

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:
PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

NATOMAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2021080448

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

JANUARY 11, 2022

On January 11, 2022, the parties jointly filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings, referred to as OAH, a request to continue this matter, based upon a desire to mediate the claims in Student's Amended Complaint and scheduling conflicts among all the attorneys.

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. (Ed. Code, § 56505, subd. (f)(3); 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 or imposing conditions on the continuance; and any other relevant fact or circumstance. (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 continuance request is granted. This matter will be set as follows:

Mediation will be held on February 14, 2022, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The mediation will be held by video or telephone conference. to location change or cancellation.

Prehearing Conference will be held on April 1, 2022, at 10:00 AM.

Due Process Hearing will be held on April 12, 13, and 14, 2022. The hearing shall begin at 9:30 AM on all days unless otherwise ordered. The hearing shall continue day to day, 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 their availability to testify. Good cause for witness unavailability is not established by failing to properly notify or subpoena a witness. Prehearing conference statements and motions are due to OAH no later than three business days before the prehearing conference or with evidence of good cause why it was not possible to file the motion by that date.

Student's original complaint was filed on August 16, 2021. Due to the age of this case, it takes priority over other later-filed matters and no further continuances will be granted without a showing of exceptionally good cause.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Kara Hatfield

Kara Hatfield

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings