

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT.

OAH Case No. 2015060071

ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR
CONTINUANCE

On June 25, 2015, Student filed a request to continue the dates in this matter based upon counsel's calendar conflict and the unavailability of an expert witness. Paramount Unified School District has not yet filed in response. No prior continuances have been granted 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).) 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 without prejudice. All hearing dates and timelines shall proceed as calendared. Here, Student has requested a continuance of the initially set hearing dates, and OAH is inclined to grant the continuance. However, Student did not discuss and confer with District regarding new hearing dates as required by OAH. The parties may re-submit the request to continue after they have agreed upon hearing

dates, or discuss the request at the June 29, 2015, PHC. If the parties are unable to agree on hearing dates, they may request OAH to select dates. The parties are also reminded to file their PHC statements.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: June 26, 2015

/s/

CHRIS BUTCHKO
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings