BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2019060636

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

On October 8, 2019, the parties jointly filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings, referred to as OAH, a second request to continue this matter. The motion was supported by a declaration under penalty of perjury by Student's attorney, who asserted that Student is undergoing independent educational evaluations at public expense that may provide essential information regarding requested remedies and issues. The parties anticipate the evaluation will be completed within 90 days.

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 parties have established good cause for a continuance. However, because this case was filed in June 2019, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act mandates speedy resolution of these cases, OAH does not contemplate granting any further continuances. The request is granted. All dates are vacated. This matter will be set as follows:

Prehearing Conference will be held on January 3, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Due Process Hearing will be held on January 14, 15, and 16, 2020. The hearing shall begin at 9:30 AM the first day, and at 9:00 AM on all other 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.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: October 8, 2019

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Adrienne L. Krikorian
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Adrienne L. Krikorian
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings