BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE CONSOLIDATED MATTERS INVOLVING:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

and

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT,

OAH CASE NUMBER 2025090144

OAH CASE NUMBER 2025050402

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE FOR DECISION ISSUANCE

JUNE 8, 2026

On June 3, 2026, the Office of Administrative Hearings, known as OAH, issued an Order Setting Telephonic Status Conference before Presiding Administrative Law Judge Cole Dalton, scheduled for June 12, 2026, at 11:30 AM. The parties were ordered to be prepared to discuss the impact of the medical condition of Administrative Law Judge Christine Arden, occurring after the conclusion of the hearing, on completion of the decision in this matter. On June 8, 2026, the parties submitted a joint stipulation requesting that OAH grant a three-week continuance for ALJ Arden to complete the decision.

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; or another significant, unanticipated change in the status of the case because of which the case is not ready for trial. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(c).) OAH considers all relevant facts and circumstances, including:

- prior continuances and their length
- the availability of other means to address the problem, giving rise to the request
- prejudice to the parties
- whether the parties have stipulated to a continuance
- whether the interests of justice are served by the continuance
- any other relevant fact or circumstance.

(See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(d).)

Student and San Diego participated in a 10-day hearing before ALJ Arden, between February 24, 2026 and April 14, 2026. ALJ Arden granted the parties' request for a continuance of the hearing to May 13, 2026, for submission of written closing briefs. The parties have submitted their closing briefs. The decision due date for this matter is June 17, 2026. After completion of the hearing, ALJ Arden suffered a medical issue preventing her from being able to complete the decision within the prescribed time frame.

The parties have stipulated to a three-week continuance of this matter. A continuance is the most expeditious manner of reaching a decision after this lengthy hearing. Therefore, this matter is continued until July 8, 2026, for issuance of the decision. The telephonic status conference, set for 11:30 AM on June 12, 2026, is vacated.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Cole Dalton

Cole Dalton
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings