

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

CALIFORNIA VIRTUAL ACADEMY
AND WEST COVINA UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT.

OAH Case No. 2016031198

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR
CONTINUANCE AND SETTING
MEDIATION, PREHEARING
CONFERENCE AND DUE PROCESS
HEARING

On May 4, 2016, the parties filed a joint first request to continue the dates in this matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings.

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. This matter will be set as follows:

Mediation: June 7, 2016, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
California Virtual Academies
50 Moreland Road
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Prehearing Conference: July 15, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Due Process Hearing: July 26, 27, and 28, 2016,¹ and August 2, 2016, and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge. The hearing shall begin each day at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. with the exception of the first day of hearing, which shall begin at 9:30 a.m., unless otherwise ordered. The hearing shall take place at:
California Virtual Academies
50 Moreland Road
Simi Valley, CA 93065

The parties shall immediately notify all potential witnesses of the hearing dates, and shall subpoena witnesses if necessary, to ensure that the witnesses will be available to testify. A witness will not be regarded as unavailable for purposes of showing “good cause” to continue the hearing if the witness is not properly notified of the hearing date or properly subpoenaed, as applicable.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: May 5, 2016

DocuSigned by:
Kara Hatfield
8085C9417D1C4CE
KARA HATFIELD
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings

¹ OAH is not available to begin the due process hearing on the date requested. However, in granting this joint request for continuance, OAH has calendared four days for the due process hearing, as requested.