

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 2026050034

ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING CONFERENCE FOR
HEARING BY VIDEOCONFERENCE GRANTING SECOND
MOTION TO AMEND COMPLAINT AND LIMITING TIME
WITHIN IN WHICH TO REQUEST MEDIATION, AND
DENYING DISTRICT'S REQUEST TO CONTINUE AS MOOT

SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

On September 18, 2026, Administrative Law Judge Teresa Ravandi, 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.

Attorneys Layla Forghani and Natalie Tecimer appeared on behalf of Student. Attorney Josh Walden appeared on behalf of Los Angeles Unified School District accompanied by law clerk Gillian Lee Goco. The PHC was recorded. Based upon discussion with the parties, the ALJ issues the following order:

STUDENT'S SECOND MOTION TO AMEND

On April 29, 2026, Student filed a Due Process Hearing Request, referred to as a complaint, with OAH, naming Los Angeles. On August 14, 2026, OAH granted Student's request to file an amended complaint. This matter is currently scheduled for hearing beginning September 29, 2026. On September 15, 2026, Student filed a second motion to amend along with a proposed second amended complaint. Student seeks to add one additional issue regarding an alleged failure to implement specialized academic instruction. On September 16, 2026, Los Angeles filed a non-opposition.

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).)

Although the motion to amend was filed more than five days prior to the due process hearing and is unopposed, OAH must consider the length of time this matter has been pending and balance the legal mandate for a speedy hearing process. This matter has been pending for almost five months. After carefully considering all the circumstances of this case and the proposed amended claim, OAH grants Student's second motion to amend. However, the parties are hereby advised that absent evidence

of exceptional circumstances, OAH will not be inclined to grant any further continuance. If the parties seek to mediate the second amended complaint, they should immediately request a mediation date that does not require a continuance of the new prehearing conference or hearing dates, absent evidence of independent circumstances justifying a continuance.

The second amended complaint shall be deemed filed on the date of this order. All pending dates are vacated, and all applicable timelines shall be reset as of the date of this order. OAH will issue a scheduling order with the new dates.

LOS ANGELES' MOTION TO CONTINUE

On September 16, 2026, Los Angeles filed motion to continue the current hearing dates because of a scheduling conflict with another on-going due process matter. On September 16, 2026, Student filed a non-opposition. In light of this Order granting Student's second motion to amend, Los Angeles' request to continue is denied as moot.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

The failure to comply with this Order may result in the exclusion of evidence or other sanctions.

ORDER INCLUDES ALL RULINGS

This Order includes all rulings made at the prehearing conference. Any discussion and conversation not referenced in this Order is not binding on the ALJ conducting the hearing and may not be relied upon by the parties. The parties should

be aware that, at hearing, the ALJ conducting the hearing has discretion to reconsider any part of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Theresa Ravandi

Theresa Ravandi

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings