

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

NORWALK-LA MIRADA UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NO. 2013070486

ORDER GRANTING SECOND
REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE [NO
FURTHER] AND SETTING
MED/PHC/HRG

On September 3, 2013, the parties filed a second request for a continuance on the ground that they had entered an agreement to conduct independent educational evaluations (IEE's) of Student. The continuance sought an additional 120 days.

A due process hearing must be conducted and a decision rendered within 45 days of receipt of the due process notice unless an extension is granted for good cause. (34 C.F.R. § 300.515(a) & (c) (2006); Ed. Code, §§ 56502, subd. (f), 56505, subd. (f)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1020.) As a result, continuances are disfavored. Good cause may include the unavailability of a party, counsel, or an essential witness due to death, illness or other excusable circumstances; substitution of an attorney when the substitution is required in the interests of justice; a party's excused inability to obtain essential testimony or other material evidence despite diligent efforts; or another significant, unanticipated change in the status of the case as a result of which the case is not ready for hearing. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(c).) OAH considers all relevant facts and circumstances, including the proximity of the hearing date; previous continuances or delays; the length of continuance requested; the availability of other means to address the problem giving rise to the request; prejudice to a party or witness as a result of a continuance; the impact of granting a continuance on other pending hearings; whether trial counsel is engaged in another trial; whether the parties have stipulated to a continuance; whether the interests of justice are served by the continuance; and any other relevant fact or circumstance. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(d).)

OAH has reviewed the request for good cause and considered all relevant facts and circumstances. The request is:

Granted. All dates are vacated. However, no further continuances are contemplated for any reason, including failure to complete the IEE's. The parties are being granted more than adequate time given that under the IDEA, assessments are expected to be completed and an IEP meeting held within 60 days of consent. This matter will be set as follows:

Mediation:	January 7, 2014 at 9:30 AM
Prehearing Conference:	January 13, 2014 at 10:00 AM
Due Process Hearing:	January 21-23, 2014 at 1:30 PM first day, 9:30 AM other days, and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: September 03, 2013

/s/

RICHARD T. BREEN
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings