BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2025100303

ORDER GRANTING CONTINUANCE AND VACATING TELEPHONIC STATUS CONFERENCE

JUNE 22, 2026

On June 17, 2026, the Office of Administrative Hearings, called OAH, issued an Order Setting Telephonic Status Conference. OAH set a status conference for June 22, 2026, to discuss continuance of the decision due date given unforeseen circumstances delaying timely issuance. OAH informed the parties that the status conference would be vacated if they agreed to a 30-day continuance of the decision due date.

On June 18, 2026, Student and San Francisco Unified School District separately filed a non-opposition to a 30-day continuance of the decision due date.

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).)

Good cause has been established to continue the decision due date as Administrative Law Judge Kara Hatfield, who conducted the due process hearing, due to unforeseen circumstances, was unavailable to complete the decision by June 22, 2026. Further, the parties do not oppose the continuance.

Accordingly, the June 22, 2026 telephonic status conference is vacated and ALJ Hatfield will issue the decision by July 22, 2026.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Tara Doss

Tara Doss

Presiding Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings