

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Westport Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Parent:

Jennifer Laviano, Esq.
Law Offices Jennifer Laviano, LLC
76 Route 37 South
Sherman, CT 06784

Appearing on behalf of the Board:

Andreana Bellach, Esq.
Shipman & Goodwin, LLP
300 Atlantic Avenue #300
Stamford, CT 06901

Appearing before:

Sylvia Ho, Esq.
Hearing Officer

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ISSUES:

1. Did the Board provide FAPE for the 2015-2016 school year?
2. If not, was Winston Prep an appropriate placement?
3. Did the Board offer an appropriate program for the 2016-2017 school year?
4. If not, is Riverview an appropriate placement?
5. Does the student require a residential placement?
6. If so, should the parents be reimbursed for the expenses for tuition and education related expenses and residential placement of student at Riverview?

PROCEDURAL HISTORY/SUMMARY:

The Parent filed the Due Process Complaint and Request for Hearing on July 7, 2016. The Hearing Officer was appointed on July 8, 2016 and conducted a Prehearing Conference on July 28, 2016. The parties jointly requested a postponement of the hearing date and an extension of the mailing date of the Final Decision to engage in mediation. The hearing was scheduled for October 14, 2016. On October 4, 2016, the Parent's attorney withdrew the Due Process without prejudice.

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:

The matter is **DISMISSED** without prejudice.

If the local or regional board of education or the unified school district responsible for providing special education for the student requiring special education does not take action on the findings or prescription of the hearing officer within fifteen days after receipt thereof, the State Board of Education shall take appropriate action to enforce the findings or prescription of the hearing officer.

Appeals from the hearing decision of the hearing officer may be made to state or federal court by either party in accordance with the provisions of Section 4-183, Connecticut General Statutes, and Title 20, United States Code 1415(i)(2)(A).


Hearing Officer Signature

Sylvia Ho
Hearing Officer Name in Print