BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

VISTA OAKS CHARTER SCHOOL.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026021021

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO BIFURCATE AND DETERMINATION THAT STUDENT'S MOTIONS TO COMPEL, INTERIM TEMPORARY ORDER, AND REVIEW LANGUAGE FOLLOWING REMOVAL ARE MOOT

APRIL 9, 2026

On April 2, 2026, Student filed a request to bifurcate the due process hearing to address if an exception to the statute of limitations applies. On April 6, 2026, Vista Oaks Charter filed a partial opposition to the motion to bifurcate.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Student filed a request for due process on February 24, 2026. On March 2, 2026, Vista Oaks filed a notice of insufficiency. The Office of Administrative Hearings, OAH, determined the request for due process hearing partially sufficient on March 4, 2026. Student filed a Motion to Amend on March 2, 2026. Vista Oaks filed an opposition on March 3, 2026. The motion was denied on March 9, 2026.

Subsequently, Student filed a second amended complaint along with a Motion to Compel and a Motion for Interim Temporary Order on March 19, 2026. In between Student's Motion to Amend and OAH granting the order, Student filed a Motion to Review Language of unilateral removal following home and hospital requests. Charter filed an opposition to Motion to Review language of removal on April 2, 2026.

Student's Motion to Amend only was granted on April 2, 2026. By operation of law, an amended complaint restarts the applicable timelines for the due process hearing. (20 U.S.C. § 1415 (c)(2)(E)(ii). Thus, all motions filed prior to April 2, 2026, the date Student's motion to amend was granted, are deemed moot. The motions were all filed against a complaint that is no longer operative.

MOTION TO BIFURCATE

Student's Motion to Bifurcate is a 55-page document that includes text message chains, emails, and what appears to be medical records. Student seeks to bifurcate the statute of limitations question as well as some IDEA claims. The motion seeks to add a

party previously dismissed for lack of jurisdiction on February 26, 2026. As that issue has previously been addressed, this order will not address the attempt to add a new party.

Vista Oaks did not oppose Student's motion to bifurcate the statute of limitations question. Vista Oaks, however, did oppose Student's motion to bifurcate issues regarding procedural compliance with the IDEA, and allegations Vista Oaks failed to implement Student's individualized education program, called IEP.

The Office of Administrative Hearings has the authority to bifurcate a hearing where it would result in judicial economy or avoid prejudice to a party. (Gov. Code. § 11507.3, subd. (b).) Here, Student's request to extend the statute of limitation is a mixed question of law and fact. Thus, the same witnesses and documentary evidence will be needed for both issues. Additionally, the ruling on the statute of limitations will not be dispositive of the case whether it is extended or not. Thus, holding only one due process hearing to resolve Student's issues furthers judicial economy. Student's motion to bifurcate is denied. However, the process for efficiently addressing the statute of limitations question during the hearing will be addressed at the prehearing conference.

STUDENT'S FILINGS

Student's filings contain extraneous documents not relevant to Student's motions. If additional motions are filed, Student is directed not to include extraneous documents with her filings. Further, Student is on notice that OAH does not accept multiple motions in one document.

All dates from the April 3, 2026, scheduling order setting prehearing conference and due process hearing are confirmed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Tiffany Gilmartin

Tiffany Gilmartin

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings