

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:
PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026070036

ORDER GRANTING SECOND REQUEST FOR
CONTINUANCE AND PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND
DUE PROCESS HEARING

AUGUST 7, 2026

On August 5, 2026, Parties filed a joint request to continue the due process hearing with the Office of Administrative Hearings, OAH.

Parties contend that the hearing should be continued because both the attorney for Student and for Capistrano Unified School District, called Capistrano, are currently scheduled to go to hearing in earlier filed matters. Parties jointly requested a continuance until September 29, 2026. Student's attorney's declaration, however, states that they are not available until October 6, 2026, with three earlier filed cases scheduled to begin on September 29, 2026.

OAH must conduct a due process hearing and issue a decision within 45 days of receiving the due process complaint, unless an extension is granted. (34 C.F.R. § 300.515(a); Ed. Code, §§ 56502, subd. (f), 56505, subd. (f)(3).) Resolving the due process hearing quickly is legally required. Hearings may only be continued if "good cause" is established. (Ed. Code, § 56505, subd. (f)(3).) OAH is guided by the Administrative Procedure Act and the California Rules of Court when ruling on continuance motions. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1020; Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332.)

Good cause to continue a hearing may include:

- An essential lay or expert witness is unavailable because of death, illness, or other excusable circumstances;
- A party is unavailable because of death, illness, or other excusable circumstances;
- A party's attorney is unavailable because of death, illness, or other excusable circumstances;
- A new attorney substitutes in, but only if the party establishes that the substitution is required in the interests of justice;
- A new party is added, and the new party has not had a reasonable opportunity to prepare for trial, or other parties have not had a reasonable opportunity to prepare for trial regarding the new party's involvement;
- A party is unable to obtain essential testimony, documents, or other material evidence despite diligent efforts; or
- The case has a significant and unexpected change which makes the case not ready for trial.

Generally, continuances are disfavored. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(c).)

Parties have established good cause to continue the due process hearing due to the unavailability of attorneys for both Capistrano and Student.

The request is granted. All previously scheduled dates are vacated. While the parties jointly requested September 29, 2026, due to Student's attorney's unavailability until October 6, 2026, this matter will be continued to that date. The new dates are:

PREHEARING CONFERENCE will be held on September 28, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

DUE PROCESS HEARING will be held on October 6, through October 8, 2026.

The prehearing conference, and due process hearing will be held by videoconference or telephone, unless otherwise ordered. The due process hearing will begin at 9:30 AM on all days, and generally end at 3:30 PM, unless otherwise ordered. The hearing will continue day to day, as needed, Mondays and Fridays included, at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge. Prehearing conference statements and motions are due to OAH no later than three business days before the prehearing conference. Late motions will only be considered if good cause is established for the late filing.

The parties must immediately give potential witnesses the hearing dates, and must subpoena witnesses, if necessary, so they are available to testify. Failing to properly notify or subpoena a witness is not good cause to delay the hearing.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Plitt', written in a cursive style.

Jessica Plitt

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings