BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE CONSOLIDATED MATTERS OF:

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

AND

SADDLEBACK VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2024101050
OAH CASE NUMBER 2024070165

ORDER GRANTING PEREMPTORY CHALLENGE

MARCH 24, 2025

On March 24, 2025, Student filed a notice of peremptory challenge with the Office of Administrative Hearings, called OAH, to Administrative Law Judge Penelope Pahl. An Administrative Law Judge is called ALJ. Student's peremptory challenge is made pursuant to Government Code section 11425.40, subdivision (d), of the Administrative Procedures Act, and California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 1034.

Government Code section 11425.40, subdivision (d), establishes the criteria for disqualification of the presiding officer. A party is entitled to one peremptory challenge, also called disqualification without cause, to an ALJ assigned to an OAH hearing. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subds. (a) & (b); Gov. Code, § 11425.40, subd. (d).) A

peremptory challenge is not allowed if made after the hearing starts. In addition, if at the time of a scheduled prehearing conference, an ALJ has been assigned to the hearing, any challenge to the assigned ALJ must be made no later than the start of that prehearing conference. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subd. (c).) A peremptory challenge is not allowed on reconsideration or remand. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subd. (a).)

Student's peremptory challenge is timely made and is granted pursuant to Government section 11425.40, subdivisions (a) and (d), and California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 1034, subdivision (c).

Student's peremptory challenge of ALJ Pahl is granted. The case is now assigned to ALJ Lehrman and all scheduled dates remain on calendar. The PHC was trailed to 2:00 PM, March 24, 2025

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Cole Dalton

Cole Dalton
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings