BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE CONSOLIDATED MATTERS INVOLVING:

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

and

SNOWLINE JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026090919

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026090596

ORDER DENYING PEREMPTORY CHALLENGE

OCTOBER 30, 2026

On October 30, 2026, Snowline filed a notice of peremptory challenge with the Office of Administrative Hearings, called OAH, to Administrative Law Judge Rita Defilippis. An Administrative Law Judge is called ALJ. The peremptory challenge is made pursuant to Government Code section 11425.40, subdivision (d), of the Administrative Procedures Act, and California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 1034.

Government Code section 11425.40, subdivision (d), establishes the criteria for disqualification of the presiding officer. A party is entitled to one peremptory challenge, also called disqualification without cause, to an ALJ assigned to an OAH hearing. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subds. (a) & (b); Gov. Code, § 11425.40, subd. (d).) A

peremptory challenge is not allowed if made after the hearing starts. In addition, if at the time of a scheduled prehearing conference, an ALJ has been assigned to the hearing, any challenge to the assigned ALJ must be made no later than the start of that prehearing conference. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subd. (c).) A peremptory challenge is not allowed on reconsideration or remand. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subd. (a).)

ALJ Defilippis held a prehearing conference on September 28, 2026, during which she consolidated the two cases. Thus, Snowline's peremptory challenge is not timely made and is denied pursuant to Government section 11425.40, subdivisions (a) and (d), and California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 1034, subdivision (c).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Joy Redmon

Joy Redmon
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings