

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Bridgeport Board of Education and Achievement First Bridgeport Academy

Appearing on behalf of the Parent: Attorney Robin Keller  
Law Office of Robin Keller, LLC  
50 Washington Street, Suite 921  
Hartford, CT 06854

Appearing on behalf of the Board: Attorney Gwen Zittoun  
Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
One Constitution Plaza  
Hartford, CT 06103-1919

Appearing on behalf of AFBA: Attorney Elizabeth Adams  
Elizabeth Adams Law Office  
81 Wethersfield Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06114-1156

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

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**

**ISSUES:**

1. Was the Student denied a Free Appropriate Public Education (“FAPE”) based upon a failure to comply with Child Find requirements under IDEA and State law from 12/15/2012 to the filing date of 12/15/2014?
  - A. If Student was denied a FAPE due to a violation of Child Find requirements under IDEA and State law from 12/15/2012 through 12/15/14, is the Bridgeport Board of Education (“Board”) responsible? If the Board is responsible, is it in whole or in part?
  - B. If student was denied FAPE due to a violation of Child Find requirements under IDEA and State law from 12/15/2012 through 12/15/14, is Achievement First Bridgeport Academy responsible (“AFBA”)? If AFBA is responsible, is it in whole or in part?
2. Was the Student denied a FAPE by a failure of a responsible Party to adhere to procedural safeguards?
  - A. If Student was denied a FAPE due to a violation of procedural safeguards, is the Board responsible? If so, are they responsible in whole or in part?
  - B. If Student was denied FAPE due to a violation of procedural safeguards, is AFBA responsible? If so, are they responsible in whole or in part?

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:**

This matter was filed by the Parents on December 15, 2014. The prehearing conference was held on January 12, 2015, during which the above issues were identified. An initial due process hearing date was set for February 26, 2015. The Parties agreed to utilize the State mediation process, which was subsequently set for February 9, 2015. On February 6, 2015, the Parents requested an adjournment of the February 9, 2015 mediation as the Parties were close to resolution of the issues. The Parties subsequently reached resolution later that day and the Parents withdrew the request for due process, with prejudice.

March 16, 2015

Final Decision and Order: 15-0278

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:**

With the withdrawal of the complaint by the Parents on February 6, 2015, and 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