

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE CONSOLIDATED MATTERS INVOLVING:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

and

SIERRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT,

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026070734

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026080867

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

On July 13, 2026, Parent, on behalf of Student, filed a request for due process hearing, also called a complaint, with the Office of Administrative Hearings, called OAH, in OAH case number 2026070734, naming Sierra Unified School District as respondent. On August 10, 2026, Student filed an amended complaint pursuant to an Order determining the original complain insufficient.

On August 20, 2026, Sierra filed a request for due process in case number 2026080867, naming Student as respondent. On August 24, 2026, the parties jointly filed a request that the two cases be consolidated.

CONSOLIDATION

No statute or regulation specifically provides a standard to be applied in deciding a motion to consolidate special education cases. However, OAH will generally consolidate matters that involve the same parties, a common question of law and/or fact, and when consolidation of the matters furthers the interests of judicial economy by saving time or preventing inconsistent rulings. (See Gov. Code, § 11507.3, subd. (a) [administrative proceedings may be consolidated if they involve a common question of law or fact]; Code of Civ. Proc., § 1048, subd. (a) [same applies to civil cases].)

Here, both cases involve common questions of law or fact, specifically, whether Sierra's offered individualized educational programs, or IEPs, offered Student a FAPE from July 13, 2024 through August 10, 2026. In addition, consolidation furthers the interests of judicial economy because both cases will necessarily involve testimony by some of the same witnesses and consideration of some duplicative evidence. Accordingly, consolidation is granted.

ORDER

1. The parties' Joint Motion to Consolidate is granted.
2. Student's Case, OAH case number 2026070734, is designated as the primary case. The case will proceed on the dates currently scheduled in Student's case.
3. All dates previously set in Sierra's Case, OAH case number 2026080867, are vacated.

4. The 45-day timeline for issuance of the decision in the consolidated cases shall be based on the date of the filing of the complaint in Student's Case, OAH case number 2026070734

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Penelope Pahl

Penelope S. Pahl

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings