BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

CUPERTINO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2025110210

ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING CONFERENCE FOR EXPEDITED HEARING BY VIDEOCONFERENCE

DECEMBER 1, 2025

On December 1, 2025, Administrative Law Judge June R. Lehrman, 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.

Father appeared on behalf of Student. Jennifer Nix, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of Cupertino Union School District. Jennifer Baldessari, Attorney at Law, appeared briefly on behalf of YMCA Silicon Valley but was excused because her client had just been dismissed as a party. The PHC was recorded. Based upon discussion with the parties, the ALJ issues the following order:

EXPEDITED HEARING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATION

DUE PROCESS HEARING

The expedited hearing will take place on December 9, 10 and 11, 2025 and continue day to day at the discretion of the ALJ. The hearing shall begin at 9:30 AM each day and generally end at 3:30 PM, unless otherwise ordered. Student anticipates the hearing will take 20 days to complete. Cupertino anticipates three days. Additional hearing dates will be discussed with the ALJ during the hearing.

HEARING LOCATION

OAH is authorized to conduct due process hearings by videoconference or telephone. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 3082, subd. (g).) OAH will conduct the due process hearing by videoconference using the Zoom application. Unless otherwise ordered, participants are required to appear by videoconference using computer or device with video capability and Zoom.

The parties shall immediately notify all potential witnesses of the hearing dates and shall subpoena witnesses, if necessary, to ensure that the witnesses will appear to testify. A party's failure to notify or subpoena a witness to testify will not be considered good cause to continue the hearing. Instructions for issuing and responding to subpoenas and optional forms for subpoenas can be found on the website at https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OAH/Case-Types/Special-Education/Forms/Subpoenas?search=special%20education%20subpoena.

EXPEDITED ISSUES AND PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Student alleged, in his complaint, Issues 1 through 18 and 51 through 67, which were clarified at the PHC as being Issues for the expedited portion of the hearing. Student's allegations contain contentions regarding removal or preclusion from classes, after school programs, educational interventions, and extracurricular activities between April 11, 2025 and November 5, 2025, when Student filed his complaint. These included, for example, the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, reading, writing, and math interventions, physical education, social activities, and student-parent school activities. These contentions constitute underlying factual allegations Student may seek to prove at the expedited hearing. The legal issues related to those contentions are set forth below and constitute the issues for expedited hearing.

ISSUES

1. Did Cupertino have a basis of knowledge, between April 11, 2025 and November 5, 2025, that Student was a child with a disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary actions occurred?
2. Did Cupertino fail to conduct a manifestation determination review prior to removing Student from his current school setting, including afterschool programs, for more than 10 school days between April 11, 2025 and the end of the 2025 extended school year?
3. Did Cupertino fail to conduct a manifestation determination review prior to removing Student from his current school setting, including afterschool programs, for more than 10 school days between the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year through November 5, 2025?

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions requested by Student include returning Student to his placement and services.

Cupertino filed its response to Student's complaint on November 24, 2025. (*M.C. v. Antelope Valley Union High School Dist.* (9th Cir. 2017) 858 F.3d 1189, 1199-1200.)

EXHIBITS

The parties shall serve their exhibits on each other in compliance with Education Code section 56505, subdivision (e)(7). The parties shall upload their exhibits electronically according to the Order Setting Procedures for Filing Exhibits Electronically. Timely uploading electronic hearing exhibits five business days before the first day of hearing constitutes that party's timely exchange of evidence in compliance with Education Code section 56505, subdivision (e)(7). If further assistance is needed, please contact OAH at OAHSEOps@dgs.ca.gov.

Except for good cause shown, or unless used solely for rebuttal or impeachment, any exhibit not timely exchanged as required by Education Code section 56505, subdivision (e)(7) shall not be admitted into evidence at the hearing unless the ALJ rules that it is admissible.

IDENTIFYING EXHIBITS AND PAGE NUMBERS

Each exhibit must be identified by a letter and number. Student must use the letter S before the number to identify Student's exhibits. Cupertino must use the letter D before the number to identify its exhibits. For example, S-1 means Student's exhibit 1 and D-1 means Cupertino's exhibit 1. A cover sheet with this identifying letter and number should be the first page of each exhibit. The electronic evidence program will

automatically number the exhibits and additional page numbering or bates stamping should not be added.

CONTENT

Each exhibit must consist of one document. Separate documents may not be combined into one exhibit. Emails or letters may be consolidated into one exhibit if they are part of a single chain of messages. Exhibits should be in chronological order.

Parties should include resumes or curriculum vitae for each witness expected to testify as an expert.

Cupertino's exhibits must include a copy of the school calendar for each school year in question.

Electronic copies of exhibits filed with OAH shall be filed by 5:00 PM at least five business days before the first day of hearing. Please refer to the General Order OAH issued with the Scheduling Order that contains the Order Setting Procedures for Filing Exhibits Electronically. It includes instructions for how to file exhibits electronically. Beginning three business days before the hearing, the electronic evidence system will not allow parties to upload exhibits unless permitted by the ALJ during the hearing at the ALJ's discretion.

WITNESSES

The parties shall serve their list of witnesses on each other in compliance with Education Code section 56505. No party shall be permitted to call any witnesses not timely disclosed except for good cause shown, supported by written declaration under penalty of perjury, and at the discretion of the ALJ.

Parties are responsible for ensuring that all participants are familiar with and follow the Instructions for Joining the Online Due Process Hearing provided with this Order. Participants who have not previously used the Zoom application, may find informative instructions on at by visiting, Getting Started with Zoom at https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697.

The parties are responsible for ensuring that witnesses join the virtual hearing room at the designated date and time to testify. Witnesses are required to join the due process hearing by computer and appear by videoconference unless they do not have the necessary computer equipment. If a witness does not have the necessary equipment, the ALJ may permit the witnesses to appear by audio only or by telephone. "Audio only" means using a computer without video. A witness's inability to attend the hearing by videoconference will be discussed at the start of the hearing.

The parties are responsible for producing their own witnesses unless otherwise ordered by the ALJ. Parties shall make witnesses under their control reasonably available. The parties must schedule their witnesses to avoid delays in the hearing and to minimize or eliminate the need for calling witnesses out of order.

The ALJ has discretion to limit the number of witnesses and the time allowed for testimony. Education Code, section 56505.1, subdivision (h), empowers the ALJ to set a reasonable limit on the length of the hearing after consideration of four factors. The first two factors are the issues to be heard and the complexity of facts to be proven. The second two factors are the ability of the parties or their representatives to present their respective cases and the parties' estimates of the time needed to present their cases.

MEET AND CONFER

The parties are encouraged to review and shorten their witness and exhibit lists before the hearing. Evidence may be excluded if it is repetitive, cumulative, or insufficiently probative to justify the time it would take to hear.

The parties are ordered to meet and confer no later than December 2, 2025 to discuss scheduling witnesses and how much time each witness will take. The parties shall discuss any issues related to counsel and witnesses appearing by videoconference for hearing, electronically viewing exhibits during the hearing, and subpoenas, if any. The parties should attempt to eliminate duplicate exhibits from their hearing exhibits. The parties shall discuss whether they can produce a written stipulation as to pertinent facts, contentions, resolutions and the authenticity and admissibility of documents to shorten the length of time needed for the hearing.

As part of the meet and confer process, Cupertino shall inform Student which proposed witnesses are District employees. Cupertino shall also identify the witnesses on Student's list that require a subpoena. Cupertino may agree to accept service for a witness under its control or provide Student with the witness's most recent contact information.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FORM

Both parties have an ongoing obligation to ensure that OAH has current information on the Participant Information Form filed with OAH and shall file an updated Form as necessary. The Participant Information Form is not served upon the opposing party. The ongoing obligation to ensure that the Participant Information Form filed with OAH is current does not change the parties' statutory obligation to timely disclose their witnesses to the other party(s) at least five business days prior to hearing.

The parties must file an updated Participant Information Form to inform OAH of any changes, additions, or deletions, including the required information no later than 5:00 PM at least two business days before the first day of hearing.

Any contact information provided shall be used for the limited purpose of issuing subpoenas or for contacting a witness to attend the hearing. Any contact information shall not be disclosed to any other person.

EVIDENCE PRESENTATION

In an administrative proceeding, the burden of proof is ordinarily on the party requesting the hearing. (*Schaffer v. Weast* (2005) 546 U.S. 49, 62.) In this case Student requested the hearing and bears the burden of proof. Student's case-in-chief shall be presented first, followed by Cupertino unless otherwise ordered.

WITNESS LISTS

The parties must provide a joint proposed witness list to the ALJ on the first day of hearing. The list should include the first and last name of the witness, which party is calling the witness to testify, and include dates and time estimates of each witness's expected testimony. In the event an agreement cannot be reached, each party shall prepare a separate written list. Cupertino must have witnesses available in case there is no agreement.

At the beginning of the hearing, the ALJ and the parties will discuss the length of time anticipated for each witness and scheduling issues for individual witnesses. The ALJ will finalize the witness schedule. Parties must be prepared at the end of each day to discuss the witnesses to be presented the next day and the estimated time for the testimony of each witness.

SCOPE OF WITNESS EXAMINATION

Each witness will be called to testify only once, except for rebuttal purposes. All parties must examine a witness on all issues when the witness is first called to testify. Requiring a witness to appear only once takes priority over the order in which parties present their case-in-chief.

AUDIO ONLY OR TELEPHONIC TESTIMONY

Whether a witness may appear by audio only or telephone instead of videoconference is a matter within the discretion of the ALJ. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 3082, subd. (g).) Any party seeking to present a witness by audio only or telephone shall request permission to do so before the hearing. Any party seeking to present a witness who cannot access exhibits electronically must inform the ALJ at the beginning of the hearing.

ELECTRONIC RECORDINGS

AUDIO RECORDING

A party may request permission to make an audio recording of the hearing. Permission to make an audio recording is subject to the ALJ's discretion and based upon the following conditions:

1. the OAH recording is the only official recording;
2. the parties shall turn their recording device on and off at the same time that the ALJ is on and off the record to avoid recording conversations while off the record;

3. operation of the party's recording mechanism will not be allowed to delay the hearing;
4. a party's recording may not be given, provided or played to a witness, or potential witness;
5. the recording is subject to the same confidentiality as the due process hearing;
6. participants shall not take screenshots of the videoconference nor share or publish any portion of the videoconference or audio recording; and
7. the parties shall not use an artificial intelligence application or program to record the hearing.

Student's and District's requests to make an audio recording of the hearing is granted.

VIDEO RECORDING

No party, witness or anyone else may videorecord any part of the proceedings or stream live through any means.

RECORDINGS AS EXHIBITS

Recordings may not be uploaded electronically without the ALJ's permission. The ALJ has discretion to admit or exclude evidence in the form of a recording. Any request to submit a recording shall be considered at the time of hearing.

The ALJ may grant or deny the request or grant the request subject to certain conditions. The party offering the recording must establish that all or a part of the recording is relevant. The ALJ may request a transcript of the portion of the recording requested or have the party offering the recording to provide an exact identifiable

portion of the recording the party seeks to admit. The identities of any person speaking on the portion of the tape being introduced must be established. An ALJ may allow the opposing party to offer additional portions of a recording to establish the context, or to rebut, the recording.

COMPENSATORY EDUCATION OR REIMBURSEMENT

Any party seeking reimbursement for expenditures shall present admissible evidence of these expenditures, or a stipulation to the amount of the expenditures. A party seeking compensatory education should provide evidence regarding the type, amount, duration, and need for any requested compensatory education. Documents offered as evidence to support a request for reimbursement must be separated by vendor.

MOTIONS

The parties have brought numerous motions and cross-motions in this action. As of the date of this expedited PHC, the following motions were still outstanding: Student's November 13, 2025 Motion for Sanctions, which concerned a resolution session; Student's November 24, 2025 Motion for Stay Put and subsequent November 25, 2025 Emergency Motion for Stay Put; and Student's December 1, 2025 Motion for Sanctions against YMCA of Silicon Valley.

YMCA of Silicon Valley, which has recently been dismissed as a party, had on November 25 and 26, 2025, brought two Motions to Quash Subpoenas for Testimony and Documents, and on December 1, 2025 filed a Declaration in support of those motions. Although YMCA has been dismissed as a party, Student's subpoenas to YMCA, and YMCA's Motions to Quash, are still outstanding.

Cupertino on November 20, 2025, brought a Motion to Dismiss, discussed below, arguing that certain claims were barred by a settlement agreement or by res judicata or collateral estoppel. Also on November 20, 2025, Cupertino brought a Motion to Dismiss embedded within another document, that concerned a resolution session. On November 24, 2025, Cupertino brought two Motions to Quash Subpoenas for testimony and documents. Also on November 24, 2025, Cupertino brought a Motion to Bifurcate Issue 1 from the remaining expedited issues. With respect to the Motion to Bifurcate, Student has not had time to respond, therefore it is taken under submission. All the other motions, other than the Motion to Dismiss addressed below, will be addressed by separate orders.

Cupertino's Motion to Dismiss seeks to dismiss Student's claims that pre-dated a settlement agreement the parties entered into on April 10, 2025. The motion is granted. All claims arising prior to April 11, 2025 are barred by the settlement agreement. The Expedited Decision in OAH Case No. 2025041265 analyzed the impact of the Parties' April 10, 2025 settlement agreement, finding that the Settlement Agreement contained a clear and unambiguous waiver of claims against Cupertino, and an accompanying waiver of Civil Code § 1542 protections. This waiver included, "all past, present, and future, known and unknown claims, damages, liabilities, rights, and complaints arising from, or related to, Student's education through the Effective Date of this Agreement..." The Settlement Agreement defined the "Effective Date" as the date all parties signed the agreement. All parties signed the Settlement Agreement on April 10, 2025. Therefore, as found in the Expedited Decision, Parents waived claims through April 10, 2025. Any expedited issued that pre-dated Aprill 11, 2025 has been revised above, to reflect the operative start date of April 11, 2025.

Cupertino's Motion also argues that claims after April 11, 2025 through June 5, 2025, and throughout the summer of 2025, are barred by res judicata and collateral estoppel as a result of rulings in prior OAH Case Numbers 20250401265, which resulted in a written Decision, and 2025060187, which was dismissed with prejudice for failure to prosecute. That motion is denied, as the collateral estoppel or res judicata effect of the prior cases cannot be determined on motion practice but requires further factual development of Student's claims at hearing, so as to assess the preclusive effect of the claims or issues that were already decided. This denial is without prejudice.

Other than the above, no prehearing motions pertaining to the expedited claims are pending or contemplated. Any motion that was not filed three business days before the expedited PHC, shall be supported by a declaration under penalty of perjury establishing good cause why the motion was not timely filed.

STIPULATIONS

Stipulations to pertinent facts, contentions, resolutions and authenticity and admissibility of documents are encouraged. Any proposed stipulation shall be submitted to the assigned ALJ in writing prior to the start of the hearing.

CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS AND HEARING ROOM DECORUM

All participants to the videoconference should observe the same decorum as in an in-person due process hearing. Participants must conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner at all times. Cellular phones, telephones and computer notifications must be shut off or set to silent during the hearing unless the ALJ grants permission otherwise. Participants should appear from a private location, unless otherwise ordered. Participants should take reasonable efforts to minimize background noise and maintain adequate room lighting. Use of virtual background

images are at the discretion of the ALJ. Witnesses are prohibited from reading exhibits, documents, notes, text messages, telephones or computers while testifying, unless permitted to do so by the ALJ. The parties, their representative and witnesses are prohibited from passing notes to, exchanging electronic messages with, or signaling the witness in any way while the witness is testifying.

LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Neither party requested a language interpreter. Student requested an accommodation that every ruling be in writing because Student is self-represented and must research the legal effect of all rulings. This accommodation was not granted at the PHC, because procedural and evidentiary rulings must be made orally at hearing as they arise. Student also requested that all proceedings end before 4:00 PM to accommodate child-care needs, and that accommodation is granted.

A party or participant in this case, such as a witness, requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in a mediation or hearing may contact OAH at (916) 263-0880, or send an email to OAHADA@dgs.ca.gov as soon as the need is known. The e-mail should have "Request for Accommodation" in the Subject Line. Additional information concerning requests for reasonable accommodation is available on OAH's website at: https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OAH/Services/Page-Content/Office-of-Administrative-Hearings-Services-List-Folder/Request-Reasonable-Accommodations-for-OAH-Legal-Proceedings.

HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

The hearing is closed to the public. However, Student reserves the right to later request that it be opened. Special education hearings are closed to the public unless Student requests the hearing to be open to the public.

If Student later requests the hearing to be open, the ALJ may restrict attendance or take other action to promote due process or the orderly conduct of the hearing. (Cal. Code Regs., Tit. 1, § 1030.) Government Code, section 11425.20 empowers the ALJ to order an open hearing to be closed or make other protective orders to the extent necessary or proper to ensure a fair hearing in the circumstances of the case.

SETTLEMENT

The parties are encouraged to continue working together to reach an agreement before the due process hearing. The parties shall inform OAH in writing immediately if they reach a settlement or otherwise resolve the dispute before the scheduled hearing. In addition, if a settlement is reached within five days of the scheduled start of the due process hearing, the parties shall also inform OAH of the settlement by telephone at (916) 263-0880. At the same time, the parties should send the signature page of the signed agreement or a letter withdrawing the case to OAH by visiting OAH Secure e-file at https://www.applications.dgs.ca.gov/oah/oahsftweb.

If a full and final written settlement agreement is reached after 4:00 PM the day prior to hearing, the parties shall leave a voicemail message regarding the settlement at (916) 274-6035. The parties should also leave contact information such as cellular phone numbers of each party or counsel for each party.

Dates for hearing will not be cancelled until the letter of withdrawal or signature page of the signed agreement has been received and processed by OAH. If an agreement in principle is reached, the parties should plan to attend the scheduled hearing unless different arrangements have been agreed upon by the assigned ALJ. The assigned ALJ will check for messages before the hearing.

If the matter settles subject to board approval, in addition to a signed copy of the signature page of the settlement agreement, the parties shall provide the date of the next board meeting. The hearing dates will not be cancelled without this information.

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.

June Lehrman

June Lehrman
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings