

BEFORE THE  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS.

OAH CASE NO. 2012110693

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

On January 3, 2013, the Santa Rosa City Schools (District) filed a request to continue the dates in this matter due to unavailability of counsel. District stated in its request that Student's counsel was in agreement with the request. Furthermore, District stated that Student's counsel requested mediation, though the case was previously filed as a hearing only request.

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).) The Office of Administrative Hearings (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: January 24, 2013, at 9:30 AM<sup>1</sup>  
Prehearing Conference: February 4, 2013, at 10:00 AM  
Due Process Hearing: February 13 – 14, 2013 at 9:30 AM, and continuing  
day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at  
the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 9, 2013

/s/

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BOB VARMA  
Presiding Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings

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<sup>1</sup> This case was filed as a hearing only request by Student, however, parties may always jointly request a mediation even though mediation was previously waived. Accordingly, based upon District's representation that Student consents to and requests mediation, OAH has calendared mediation. If the parties do not wish to participate in mediation they may cancel the mediation.