BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

CORONA-NORCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2026051154

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE AND SETTING MEDIATION DATE

JULY 3, 2026

The due process hearing of expedited issues in this matter was held on June 16, 17, and 18, 2026. The due process hearing is set to resume on July 14, 2026, to address non-expedited issues.

On June 29, 2026, Corona-Norco filed a request to continue the remainder of the due process hearing with the Office of Administrative Hearings, OAH, and to set a mediation date. On July 2, 2026, Student filed a non-opposition. The parties jointly request a half-day mediation on July 20, 2026, and resumption of the due process hearing on September 8, 2026.

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 have established good cause for a continuance in order to mediate, but have not justified a delay of more than two months for the resumption of the ongoing due process hearing. Any mid-hearing continuance must be as short as reasonably practicable.

The request is granted, but not for the length of time requested. The new dates are:

MEDIATION will be held on July 20, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

PREHEARING CONFERENCE will be held on July 27, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

DUE PROCESS HEARING will resume on August 4, 5, and 6, 2026.

The mediation, prehearing conference, and resumed 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.

Charles Marson

Charles Marson
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings