

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

LUCIA MAR UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT,

v.

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT.

OAH CASE NO. 2012120797

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

On January 31, 2013, Parent, on behalf of Student, filed a request to continue the dates in this matter on the grounds that Student's family had recently moved to a new residence which impacted Parent's ability to prepare for hearing, and Student required further time to obtain representation and retain an expert witness. On February 4, 2013, the Lucia Mar Unified School District filed a non-opposition, but stated its concern, based upon prior litigation between the parties, that this matter may become a protracted litigation if Student asks for further continuances.

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:

Prehearing Conference: March 27, 2013, at 1:30 PM
Due Process Hearing: April 10 – 11, 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: February 5, 2013

/s/

BOB N. VARMA
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings