BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:	
PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,	OAH Case No. 2015090860
v.	ORDER GRANTING DISTRICT'S REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE AND SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND HEARING
HEMET UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.	

On October 30, 2015, at the telephonic prehearing conference Student submitted a request to continue the hearing based upon his desire to attain an attorney to represent him in this matter. District opposed the request. OAH granted the request after getting available dates for both parties and set the prehearing conference for February 8, 2016, and hearing for February 17 and 18, 2016.

On November 11, 2016, Hemet Unified School District, filed a request to continue the dates in this matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings, based upon its unavailability as its legal counsel at the prehearing conference was incorrect on the dates that District was on holiday. Student did not submit a response.

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. District established good cause for a one week delay. This matter will be set as follows:

Prehearing Conference:	February 12, 2016, at 1:00 PM
Due Process Hearing:	February, 22, 2016, at 1:30 PM, February 23, 2016 at 9:00 AM, 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: December 1, 2015

/S/

PETER PAUL CASTILLO
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings