

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student and Darien Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Student:

Attorney Andrew A. Feinstein  
86 Denison Avenue  
Mystic, CT 06355

Appearing on behalf of the Board of Education:

Attorney Andreana Bellach  
Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
200 Atlantic Avenue  
Stamford, CT 06901-3522

Appearing before:

Attorney Ann F. Bird, Hearing Officer

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**

**ISSUES:**

1. Did the Board of Education offer the Student a Free Appropriate Public Education in the Least Restrictive Environment for the 2014/2015 School Year?
2. If not, is the Villa Maria School appropriate for the Student?
3. If so, should the Board of Education reimburse the Student for the expense of the Villa Maria School program for the 2014/2015 School Year?

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:**

The Student filed this request for special education due process hearing on July 23, 2014. The Impartial Hearing Officer was appointed to the case on July 23, 2014. A prehearing conference was held on August 4, 2014. Attorney Andrew Feinstein appeared for the Student and Attorney Andreana Bellach appeared for the Board of Education. An evidentiary hearing was scheduled for October 8, 2014. The deadline for submitting the decision was established to be October 6, 2014.

On September 29, 2014 the Student reported that the parties were engaged in settlement discussions and requested that the October 8, 2014 hearing be cancelled and a new hearing scheduled for late October 2014. The Student also requested that the deadline for submitting the decision be extended for thirty days. These requests were granted and a new hearing date was scheduled.

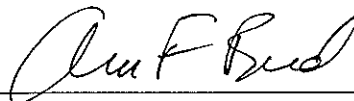
On October 28, 2014, the Student reported that the parties had finalized a settlement and requested that the matter be dismissed.

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:**

It is ordered that the Student's request for dismissal is granted and this matter is dismissed.

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

ANN F BIRD

Hearing Officer

Name in Print