

BEFORE THE  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NO. 2014040553

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

On April 14, 2014, the parties filed a joint first request to continue the dates set for mediation, due process hearing and prehearing conference in this matter to agreed 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. Although the parties did not include an explanation for their failure to request dates within 90 days of the initial hearing date, the additional time requested permits the matter to be heard on consecutive days without a recess over a holiday weekend. Since the dates requested are more than ninety days from the initial hearing date, no further requests for continuance are anticipated. The request is:

Granted. All dates are vacated. This matter will be set as follows:

Mediation: June 4, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

Prehearing Conference: September 5, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.  
Due Process Hearing: September 15, 2014 at 1:30 p.m., and September 16, 17, and 18, 2014, beginning at 9:00 a.m., and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: May 14, 2014

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MARIAN H. TULLY  
Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings