

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Stratford Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Parent: Attorney Courtney Spencer  
The Law Office of Courtney Spencer, LLC  
100 Riverview Center, Suite 120  
Middletown, CT 06457

Appearing on behalf of the Board: Attorney Michelle Laubin  
Attorney Megan Buxton  
Berchem, Moses and Devlin, P.C.  
75 Broad Street  
Milford, CT 06460

Appearing before: Robert L. Skelley, Esq.  
Hearing Officer

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**

**ISSUES:**

1. Is the placement offered to the Student for the 2014-2015 (09/01/2014 forward) academic years by the Stratford Board of Education ("Board") appropriate?
2. If the answer to issue number 1 is NO; in order for the Student to receive a free and appropriate public education ("FAPE"), is residential placement at Kildonan appropriate?
3. If the answer to issue number 2 is NO; what then is the appropriate program and placement for the Student?

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:**

The Parents filed the request for due process hearing on June 18, 2014. A prehearing conference was held on June 26, 2014, from which the issues listed above were identified. At the prehearing conference, and later in a specific writing, the Parents asked to extend the resolution period to allow the Parties to engage in mediation. There was no objection from the Board and the request was granted. A due process hearing date was set for August 26, 2014. Due to scheduling errors and then subsequent issues, the Parties requested that the August 26, 2014 hearing date be re-scheduled and the final decision and order date be extended. The hearing date was moved to September 16, 2014, with the subsequent final decision and order date moved to October 1, 2014. Mediation was scheduled and took place on August 14, 2014. The Parties reached agreement and subsequently, the Parents withdrew their request for due process with prejudice.

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:**

The Parents have requested that this matter be withdrawn with prejudice. 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