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. 2018070037 ORDER GRANTING BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PEREMPTORY CHALLENGE

On August 21, 2018, Bellflower Unified School District filed a notice of peremptory challenge to Administrative Law Judge Chris Butchko in the above captioned matter. Bellflower's peremptory challenge was made pursuant to Government Code section 11425.40, subdivision (d), of the Administrative Procedures Act, and California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 1034.

Government Code section 11425.40, subdivision (d), establishes the criteria for disqualification of the presiding officer. A party is entitled to one peremptory challenge (disqualification without cause) to an ALJ assigned to an Office of Administrative Hearings hearing. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subds. (a) & (b); Gov. Code, § 11425.40, subd. (d).) In no event will a peremptory challenge be allowed if it is made after the hearing has commenced. In addition, if at the time of a scheduled prehearing conference, an ALJ has been assigned to the hearing, any challenge to the assigned ALJ shall be made no later than commencement of that prehearing conference. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subd. (c).) A peremptory challenge is not allowed on reconsideration or remand, and cannot be made after a hearing has begun. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subd. (a).)

Bellflower's peremptory challenge is timely made and is granted pursuant to Government section 11425.40, subdivisions (a) and (d), and California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 1034, subdivision (c).

ORDER

1. Bellflower's challenge of ALJ Butchko is granted. Matter is now assigned to ALJ Linda Johnson.

2. The previous set prehearing conference and hearing dates remain as calendared, except that the prehearing conference shall commence at 10:30 a.m.

DATE: September 28, 2018

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Peter Paul Castillo
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PETER PAUL CASTILLO
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings