BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of: PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT, v. BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.	OAH Case No. 2016100887 ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE AND SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND DUE PROCESS HEARING

On November 22, 2016, District filed a filed an initial request to continue the dates in this matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings, based upon unavailability of counsel. On November 28, 2016, Student's counsel filed a response to the motion stating that Student did not oppose the requested continuance, but requested a Prehearing Conference on February 20, 2017.

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:

☒ Granted. All dates are vacated. The matter is continued to the dates set forth below:

Prehearing Conference:	February 17, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (February 20, 2017 is a holiday.)
Due Process Hearing:	February 28, 2017 at 9:30 a.m., and March 1 and 2, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.

The parties shall immediately notify all potential witnesses of the hearing dates, and shall subpoena witnesses if necessary, to ensure that the witnesses will be available to testify. A witness will not be regarded as unavailable for purposes of showing "good cause" to continue the hearing if the witness is not properly notified of the hearing date or properly subpoenaed, as applicable.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: November 29, 2016

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LAURIE GORSLINE
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings