

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Groton Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Parents: Attorney Melanie Dunn  
Feinstein Education Law Group, LLC  
86 Denison Avenue  
Mystic, Ct 06355

Appearing on behalf of the Board: Attorney Michelle Laubin  
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 from February 28, 2014 to the end of 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)?
2. Was the program provided by the Board for the 2014-2015 school year appropriate and did it provide the Student with FAPE in the LRE?
3. Is the program provided by the Board for the 2015-2016 school year appropriate and does it provide the Student with FAPE in the LRE? If not;
4. Does the Student require placement at River Street-Coltsville in order to receive FAPE in the LRE?
5. Did the Board evaluate the Student in all areas of suspected disability?
6. Should the Board reimburse the Parents for the psychological evaluation performed by Dr. Perry Staltaro?
7. Should the Board reimburse the Parents for the speech and language evaluations performed by Dr. Nancy Schwartz?
8. Is the Student entitled to Compensatory Education for the denial of FAPE?

**SUMMARY AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY:**

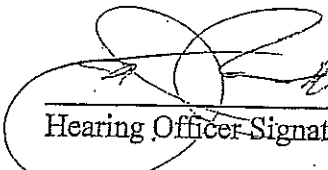
The Student has been identified with Autism and is entitled to receive FAPE as defined in the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) 20 U.S.C. §1401 et seq. and Connecticut General Statute §10-76a et seq. At a planning and placement team (PPT) meeting, the Parents rejected the program provided by the Board for the 2015-2016 school year and requested placement of the Student at River Street-Coltsville; the Board refused the Parents' request. On July 16, 2015, the Board received notice of the Parents' request for due process. The parties held a resolution session on August 17, 2015. An impartial hearing officer was appointed on July 16, 2015 and a pre-hearing conference was held on July 24, 2015. In an electronic transmission, the Parents' attorney informed the hearing officer that the matter was being withdrawn without prejudice. There was no objection by the Board. The date for the mailing of the Final Decision and Order, October 29, 2015, was extended to accommodate the hearing date.

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:**

**THE MATTER IS DISMISSED WITHOUT 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