

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:
PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026030728

ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING CONFERENCE FOR
HEARING BY VIDEOCONFERENCE GRANTING REQUEST
FOR SECOND MEDIATION AND CONTINUING ALL DATES

AUGUST 3, 2026

On August 3, 2026, Administrative Law Judge Theresa Ravandi, 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 Deanna Sweeney appeared on behalf of Student. Attorney Brian Davenport appeared on behalf of Los Angeles Unified School District. The PHC was recorded. Based upon discussion with the parties, the ALJ issues the following order:

JOINT REQUEST FOR SECOND MEDIATION AND CONTINUANCE

On July 30, 2026, the parties filed with OAH a request for a second mediation and continuance of PHC and the hearing dates. The parties participated in mediation as to Student's initial complaint. OAH granted Student's motion to amend on June 24, 2026. The parties wish to mediate the issues raised in Student's first amended complaint. The parties requested mediation in October and hearing dates in November 2026. This matter has been pending since March 2026. During the PHC both parties were heard as to the request.

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. (34 C.F.R. § 300.515(a); Ed. Code, §§ 56502, subd. (f), 56505, subd. (f)(3).) Speedy resolution of the due process hearing is mandated by law and continuance of the hearing may only be granted only upon a showing of good cause. (Ed. Code, § 56505, subd. (f)(3).) In ruling upon a motion for continuance, OAH is guided by the provisions found within the Administrative Procedure Act and the California Rules of Court that concern motions to continue. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1020; Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332.) Generally, continuances of matters are disfavored. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(c).)

The parties established good cause for a second mediation and for a continuance but not for the length of time requested. The request for a second mediation and for continuance was granted but not for the dates initially requested. The parties agreed to select a mediation date in August 2026, and to proceed to hearing in September 2026. All pending dates are vacated. This matter will be heard as follows:

Mediation will be held via videoconference on August 27, 2026, from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

The PHC will be held via videoconference on August 31, 2026, at 10:00 AM. Any prehearing motions and PHC statements must be filed three business days prior to the PHC. Any motion that is not timely filed shall be supported by a declaration under penalty of perjury establishing good cause for the late filing.

The due process hearing will be held on September 15, 16, and 17, 2026, and continue day to day at the discretion of the ALJ. The hearing shall begin at 9:30 AM each day and generally end at 3:30 PM, unless otherwise ordered. The hearing will be held through videoconference.

The parties shall immediately notify all potential witnesses of the hearing dates and shall subpoena witnesses, if necessary, to ensure that the witnesses will appear to testify. A party's failure to notify or subpoena a witness to testify will not be considered good cause to continue the hearing. Instructions for issuing and responding to subpoenas and optional forms for subpoenas can be found on the website at <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OAH/Case-Types/Special-Education/Forms/Subpoenas?search=special%20education%20subpoena>.

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.

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.

Theresa Ravandi

Theresa Ravandi

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings