

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Stamford Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Parent:

Attorney Andrew Feinstein
Attorney At Law, LLC
86 Denison Ave.
Mystic, CT 06355

Appearing on behalf of the Board:

Attorney Christopher Tracey
Shipman & Goodwin, LLP
300 Atlantic Avenue
Stamford, CT 06901-3522

Appearing before:

Robert L. Skelley, Esq., Hearing Officer

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ISSUES:

1. Did the Stamford Board of Education ("Board") fail to provide the Student with a free and appropriate public education ("FAPE") for the 2012-2013 academic years?
2. Did the Board fail to provide the Student with a FAPE for the 2013-2014 academic years?
3. Does the Student require an extended school year ("ESY"), and if so, did the Board fail to provide the Student with an appropriate ESY program for the summer of 2013?
4. Did the Board fail to provide the Student with an appropriate ESY program for the summer of 2014?
5. Did the Board fail to timely evaluate the Student in all areas of suspected disability, and if so, are the Guardians entitled to reimbursement from public funds for the Speech and Language Evaluation completed by Meryl Aronin, M.A., CCC-SLP, tutoring and speech and language therapy for the 2013 school year?
6. Did the Board commit procedural violations of the IDEA and related State special education laws, and if so was it to the extent that the Guardians were denied the ability to meaningfully participate in the planning and placement process resulting in a denial of FAPE for the Student?
7. Does the Student require an out of district placement, and if so, are the Guardians entitled to reimbursement for their unilateral placement of the Student at Villa Maria?

PROCEDURAL HISTORY:

This matter was filed by the Guardians on October 7, 2014. The undersigned was assigned this matter on the same date. A prehearing conference was held on November 7, 2014, at which the issues listed above were identified. On November 7, 2014, the Guardians requested an extension of the final decision and order date to allow for mediation in December. The request was granted and a hearing date of December 17, 2014 was set with a final decision and order date of January 17, 2015. The hearing date of December 17, 2014 was subsequently cancelled as the Parties had reached agreement and needed time to memorialize the agreement. On January 6, 2015 the Guardians withdrew the complaint, with prejudice.

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:

With the withdrawal of the complaint by the Guardians on January 6, 2015, and with no further issues to be decided, this 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

Robert L. Skelley, Esq.

Hearing Officer

Name in Print