

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

COMPTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH Case No. 2015041214

ORDER FOLLOWING PRE-HEARING
CONFERENCE

On September 11, 2015, a telephonic prehearing conference was held before Administrative Law Judge Judith L. Pasewark, Office of Administrative Hearings. Sheila Y. Harrison, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of Student. Elliot R. Field, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of Compton Unified School District. The PHC was recorded.

Based on discussion of the parties, the ALJ issues the following order:

1. Hearing Dates, Times, and Location. The hearing shall take place on September 22, 23, and 24, 2015, continuing day to day thereafter, Monday through Thursday as needed, at the discretion of the ALJ. The hearing shall begin each day at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered

The hearing shall take place at the District's offices located at Caldwell Elementary School, L-Annex, Room L-18, 2300 Caldwell Street, Compton, California 90220. District shall provide a facility for the hearing that fully complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794), the Unruh Civil rights Act (Civ. Code, § 51 et seq.), and all laws governing accessibility of government facilities to persons with disabilities.¹

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

¹ At a minimum for the hearing, the room shall be accessible and have separate tables capable of being moved into a courtroom configuration, and be accessible, as follows: (1) one table for Student's representatives; (2) one table for District's representatives; (3) one table for the ALJ with a nearby electrical outlet; and (4) one witness table. District shall ensure that all parties and the ALJ have drinking water and tissue available to them.

continue the hearing if the witness is not properly notified of the hearing date or properly subpoenaed, as applicable.

2. Issues and Proposed Resolutions. The issues at the due process hearing are listed below.²

a) Whether District denied Student a free appropriate public education by failing to assess Student in all areas of suspected disability, including triennial assessments.

b) Whether District denied Student a free appropriate public education by failing to provide an appropriate individualized transition plan by:

1) failing to provide Student an appropriate individualized transition plan;

2) failing to conduct appropriate transition assessments relating to training, education, employment and independent living skills;

3) failing to include appropriately tailored and measurable goals in Student's individualized transition plan related to training, education, employment and independent living skills;

4) failing to provide student with transition services, including instruction, related services, community experiences, development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, daily living skills, and a functional vocational evaluation;

5) failing to consider Student's intellectual disability when developing his individualized transition plan; and failing to update Student's individualized transition plan goals annually.

c) Whether District denied Student a free appropriate public education by failing to offer an appropriate individualized education program designed to meet his unique needs by:

1) failing to consider Student's intellectual disability;

2) failing to include statements of Student's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance in his 2013, 2014, and 2015 individualized education programs;

3) misrepresenting 2009 assessment data as Student's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance;

² All issues encompass the period of April 17, 2013 to April 17, 2015.

4) failing to conduct appropriate assessments to determine Student's present levels of academic and functional performance; and

5) failing to monitor and provide parent periodic reports on Student's progress toward meeting annual individualized education program goals.

d) Whether District denied Student a free appropriate public education by predetermining a change in placement from high school to graduation.

e) Whether District denied Student a free appropriate public education by:

1) failing to conduct appropriate assessments in all areas of suspected disability prior to changing Student's educational placement; and

2) failing to conduct an educationally related intensive counseling services assessment.

f) Whether District denied Student a free appropriate public education by failing to provide Student and Parent with a full and complete copy of Student's educational records.

Student's proposed resolutions include:

a) District be ordered to fund independent educational evaluations in all areas of suspected disability, including but not limited to psycho-educational, behavioral social skills, mental health, language and speech, independent living, and vocational skills, with follow-up individualized education program team meeting.

b) District be ordered to fund compensatory placement in a private or non-public school of Parent's choice, with transportation;

c) District be ordered to fund compensatory education in all areas of need, including intensive 1:1 academic instruction and/or educational therapy, counseling and mental health services, and vocational and independent living, with transportation, and to be provided by non-public agencies.

d) District be ordered to produce Student's complete cumulative school records.

3. Exhibits. Exhibits shall be pre-marked and placed in three-ring exhibit binders prior to the hearing. The parties shall use numbers to identify exhibits, but shall place the letter "S" or "D" in front of the exhibit to designate if it is a Student or District exhibit (for example, "S-5, S-6, or D-1, D-2"). Each exhibit shall be internally paginated by exhibit, or all of a party's exhibits shall be Bates-stamped. Each exhibit binder shall contain a detailed table of contents. The parties represent that they have served their evidence binders on each other in compliance with Education Code section 56505, subdivision (e)(7).

At the hearing, each party shall supply an exhibit binder containing its exhibits for use by the ALJ, and a second exhibit binder for use by witnesses. The parties may not serve exhibits on OAH prior to the hearing. In the event of duplicate exhibits, the most legible version will be used.

Except for good cause shown, or unless used solely for rebuttal or impeachment, any exhibit not included in the exhibit lists and not previously exchanged shall not be admitted into evidence at the hearing unless it is supported by written declaration under penalty of perjury, and the ALJ rules that it is admissible.

