

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT,

v.

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT.

OAH Case No. 2015050835

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

On July 9, 2015, the parties participated in mediation and requested that the matter be continued to allow Student sufficient time to secure legal representation. The parties indicated they would like to mediate on August 18, 2015, but did not suggest new prehearing conference and hearing dates. This is the second request for a continuance in this matter.

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 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. Since the parties did not specifically request dates for the prehearing conference and hearing, This matter will be set as follows:

Mediation:	August 18, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.
Prehearing Conference:	September 18, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.
Due Process Hearing:	September 29, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., September 30, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., October 1, 2015, 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: July 13, 2015

/s/

MARGARET BROUSSARD
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings