BEFORE THE

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of: LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, v. PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT.	OAH Case No. 2017020037 ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE AND SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND DUE PROCESS HEARING

On February 1, 2017, Los Angeles Unified School District filed a request for a due process hearing naming Student. The scheduling order issued on February 1, 2017, provided a telephonic prehearing conference for February 24, 2017, and a due process hearing date of March 1, 2017. On February 21, 2017, parties filed a joint request to continue the dates in this matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings. OAH granted that request and rescheduled the telephonic prehearing conference for April 14, 2017, and a due process hearing date of April 24-27, 2017. On April 11, 2017, District filed a second request to continue the dates in this matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings, based upon unavailability of counsel. District has a scheduling conflict with a case that predates the instant matter. On April 11, 2017, Student filed a non-opposition and joinder as Student has a scheduling conflict with a potential witness.

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. This matter will be set as follows:

Prehearing Conference:	May 1, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.
Due Process Hearing:	May 8-11, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. on the first day, and 9:00 a.m., each additional day 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: April 12, 2017

DocuSigned by:
Linda Johnson
5092A92341544B9...

LINDA JOHNSON
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings