

OPENING STATEMENT — RICHARD DORSEY

July 31, 2026 | Case 2025DR704 | ~3 minutes

Read slowly. Make eye contact. Speak to the judge, not Lauren. Don't read word for word — use this as a framework.

"Your Honor, my name is Richard Dorsey. I am Rae's father and I appear pro se. Thank you for the Court's time.

This hearing is about one question: where does Rae go to preschool this fall.

Rae is four years old. She has never been to school. Her older sister Lucia will be in first grade at Nederland Elementary this year. I enrolled Rae at Nederland so both sisters could go to school together — same drop-off, same building, same community — for Rae's very first year of school.

Colorado law asks what serves this child. For a four-year-old starting school for the first time, having her big sister down the hall is the most concrete form of stability I can give her. That's available at Nederland. It's not available at Mapleton.

I want to be straightforward about what I'm not disputing. Mapleton holds a higher Colorado Shines rating. I said so in my written response. But I contacted Gisela Sanchez — BVSD's own Child Find coordinator who screened Rae — and asked her in writing whether both schools provide the same Child Find services. She confirmed: yes, they do. That's Exhibit A. The rating difference doesn't change what Rae specifically will receive.

I also want the Court to know that BVSD has recommended a full evaluation for Rae following her June 4 screening. That evaluation hasn't happened yet. I believe Rae should start that process from a stable placement — at the school where her sister is — not from a school that was chosen to resolve a transportation problem.

Your Honor, I have remained in Ward throughout this proceeding. Rae and Lucia have remained in Ward. Every logistics concern Ms. Dorsey raises traces back to her own decision about where to live. I am not asking this Court to solve anyone's commute. I am asking it to let Rae start school in the same building as her sister, in the community where she has always lived.

I respectfully ask the Court to deny the motion and confirm Rae's enrollment at Nederland."

AFTER OPENING — WHAT COMES NEXT

- Present exhibits when directed by the judge
- Lead with Exhibit A (Gisela — same Child Find services)
- Have Exhibit J ready for primary household attack (Lauren agreed to Ward in writing)
- Have Exhibit H ready for unilateral enrollment attack (Lauren registered first, caused blockage)
- Every answer comes back to: what serves Rae