BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

MENDOCINO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT,

v.

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2025040010

ORDER GRANTING PEREMPTORY CHALLENGE

APRIL 7, 2025

On April 7, 2025, Mendocino filed a notice of peremptory challenge with the Office of Administrative Hearings, called OAH, to Administrative Law Judge Theresa Ravandi. 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).)

Mendocino's peremptory challenge is timely and GRANTED. The case is now assigned to ALJ Fritz, and all scheduled dates remain on calendar.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Joy Redmon

Joy Redmon
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings