

BEFORE THE  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

SADDLEBACK VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT,

v.

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2024080593

ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING CONFERENCE  
GRANTING MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

OCTOBER 4, 2024

On October 4, 2024, Administrative Law Judge Ashok Pathi, 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.

Attorney Denise Lee appeared on behalf of Saddleback Valley Unified School District, called Saddleback Valley. Attorney Madeline Knutson appeared on behalf of Student. The PHC was recorded. Based upon discussion with the parties, the ALJ issues the following order:

## STUDENT'S MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

On October 1, 2024, Student filed a Request for Due Process Hearing in OAH case number 2024100114, called Student's Case, naming Saddleback Valley. Also on October 1, 2024, Student filed a Motion to Consolidate Student's case with this matter.

On October 4, 2024, Saddleback Valley filed a non-opposition to the motion.

Student's motion was discussed at the beginning of the prehearing conference. Following a discussion with the parties, undersigned granted the motion to consolidate. OAH will issue a separate written order regarding the motion to consolidate.

All other prehearing conference matters will be addressed at the prehearing conference for the consolidated case.

## 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](https://www.applications.dgs.ca.gov/oah/oahsftweb) 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 prehearing conference. 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.

*Ashok Pathi*

Ashok Pathi

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings