

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:
PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.
OAH CASE NUMBER 2023120274

ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING CONFERENCE
GRANTING MOTION TO AMEND COMPLAINT

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

On February 2, 2024, Administrative Law Judge Linda Dowd, 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 Diandra Vantrease appeared on behalf of Fresno Unified School District. The PHC was recorded. Based upon discussion with the parties, the ALJ issues the following order:

MOTIONS

STUDENT'S MOTION TO AMEND DUE PROCESS COMPLAINT

On January 30, 2024, Student filed a motion to amend the due process hearing request, also called a complaint. The motion included a proposed first amended complaint. During the PHC, Fresno confirmed that it did not object to Student's motion to amend the due process complaint. The due process hearing is set to begin on February 13, 2024.

An amended complaint may be filed when the other party consents in writing and is given the opportunity to resolve the complaint through a resolution session; or when a hearing officer grants permission. The hearing officer may grant permission at any time more than five days before the due process hearing. (20 U.S.C. § 1415(c)(2)(E)(i).) The filing of an amended complaint restarts the applicable timelines for the due process hearing. (20 U.S.C. § 1415(c)(2)(E)(ii).)

The motion to amend was filed more than five days prior to the due process hearing. It is unopposed. The motion is timely and granted. All previously scheduled dates are vacated.

The amended complaint shall be deemed filed on the date of this order. All applicable timelines shall be reset as of the date of this order. OAH will issue a scheduling order with new dates.

SETTLEMENT

The parties are encouraged to continue working together to reach an agreement before the due process hearing. The parties shall inform OAH in writing immediately if

they reach a settlement or otherwise resolve the dispute before the scheduled hearing. In addition, if a settlement is reached within five days of the scheduled start of the due process hearing, the parties shall also inform OAH of the settlement by telephone at (916) 263-0880. At the same time, the parties should send the signature page of the signed agreement or a letter withdrawing the case to OAH by visiting OAH Secure e-file at <https://www.applications.dgs.ca.gov/oah/oahsftweb>.

If a full and final written settlement agreement is reached after 4:00 PM the day prior to hearing, the parties shall leave a voicemail message regarding the settlement at (916) 274-6035. The parties should also leave contact information such as cellular phone numbers of each party or counsel for each party.

Dates for hearing will not be cancelled until the letter of withdrawal or signature page of the signed agreement has been received and processed by OAH. If an agreement in principle is reached, the parties should plan to attend the scheduled hearing unless different arrangements have been agreed upon by the assigned ALJ. The assigned ALJ will check for messages before the hearing.

If the matter settles subject to board approval, in addition to a signed copy of the signature page of the settlement agreement, the parties shall provide the date of the next board meeting. The hearing dates will not be cancelled without this information.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

The failure to comply with this Order may result in the exclusion of evidence or other sanctions.

ORDER INCLUDES ALL RULINGS

This Order includes all rulings made at the PHC. Any discussion and conversation not referenced in this Order is not binding on the ALJ conducting the hearing and may not be relied upon by the parties. The parties should be aware that, at hearing, the ALJ conducting the hearing has discretion to reconsider any part of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Linda Dowd

Linda Dowd

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings