

BEFORE THE  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

VAL VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL  
DISTRICT,

v.

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT.

OAH CASE NO. 2014020761  
[consolidated with 2014040832 &  
2014030737]

ORDER GRANTING SECOND  
REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE [NO  
FURTHER] AND SETTING  
PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND  
HEARING

On May 15, 2014, the parties filed a second stipulated request for a continuance. No reasons were given, however, OAH had recently denied Student's request for a continuance that had been made on the ground that Student now had a conflict with the hearing date previously stipulated to by the parties. Student also had requested additional preparation time for hearing. The District had opposed Student's request based on availability of witnesses. In ruling on the current motion, OAH will look to these facts, and consider that the parties have now agreed to dates.

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, as this is the second continuance, no further continuances are contemplated for any reason. By stipulating to the continued hearing dates, both parties are representing that they are available and will be ready for hearing on the dates selected. This matter will be set as follows:

Mediation:	N/A
Prehearing Conference:	August 18, 2014 at 10:00 AM
Due Process Hearing:	August 25-28, 2014 at 1:30 PM first day, 9:00 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.

DATE: May 16, 2014

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