

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE CONSOLIDATED MATTERS INVOLVING:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

and

SNOWLINE JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT,

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026090919

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026090596

ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING CONFERENCE FOR
HEARING BY VIDEOCONFERENCE GRANTING MOTION TO
CONSOLIDATE AND STRIKING STUDENT'S RESPONSE TO
SNOWLINE'S DUE PROCESS COMPLAINT

SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

On September 28, 2026, Administrative Law Judge Rita Defilippis, 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.

Parent appeared on behalf of Student. Attorney Summer Vicknair appeared on behalf of Snowline Joint Unified School District. The PHC was recorded. Based upon discussion with the parties, the ALJ issues the following order:

MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

On September 15, 2026, Snowline Joint Unified School District filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings a Request for Due Process Hearing in OAH case number 2026090596, Snowline's Case, naming Student.

On September 23, 2026, Student filed a Request for Due Process Hearing in OAH case number 2026090919, Student's Case, naming Snowline.

On September 23, 2026, Student filed a Motion to Consolidate the cases. The Motion to Consolidate was discussed at the prehearing conference. Snowline does not oppose consolidation.

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 the same parties and common questions of law or fact surrounding Snowline's June 4, 2026, speech and language assessment, specifically, the appropriateness of the timing of Snowline's filing for due process to defend its speech

and language assessment. Snowline does not oppose the motion. In addition, consolidation furthers the interests of judicial economy because consolidation prevents inconsistent rulings. Accordingly, consolidation is granted.

MOTION TO STRIKE STUDENT'S RESPONSE TO SNOWLINE'S REQUEST FOR DUE PROCESS

On September 23, 2026, Student filed a response to Snowline's request for a due process hearing. On September 28, Snowline filed a Motion to Strike or Dismiss Student's Response to its due process request on the grounds that it was filed by a nonattorney advocate on Student's behalf.

The Motion to Strike was discussed at the prehearing conference. Parent was informed by the undersigned ALJ that nonattorney advocates cannot represent students in due process hearings or any proceedings before OAH. Student was informed by the undersigned ALJ that Parents represent Student in these consolidated matters, and, other than proof of service statements, Student's Parents must sign all filings with OAH on behalf of Student. Accordingly, Snowline's Motion to Strike Student's response to Snowline's request for due process was granted.

All other issues regarding these consolidated matters will be discussed at the currently scheduled November 2, 2026, prehearing conference.

ORDER

1. Student's Motion to Consolidate is granted.
2. Student's Case, OAH case number 2026090919, is designated as the primary case. All dates previously set in Snowline's Case, OAH case number 2026090596, are vacated.

3. 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 Primary Case, OAH case number 2026090919.
4. Snowline's Motion to Strike Student's response to Snowline's request for due process is granted and Student's response is stricken.

Rita Defilippis

Rita Defilippis

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings