

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Ridgefield Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Parents: Attorney Melanie Dunn  
Andrew A. Feinstein, Attorney at Law, LLC  
86 Denison Avenue  
Mystic, CT 06355

Appearing on behalf of the Board: Attorney Marsha Moses  
Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C.  
75 Broad Street  
Milford, CT 06460

Appearing before: Justino Rosado, Esq.  
Hearing Officer

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**

**ISSUES:**

1. Was the program provided by the Board for the 2014-2015 school year appropriate and did it provide the Student with a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE)? If not:
2. Should the Student be placed at The Institute for Professional Practice (IPP) in Stratford, CT at public expense?
3. Is the Student entitled to Compensatory Education for the denial of FAPE?

**SUMMARY AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY:**

The Student has been identified with Autism and is entitled to receive a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment as defined in the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) 20 U.S.C. §1401 et seq. and Connecticut General Statute §10-76a et seq. At a planning and placement team (PPT) meeting, the Parents rejected the program offered by the Board for the 2014-2015 school year. The Parents requested placement at IPP in Stratford, CT at public expense. The Board refused the Parents' request. The Parents filed for due process.

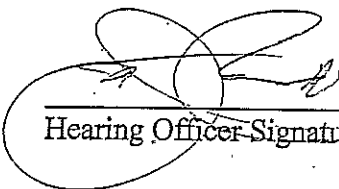
The Board received notice of the request for due process on April 30, 2015. An impartial hearing officer was appointed on April 30, 2015 and a pre-hearing conference was held on May 6, 2015. A hearing date of July 21, 2015 was chosen by the parties but was cancelled at the parties' request to allow for mediation in lieu of a resolution session. Mediation took place on July 21, 2015 but was unsuccessful. The hearing was rescheduled for September 9, 2015, at which time the parties requested time to resolve the matter. The parties were able to resolve the matter and the matter was withdrawn with prejudice. The date for mailing the Final Decision and Order is October 9, 2015.

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:**

**THE MATTER IS DISMISSED WITH 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

Justino Rosado  
Hearing Officer Name in Print