4. Witnesses. Each party is responsible for procuring the attendance at hearing of its own witnesses. Each party shall make witnesses under its control reasonably available. The parties shall schedule their witnesses to avoid delays in the hearing and to minimize or eliminate the need for calling witnesses out of order. Neither party shall be permitted to call any witnesses not disclosed in the party's prehearing conference statement except for good cause shown, supported by written declaration under penalty of perjury, and at the discretion of the ALJ.

The parties are ordered to meet and confer by September 18, 2015, to schedule witnesses. The parties shall coordinate the availability and order of testimony of witnesses to ensure there is a witness available to testify at all times during the hearing, and to ensure the hearing is completed as scheduled.

The parties are encouraged to review and shorten their witness lists prior to the hearing, bearing in mind that evidence will be excluded if it is repetitive, cumulative, or insufficiently probative to justify the time it would take to hear. The ALJ has discretion to limit the number of witnesses who testify and the time allowed for witnesses' testimony.

5. Scope of Witness Examination. After the first direct and cross-examinations, each party shall be limited in examining the witness to only those matters raised in the immediately preceding examination.

6. Telephonic Testimony. Whether a witness may appear by telephone is a matter within the discretion of the ALJ. Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 3082, subd. (g). Any party seeking to present a witness by telephone shall move in advance for leave to do so, unless the opposing party has stipulated that the witness may appear by telephone. The proponent of the witness shall provide the proposed witness with a complete set of exhibit binders from all parties, containing all of each party's exhibits, prior to the hearing; and shall ensure that the hearing room has sound equipment that allows everyone in the room to hear the witness, and the witness to hear objections and rulings. No witness will be heard by telephone unless all these requirements have been fulfilled.

7. Motions. No pretrial motions are pending or contemplated. Any motion filed after this date shall be supported by a declaration under penalty of perjury establishing good

cause as to why the motion was not made prior to or during the prehearing conference of September 11, 2015.

8. Stipulations. Stipulations to pertinent facts, contentions or resolutions are encouraged. Any proposed stipulation shall be submitted to the assigned ALJ in written form.

9. Conduct of Counsel and Hearing Room Decorum. Counsel, all parties, and all witnesses shall conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner at all times. Cellular phones, pagers, recorders, and other noisemaking electronic devices shall be shut off or set to vibrate during the hearing unless permission to the contrary is obtained from the ALJ.

10. Compensatory Education/Reimbursement. Any party seeking reimbursement of expenditures shall present admissible evidence of these expenditures, or a stipulation to the amount of expenditures, as part of its case in chief. A party seeking compensatory education should provide evidence regarding the type, amount, duration, and need for any requested compensatory education.

11. Special Needs and Accommodations. At present neither party anticipates the need for special accommodation for any witness or party, or for translation services.

A party of participant to this case, such as a witness, requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the hearing may contact the assigned calendar clerk at (916) 263-0880, or the OAH ADA Coordinator at OAHADA@dgs.ca.gov or at (916) 263-0880 as soon as the need is made known. Additional information concerning a request for reasonable accommodation is available on OAH's website at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/oah.Home/Accommodations.aspx>

12. Hearing Closed To the Public. At the request of the parent, the hearing will be closed to the public.

13. Settlement. The parties are encouraged to continue working together to reach an agreement before the due process hearing. The parties shall inform OAH in writing immediately should they reach a settlement or otherwise resolve the dispute before the scheduled hearing. In addition, if a settlement is reached within five days of the scheduled start of the due process hearing, the parties shall also inform OAH of the settlement by telephone at (916) 263-0880.

If the matter settles subject to board approval, in addition to a signed copy of the signature page of the settlement agreement as noted above, the parties shall submit a request for a status conference and provide the date of the next board meeting. The hearing dates will not be cancelled without this information.

IF A FULL AND FINAL WRITTEN SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IS REACHED AFTER 5:00 P.M. THE DAY PRIOR TO HEARING, THE PARTIES SHALL LEAVE A VOICEMAIL MESSAGE REGARDING THE SETTLEMENT AT (916) 274-6035. THE PARTIES SHOULD ALSO LEAVE CONTACT INFORMATION SUCH AS CELLULAR PHONE NUMBERS OF EACH PARTY OR COUNSEL FOR EACH PARTY. THE PARTIES SHOULD SIMULTANEOUSLY FAX THE SIGNATURE PAGE OF THE SIGNED AGREEMENT OR A LETTER WITHDRAWING THE CASE TO THE OAH AT THE FAXINATION LINE at 916-376-6319.

Dates for hearing will not be cancelled until the letter of withdrawal or signature page of the signed agreement has been received by OAH. If an agreement in principle is reached, the parties should plan to attend the scheduled hearing unless different arrangements have been agreed upon by the assigned ALJ. The assigned ALJ will check for messages the evening prior to the hearing or the morning of the hearing.

14. Failure to comply with this order may result in the exclusion of evidence or other sanctions.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: September 11, 2015

/s/

JUDITH PASEWARK
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings