

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Regional School District No. 15

Appearing on Behalf of the Parent: Attorney Alyce L. Alfano
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Appearing on Behalf of the Board: Attorney Susan C. Freedman
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Appearing Before: Attorney Gail K. Mangs, Hearing Officer

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

This hearing was requested on September 17, 2003. A prehearing conference was convened on September 23, 2003 at which time the parties requested, and was granted, a continuance in order to proceed to an advisory opinion. A hearing date was set for November 13, 2003. On November 11, 2003, the parents faxed a letter to the hearing officer requesting another postponement in order to obtain an independent evaluation and continue discussion of a possible resolution of the case. While the hearing officer was unable to review this request until the late afternoon of November 12, 2003, the request was also not sent in a timely fashion, that is, five days before the hearing date as required. The hearing officer went to the school district on November 13, 2003 as scheduled; the school district attorney was present but the parents and their attorney were not in attendance. The hearing was not convened but the record was briefly opened to describe the circumstances. Due to the untimely request for continuance, the length of time that has elapsed since the initial hearing request and the uncertain amount of time needed to complete the independent evaluation, the hearing will be dismissed without prejudice.

Final Decision and Order:

This hearing is dismissed without prejudice.