

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT AND SACRAMENTO
COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION.

OAH CASE NO. 2012120710

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR
CONTINUANCE AND SETTING
PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND
DUE PROCESS HEARING.

On February 1, 2013, the Sacramento City Unified School District (District) and the Sacramento County Office of Education (County) filed a joint request to continue the dates in this matter on the grounds of unavailability of counsel.¹ On February 5, 2013, Student filed a non-opposition to District and County's motion.

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).) The Office of Administrative Hearings (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).)

¹ One of the conflicts that counsel for District lists as good cause is mediation in another special education matter. This order does not make a finding that mediation in a special education matter is good cause to continue a due process hearing in another matter. The continuance is granted on other grounds.

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:	March 11, 2013, at 1:30 PM
Due Process Hearing:	March 20, 2013, at 9:30 AM, and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: February 5, 2013

/s/

BOB N. VARMA
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings