BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

SAN RAMON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2025120043

ORDER DETERMINING DUE PROCESS COMPLAINT SUFFICIENT

MARCH 27, 2026

On February 27, 2026, Student filed a Motion to Amend and an amended due process hearing request, called an amended complaint, with the Office of Administrative Hearings, referred to as OAH, naming San Ramon Valley Unified School District. On March 13, 2026, OAH granted Student's Motion to Amend and deemed the amended complaint filed that day. On March 24, 2026, San Ramon filed a Notice of Insufficiency as to the complaint.

APPLICABLE LAW

The named parties have the right to challenge the complaint's sufficiency. (20 U.S.C. § 1415(b) & (c).) The party filing the complaint is not entitled to a hearing unless the complaint meets the requirements of title 20 United States Code section 1415(b)(7)(A).

A complaint is sufficient if it: (1) describes the problem relating to the proposed change regarding the Student's identification, evaluation, or educational placement, or providing the Student a free appropriate public education; (2) includes facts about the problem; and (3) includes a proposed resolution to the extent known and available to the party at the time. (20 U.S.C. § 1415(b)(7)(A)(ii)(III) & (IV).) These requirements prevent vague and confusing complaints, and promote fairness by providing the named parties with sufficient information to know how to prepare for the hearing and how to participate in resolution sessions and mediation. (See H.R.Rep. No. 108-77, 1st Sess. (2003), p. 115; Sen. Rep. No. 108-185, 1st Sess. (2003), pp. 34-35.)

The complaint provides enough information when it provides "an awareness and understanding of the issues forming the basis of the complaint." (Sen. Rep. No. 108-185, *supra*, at p. 34.) The pleading requirements should be liberally construed in light of the broad remedial purposes of the IDEA and the relative informality of the due process hearings it authorizes. (*Alexandra R. ex rel. Burke v. Brookline School Dist.* (D.N.H., Sept. 10, 2009, CIV. 06-CV-0215-JL) 2009 WL 2957991[nonpub. Opn.]; *Escambia County Bd. Of Educ. V. Benton* (S.D. Ala. 2005) 406 F.Supp.2d 1248, 1259-1260; *Sammons v. Polk County School Bd.* (M.D. Fla., Oct. 28, 2005, 8:04CV2657T24EAJ) 2005 WL 2850076 [nonpub. Opn.]; but cf. *M.S.-G v. Lenape Regional High School Dist. Bd. Of Educ.* (3d Cir. 2009) 306 Fed.Appx. 772, 775 [nonpub. Opn.].) Whether the complaint is sufficient is a matter within the sound discretion of the Administrative Law Judge. (*Assistance to*

States for the Educ. Of Children with Disabilities & Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities (Aug. 14, 2006) 71 FR 46,540-46541, 46699.)

DISCUSSION

The issues alleged in Student's amended complaint are sufficient. The amended complaint identifies the issues and adequate facts about the problem to permit San Ramon to respond and participate in a resolution session and mediation.

Student's amended complaint includes eight issues. Each issue is sufficiently pled and includes facts that provide San Ramon with an awareness and understanding of the issues forming the basis of the complaint.

Student also seeks to extend the statute of limitations for Issues one, Issue seven, and Issue eight. For each of those issues, Student identifies the basis upon which the extension is sought, and the length of time seeks to extend the statute of limitations. This is sufficient to meet the IDEA's liberal pleading standard.

ORDER

1. The complaint is sufficient under title 20 United States Code section 1415(b)(7)(A)(ii).
2. All mediation, prehearing conference, and hearing dates in this matter are confirmed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Joy Redmon

Joy Redmon
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings