

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 2026080138

ORDER DENYING PROTECTIVE ORDER

AUGUST 31, 2026

On August 5, 2026, Parents, on behalf of Student, filed a request for due process hearing, also called a complaint, with the Office of Administrative Hearings, called OAH, naming Los Angeles Unified School District as respondent. Also, on August, 5, 2026, Student filed a motion for a protective order, seeking “restrictive treatment” and anonymization of Student and Parent personal and contact details. OAH did not receive a response to Student’s motion from Los Angeles.

Due process complaints are required to disclose the name, residence address and name of school the child attends. (20 U.S.C. § 1415 (b)(7)(A)(ii)(1); 34 C.F.R. § 300.508(b)(1, 2, and 3.) However, due process proceedings are closed to the public unless Student, or their representative, request that the proceedings be opened. (34 C.F.R. § 300.513(c)(2); Ed. Code § 56501(c)(2).) The due process complaint filed must

remain confidential (34 C.F.R § 300.508 (a)(1)), but any document filed with OAH must be served on the opposing party or their attorney. (34 C.F.R 300.508(a)(2).)

Student has offered no good cause for implementing additional heightened confidentiality protections, or for allowing multiple documents to be filed that sequester mandated personal information regarding Student or Parents from the rest of a due process request or any other document. Nor has Student offered any law mandating that any additional protective procedures be employed in this case.

Student's proposed order in this case seeks and OAH order:

- that personal identifying information required in Student's complaint be "maintained in a restricted nonpublic portion of the administrative record" and that no publicly accessible material disclose any information contained in the document Parents filed called "confidential Part 1" or "any other information that would identify Student or the family including any internal Student identifier."
- requiring identification of Student and Parents using the terms Student, Mother, Father or Parents, and that those designations and the OAH case number be the only nonconfidential case references.
- that Parents desire a closed hearing unless Parents agree otherwise.
- that access to information in the document Parents filed called "Confidential Part 1," and unredacted records, be limited to OAH personnel assigned to the case, the parties counsel, retained experts and consultants, witnesses, to the extent reasonably necessary, and persons authorized by further order."
- that transmission of unredacted records by secure means and a prohibition against posting on public links or open shared drives.

- that the parties be required to maintain separate confidential and redacted exhibit sets with confidential exhibits identified by neutral Bates numbers without prefix or filename containing a family surname or internal student identifier.
- that anyone maintaining a redacted copy be required to remove underlying text and image content and shall be checked for metadata, OCR remnants, comments, revision history, bookmarks, embedded files, hidden text, and filenames containing identifying information.
- that before any order, decision, transcript, or record is made publicly accessible, personally identifiable information shall be removed and unique facts shall be generalized where necessary to prevent re-identification.
- that a recipient who learns of an unauthorized disclosure shall promptly notify OAH and the parties and take reasonable steps to contain and remediate the disclosure.
- that the order remains in effect unless modified by OAH.

OAH complies with state and federal law requiring the confidentiality of special education due process hearing requests and the documents associated with them. OAH routinely anonymizes Student and Parents names in Orders and Decisions. Student's order seeks to impose requirements beyond those required by state or federal statutes and regulations without any statement of good cause or need and without any legal support.

ORDER

1. Student's request for a protective order is denied.

2. Student's Request for Due Process Hearing and Confidential Student Identification information will be considered a single request for due process for purposes of this hearing.
3. From the date of this order, Parents are to refrain from filing "notices" of different filing practices. Any variance in filing procedures requires a motion from the party seeking it, and an order granting the request, in advance of a filing a document using different filing methods than are required by OAH. Information regarding filing procedures and serving documents is available on OAH's website which has self help information for hearing participants representing themselves. OAH also maintains a list of free, and low cost, attorneys who practice special education law.
4. Parents are required to comply with California Code of Regulations, title 1, sections 1006 regarding document format, and California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 3083, regarding service of documents on opposing parties, when filing documents with OAH in this matter.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Penelope Pahl

Penelope S. Pahl

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings