

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

ALVORD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026070827

ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING CONFERENCE

GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE

AUGUST 31, 2026

On August 31, 2026, Administrative Law Judge Katherine Roe, 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. Terri Palmquist, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of Student. Alefia Mithaiwala, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of Alvord Unified School District, called Alvord. The PHC was recorded. Based upon discussion with the parties, the ALJ issues the following order:

HEARING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATION

On August 26, 2026, Alvord filed a motion to continue the prehearing conference and due process hearing to October 13, through 15, 2026, because Alvord's counsel is scheduled for hearings in earlier filed cases through October 8, 2026. Counsel provided the case numbers for each and the undersigned confirmed all weeks at issue still have active cases scheduled. At the PHC, the parties jointly requested a continuance to schedule mediation.

The motion was timely filed three days prior to the prehearing conference. The parties were heard during the PHC. The motion was not opposed; however Student requested a continuance for a shorter length of time. Student requested a prehearing conference date of September 28, 2026, due to counsel's preplanned travel from October 1, through October 5, 2026. Student has shown good cause to schedule the prehearing conference date more than 10 business days prior to the start of the due process hearing due to her unavailability.

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. Good cause may include the unavailability of a party, counsel, or an essential witness due to death, illness or other excusable circumstances. (Ed. Code, § 56505, subd. (f)(3); Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(c).) OAH considers all relevant facts and circumstances, including the proximity of the hearing date; previous continuances or delays; the length of continuance requested; the availability of other means to address the problem giving rise to the request; prejudice to a party or witness as a result of a continuance; the impact of granting a continuance on other pending hearings; whether trial counsel is

engaged in another trial; whether the parties have stipulated to a continuance; whether the interests of justice are served by the continuance or imposing conditions on the continuance; and any other relevant fact or circumstance. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(d).)

The request for continuance is granted for good cause due to Alvord's counsel's unavailability due to excusable circumstances. All previously scheduled dates are vacated. The case shall proceed as follows:

MEDIATION DATE is September 11, 2026, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

MEDIATION will occur via telephone or videoconference.

PREHEARING CONFERENCE will be held on September 28, 2026, at 1:00 PM.

All other prehearing matters shall be addressed at the September 28, 2026, prehearing conference. All prehearing motions must be filed three business days before the PHC.

Due Process Hearing: October 13, through October 15, 2026.

The hearing will be conducted via telephone or videoconference and shall begin at 9:30 AM and end at 3:30 PM on all days, unless otherwise ordered. The hearing shall continue day to day at the discretion of the ALJ.

The parties shall immediately notify all potential witnesses of the hearing dates, and shall subpoena witnesses if necessary, to ensure that the witnesses will be available to testify. A witness will not be regarded as unavailable for purposes of showing "good cause" to continue the hearing if the witness is not properly notified of the hearing date or properly subpoenaed.

SETTLEMENT

The parties shall immediately inform OAH in writing if they reach a settlement or otherwise resolve the dispute before the scheduled hearing. If the parties reach a settlement within five days of the scheduled start of the due process hearing, the parties shall also inform OAH of the settlement by telephone at (916) 263-0880.

If a full and final written settlement agreement is reached after 5:00 PM the day before the hearing, the parties shall leave a voicemail message regarding the settlement at (916) 274-6035. The parties should also leave contact information such as cellular phone numbers of each party or counsel for each party. At the same time, the parties should send the signature page of the signed agreement or a letter withdrawing the case to OAH at <https://www.applications.dgs.ca.gov/oah/oahsftweb>.

Dates for hearing will not be cancelled until the letter of withdrawal or signature page of the signed agreement has been received by OAH. If an agreement in principle is reached, the parties should plan to attend the scheduled hearing unless different arrangements have been agreed upon by the assigned ALJ. The assigned ALJ will check for messages before the hearing.

If the matter settles subject to board approval, in addition to a signed copy of the signature page of the settlement agreement, the parties shall provide the date of the next board meeting. The hearing dates will not be cancelled without this information.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

Failure to comply with this order may result in the exclusion of evidence or other sanctions.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Katherine Roe
Katherine Roe (Aug 31, 2026 11:33:07 PDT)

Katherine Roe

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings