

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Ridgefield Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Student: Attorney Phillip Cohn  
Goldman, Gruder & Woods, LLC  
200 Connecticut Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06854

Appearing on behalf of the Board: Attorney Michelle Laubin  
Berchem, Moses, and Devlin PC  
75 Broad Street  
Milford, CT 06460

Appearing before: Attorney Brette H. Fitton  
Hearing Officer

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**

**ISSUES:**

1. Did the Board commit procedural violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by failing to address Parent concerns and failing to consider Parents' private evaluation?
2. If the Board committed a procedural violation, did that procedural violation operate to deny the Student a Free Appropriate Public Education ("FAPE")?
3. Did the Board fail to provide the Student with a FAPE for the 2013-2014 school year?
4. Is the program proposed by the Board for the 2014-2015 school year appropriate?
5. If the program proposed by the Board for the 2014-2015 school year is not appropriate, what is the appropriate program?
6. Is the program proposed by the Board for the 2015 Extended School Year "ESY" appropriate?
7. If the program proposed by Board for the 2015 ESY is not appropriate, what is the appropriate program?

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND SUMMARY:**

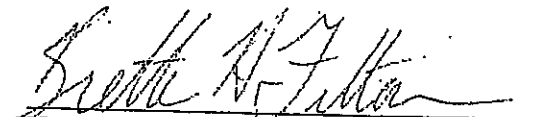
On September 3, 2014, the Ridgefield Board of Education received a Request for a Special Education Due Process Hearing. On September 4, 2014, the undersigned Hearing Officer was appointed. On September 22, 2014, a prehearing conference was held during which hearing dates of October 22, 2014 and October 30, 2014 were set and the deadline for the mailing of the Final Decision and Order was established as November 17, 2014. On October 13, 2014, Counsel for the Student requested a postponement of the first date of hearing in order to allow the parties to participate in settlement negotiations. This request was granted. On October 30, 2014, Counsel for the Student withdrew the hearing request on the record during the first day of hearing.

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:**

In light of the above facts, the case 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

Brette H. Fitton  
Hearing Officer      Name in Print