PM.

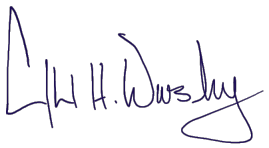
DUE PROCESS HEARING will be held on March 24, 25, and 26 2026.

The hearing shall begin at 9:30 AM on all days unless otherwise ordered. The hearing shall continue day to day, as needed 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 or with a showing of good cause why it was not timely filed.

Parent was cautioned that the failure to prepare and timely file a PHC statement, for the March 16, 2026 PHC, would evidence Parents' failure to pursue this matter. As a result, OAH may issue an order to show cause why this request for due process should not be dismissed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Clifford H. Woosley
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings