

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Stamford Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Parent: Courtney Spencer, Esq.  
The Law Offices of Courtney Spencer, LLC  
101 Riverview Center, Ste. 120  
Middletown, CT 06457

Appearing on behalf of the Board: Attorney Christopher Tracey  
Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
300 Atlantic Avenue  
Stamford, CT 06901

Appearing before: Justino Rosado, Esq.  
Hearing Officer

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**

**ISSUES:**

1. Is the program provided by the Board for the 2015-2016 school year appropriate and does it provide the Student with a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE)? If not;
2. Should the Board place the Student at the Beacon School, at Greenwich Education Group in Stamford, CT, with services provided by the Collaborative Center for the 2015-2016 school year in order to receive FAPE in the LRE?

**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 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 offered to the Student for the 2015-2016 school year. The Parents requested placement at the Beacon School at Greenwich Education Group in Stamford, Connecticut with services provided by the Collaborative Center for the 2015-2016 school year. The Board refused the Parents' request.

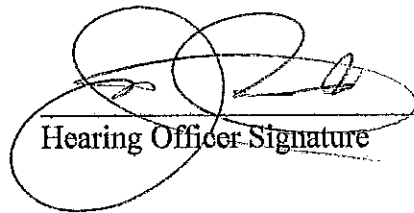
On September 25, 2015, the Board received notice of the Student's request for due process. An impartial hearing officer was appointed on September 25, 2015 and a pre-hearing conference was held on October 5, 2015. The parties agreed to attend a mediation on December 4, 2015. In an electronic transmission dated December 21, 2015, the hearing officer was advised that the matter had been resolved but an agreement had not been fully executed. The Parents' attorney withdrew the matter without prejudice. There was no objection by the Board. The mailing date of the Final Decision and Order was extended to January 8, 2016 to accommodate the mediation.

**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