

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE CONSOLIDATED MATTERS INVOLVING:

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

AND

PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT,

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026080048

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026070980

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE AND
ORDER DENYING PALO ALTO'S MOTION TO CONTINUE

AUGUST 7, 2026

On July 22, 2026, Palo Alto Unified School District filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings a Request for Due Process Hearing in OAH case number 2026070980, Palo Alto's Case, naming Parents on behalf of Student.

On August 3, 2026, Parents on behalf of Student filed a Request for Due Process Hearing in OAH case number 2026080048, Student's Case, naming Palo Alto Unified School District. On August 3, 2026, Student also filed a Motion to Consolidate Student's Case and Palo Alto's Case.

Palo Alto did not file a response to the motion.

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, both cases involve a common question of law or fact. Palo Alto's Case asserts two issues. First, were its triennial evaluations legally appropriate, so that it is not obligated to fund Student's requested independent educational evaluations. Second, do Palo Alto's March, April, and May 2026 IEP offers constitute a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. Student's Case asserts that Palo Alto failed to appropriately assess Student and that the IEP offers, from 2023 through 2026, failed to offer Student a FAPE. Both cases involve similar legal issues and factual disputes, which involve the same documentary and testimonial evidence. Consolidation furthers the interests of judicial economy. Palo Alto does not oppose consolidation. Accordingly, consolidation is granted.

PALO ALTO'S MOTION TO CONTINUE HEARING IN PALO ALTO'S CASE

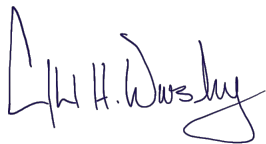
On August 4, 2026, Palo Alto filed a motion to continue the August 18, 2026 hearing in Palo Alto's Case to September 8, 2026, or thereafter, due to its counsel's unavailability. The motion is denied, as moot. All dates in Palo Alto's Case have been

vacated pursuant to this order of consolidation. The hearing dates in these consolidated case are set for September 22, 23, and 24, 2026.

ORDER

1. Student's Motion to Consolidate is granted.
2. Student's Case, OAH case number 2026080048, is designated as the primary case.
3. All dates previously set in Palo Alto's Case, OAH case number 2026070980, are vacated.
4. The scheduled prehearing conference and hearing dates in the Primary Case, OAH case number 2026080048, shall apply to these consolidated cases.
5. 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 the Primary Case, OAH case number 2026080048.
6. Palo Alto's motion to continue the hearing dates in Palo Alto's Case is denied, as moot.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clifford H. Woosley".

Clifford H. Woosley

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings