

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE CONSOLIDATED MATTERS INVOLVING:
PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

and

CORONA-NORCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT,
OAH CASE NUMBER 2026031221
OAH CASE NUMBER 2026070700

ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING CONFERENCE
GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONSOLIDATION AND
CONTINUANCE AND DESIGNATING STUDENT'S CASE AS
PRIMARY

JULY 20, 2026

On July 20, 2026, Administrative Law Judge Tiffany Gilmartin, Office of Administrative Hearings held a telephonic prehearing conference. The Administrative Law Judge will be referred to as an ALJ. The prehearing conference will be referred to as a PHC. Attorney Madeline Knutson appeared on behalf of Student. Attorney Cathy

Holmes appeared on behalf of Corona-Norco. The PHC was recorded. Based upon discussion with the parties, the ALJ issues the following order:

STUDENT'S MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE

Student filed a motion to continue on July 15, 2026. Corona-Norco filed a non-opposition on July 17, 2026. As a result of Corona-Norco's motion to consolidate and request for continuance, Student's motion to continue is moot.

MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

On July 16, 2026, Corona-Norco filed a Request for Due Process Hearing in OAH case number 2026070700, Corona-Norco's Case, naming Student.

On July 16, 2026, Corona-Norco filed a Motion to Consolidate the cases and to continue the due process hearing date set in Corona-Norco's case, OAH case number 2026070700.

On July 20, 2026, Student filed a non-opposition to Corona-Norco's motion to consolidate and continue dates to the dates set in Corona-Norco's matter.

CONSOLIDATION

No statute or regulation specifically provides a standard to be applied in deciding a motion to consolidate special education cases. However, OAH will generally consolidate matters that involve the same parties, a common question of law and/or fact, and when consolidation of the matters furthers the interests of judicial economy by saving time or preventing inconsistent rulings. (See Gov. Code, § 11507.3, subd. (a) [administrative proceedings may be consolidated if they involve a common question of law or fact]; Code of Civ. Proc., § 1048, subd. (a) [same applies to civil cases].)

Here, the matter involves common questions of law and fact as Student alleges Corona-Norco denied him a FAPE during the 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 school years by failing to timely convene IEP team meetings and offer Student appropriate goals. Meanwhile, Corona-Norco seeks to defend its occupational therapy evaluation, change Student's secondary eligibility category, and implement Student's June 17, 2026, IEP over parental objection. Student did not oppose Corona-Norco's motion for consolidation or continuance. Consolidation furthers the interests of judicial economy as the matter involves overlapping facts and issues and furthers the interest of judicial economy.

CONTINUANCE

A due process hearing must be conducted, and a decision rendered, within 45 days of receipt of the due process notice, unless an extension is granted for good cause. (34 C.F.R. § 300.515(a) & (c) (2006); Ed. Code, §§ 56502, subd. (f), 56505, subd. (f)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1020.) As a result, continuances are disfavored. OAH considers all relevant facts and circumstances in determining whether good cause exists to grant an extension. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(d).)

Corona-Norco requested the hearing proceed on the dates set in Corona-Norco's case. The granting of this motion to consolidate is good case for a brief continuance in this matter. This consolidated matter shall now proceed on the dates set in Corona-Norco's case.

ORDER

1. Corona-Norco's Motion to Consolidate is granted.
2. Student's Case is designated as the primary case.

3. All dates previously set in Student's Case, OAH case number 2026031221, are vacated.
4. Corona-Norco's motion to continue is granted.
5. Prehearing Conference in the consolidated cases shall be held on August 3, 2026 at 3 PM, and the Due Process Hearing in the consolidated cases shall be held on August 11, 12, and 13, 2026, beginning at 9:30 AM on all days, continuing day to day as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge
6. The 45-day timeline for issuance of the decision in the consolidated cases shall be based on the date of the filing of the complaint in Primary Case, OAH case number 2026031221.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Tiffany Gilmartin

Tiffany Gilmartin

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings