

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 FOR
HEARING BY VIDEOCONFERENCE GRANTING REQUEST
FOR CONTINUANCE AND SETTING PREHEARING
CONFERENCE AND HEARING 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 Madeline Knutson appeared on behalf of Student. Attorney Cathy Holmes appeared on behalf of Corona-Norco Unified School District. The PHC was recorded. Based upon discussion with the parties, the ALJ issues the following order:

CORONA-NORCO'S REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE

On July 29, 2026, Corona-Norco filed a request for continuance asserting, in general, that its counsel was unavailable for hearing on August 18, through 31, 2026, because of pre-arranged out-of-state travel plans. This matter is currently scheduled for hearing beginning August 11, 2026, and is anticipated to take up to nine days to complete. Corona-Norco requested this matter be continued to September 8, 2026.

On July 31, 2026, Student filed an opposition to the motion to continue. Student generally asserted that Student is entitled to a speedy hearing, would be prejudiced by a continuance, and that one alleged conflicting matter identified by Corona-Norco was no longer on calendar and the other was filed after this matter.

During the PHC, both parties were heard as to the requested continuance. Student did not oppose a continuance to September 1, 2026. Corona-Norco represented that it was scheduled to be in a due process hearing with a different attorney beginning August 25, 2026, and that if that hearing proceeded it might continue into the week of September 1, 2026.

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).)

Corona-Norco established good cause for a brief continuance due to the unavailability of its counsel for continuing day-to-day hearing dates. Corona-Norco did not establish good cause for the length of the requested continuance. The continuance is granted. All dates are vacated. This matter will proceed as follows:

The PHC will be held on August 21, 2026, at 3:00 PM via videoconference. 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 through videoconference on September 1, 2, and 3, 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 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