

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. 2015040238

ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR
CONTINUANCE

On April 28, 2015, the parties filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings a joint request to continue the initially set dates in this matter. The parties requested mediation and hearing dates in October 2015. Matter presently set for hearing on May 20, 2015.

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:

Denied. All hearing dates and timelines shall proceed as calendared. Here, the parties have requested a continuance of the initially hearing dates, and OAH is inclined to grant the continuance. However, the parties requested a continuance of over five months with no explanation to justify such a lengthy continuance. The parties may re-submit the request to continue after they have agreed upon hearing dates within 90 days of the initially set hearing date, or provide declarations under

penalty of perjury that justify a five month continuance. If the parties are unable to agree on hearing dates, they may request OAH to select dates.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: April 28, 2015

/s/

PETER PAUL CASTILLO
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings