

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:
PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL.
OAH CASE NUMBER 2026050845

ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING CONFERENCE FOR
HEARING BY VIDEOCONFERENCE, GRANTING MOTION TO
AMEND DUE PROCESS HEARING REQUEST

AUGUST 5, 2026

On August 3, 2026, Administrative Law Judge Robert G. Martin, 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 Alyssa Masterson appeared on behalf of Student. Attorney Evan McBride appeared on behalf of Lighthouse Community Charter. Based upon discussion with the parties, the ALJ issues the following order:

HEARING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATION

STUDENT'S MOTION TO AMEND DUE PROCESS HEARING REQUEST

Student filed their Due Process Hearing Request, referred to as a complaint, with OAH on May 15, 2026. On July 29, 2026, Student filed a Motion to Amend the Due Process Hearing Request and an amended complaint. Lighthouse did not file a response, but stated on the record at the PHC that it opposed Student's motion to amend.

An amended complaint may be filed when the other party consents in writing and is given the opportunity to resolve the complaint through a resolution session, or when the hearing officer grants permission. The hearing officer may grant permission at any time more than five days before the due process hearing. (20 U.S.C. §1415(c)(2)(E)(i).) The filing of an amended complaint restarts the applicable timelines for the due process hearing. (20 U.S.C. §1415(c)(2)(E)(ii).)

Student's initial complaint alleged Lighthouse denied Student a free appropriate public education by, among other things, failing to offer Student appropriate related services in Student's annual individualized education program reviewed by Student's IEP team on May 15, 2026. Student alleged the IEP was not completed as of the May 15, 2026 IEP team meeting, but Lighthouse was to schedule a further IEP team meeting to complete Student's IEP. Student's proposed amended complaint includes additional allegations that Lighthouse failed to schedule a further IEP team meeting, and denied Student a FAPE by failing to complete Student's IEP, failing to make a clear written offer of FAPE to Student for the 2026 – 2027 school year, and by unilaterally changing Student's specialized academic instruction outside of the IEP process. Lighthouse opposed Student's proposed amendment on grounds that Student's annual IEP was not

completed because the parties verbally agreed to pause the IEP process while the parties addressed the claims in Student's initial complaint, and not because of any failure of Lighthouse to schedule a further IEP team meeting.

The dispute regarding Lighthouse's responsibility for failing to complete Student's annual IEP is a factual issue for hearing, but not grounds for denying Student's proposed amendment. Student's motion to amend was filed more than five days prior to the due process hearing. Therefore, it was timely, and was granted at the PHC. The amended complaint is deemed filed on August 3, 2026, and all applicable timelines shall be reset as of that date. OAH will issue a scheduling order with the new dates.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert G. Martin

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings