

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT AND NEW DESIGNS
CHARTER SCHOOL.

OAH CASE NO. 2014020837

ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR
CONTINUANCE

On February 21, 2014, Parent on behalf of Student filed a due process hearing request naming the Los Angeles Unified School District (District) and New Designs Charter School (Charter) as respondents.

On February 27, 2014, Student and District filed a joint request to continue the dates in this matter to mutually agreed dates in the near future. Charter did not join in the continuance request, and it does not appear that Charter was served with the request.

On March 6, 2014, Charter filed a notice of representation by counsel.

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, some, but not all, of the parties have requested a continuance of the hearing dates, and OAH is inclined to grant the continuance. However, all parties did not discuss and confer regarding new hearing dates as required by OAH. Forms are available on the OAH website that explain the procedure. Trial setting conferences are set only in unusual cases. The parties may re-submit the request to continue after they have agreed upon hearing dates. If the parties are unable to agree on hearing dates, they may request OAH to select dates.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: March 7, 2014

/s/

ALEXA J. HOHENSEE
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings