BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026080737

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR MEDIATION AND CONTINUANCE

OCTOBER 29, 2026

On October 26, 2026, the parties filed a request to re-set mediation and to continue the due process hearing with the Office of Administrative Hearings, OAH. This matter is presently scheduled for hearing beginning November 10, 2026.

The parties contend the hearing should be continued to allow them an opportunity to participate in mediation. Los Angeles County Office of Education canceled an initial mediation date set for October 14, 2026, because its counsel was involved in an ongoing due process hearing and unavailable to mediate.

OAH must conduct a due process hearing and issue a decision within 45 days of receiving the due process complaint, unless an extension is granted. (34 C.F.R.

§ 300.515(a); Ed. Code, §§ 56502, subd. (f), 56505, subd. (f)(3).) Resolving the due process hearing quickly is legally required. Hearings may only be continued if "good cause" is established. (Ed. Code, § 56505, subd. (f)(3).) OAH is guided by the Administrative Procedure Act and the California Rules of Court when ruling on continuance motions. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1020; Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332.)

Good cause to continue a hearing may include:

- An essential lay or expert witness is unavailable because of death, illness, or other excusable circumstances;
- A party is unavailable because of death, illness, or other excusable circumstances;
- A party's attorney is unavailable because of death, illness, or other excusable circumstances;
- A new attorney substitutes in, but only if the party establishes that the substitution is required in the interests of justice;
- A new party is added, and the new party has not had a reasonable opportunity to prepare for trial, or other parties have not had a reasonable opportunity to prepare for trial regarding the new party's involvement;
- A party is unable to obtain essential testimony, documents, or other material evidence despite diligent efforts; or
- The case has a significant and unexpected change which makes the case not ready for trial.

Generally, continuances are disfavored. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(c).)

The parties timely filed the request to reset mediation and to continue all dates. The parties established good cause to continue the hearing schedule to afford them the opportunity to mediate all issues. The parties' request to set mediation for November 10, 2026, is granted. However, the parties did not establish good cause to continue the hearing to December 15, 2026.

The request to continue the hearing schedule is granted, but not for the length of time requested. All previously scheduled dates are vacated. The new dates are:

MEDIATION will be held on November 10, 2026, at 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

PREHEARING CONFERENCE will be held on November 20, 2026, at 1:00 PM

DUE PROCESS HEARING will be held on December 1, through 3, 2026.

The mediation, prehearing conference, and due process hearing will be held by videoconference or telephone, unless otherwise ordered. The due process hearing will begin at 9:30 AM on all days, and generally end at 3:30 PM, unless otherwise ordered. The hearing will continue day to day, as needed, Mondays and Fridays included, at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge. Prehearing conference statements and motions are due to OAH no later than three business days before the prehearing conference. Late motions will only be considered if good cause is established for the late filing.

The parties must immediately give potential witnesses the hearing dates, and must subpoena witnesses, if necessary, so they are available to testify. Failing to properly notify or subpoena a witness is not good cause to delay the hearing.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Theresa Ravandi

Theresa Ravandi
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings