

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Ridgefield Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Parent:

Piper Paul, Esq.
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1465 Post Road East, #100
Westport, CT 06880

Appearing on behalf of the Board:

Christopher Tracey, Esq.
Shipman & Goodwin, LLP
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Stamford, CT 06901-3522

Appearing before:

Patrick L. Kennedy, Esq.
Hearing Officer

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ISSUES:

1. Did the District deprive the Student of FAPE by failing to offer an appropriate program for the 2017-18 school year (for the period not more than two years prior to the filing of this hearing request)?
2. Did the District deprive the Student of FAPE by failing to offer an appropriate program for the 2018-19 school year?
3. Did the District deprive the Student of FAPE by failing to offer an appropriate program for the 2019-20 school year?
4. Did the District deprive the Student of FAPE by failing to offer an appropriate program for the 2020-21 school year?
5. If the District has failed to provide FAPE, is the program provided by Villa Maria School an appropriate one for the Student?
6. If the District has failed to provide FAPE and the program at Villa Maria is appropriate, should the District be ordered to reimburse the Parents for expenses already incurred in the placement at Villa Maria and place the Student at that school for the 2020-21 school year (including 2021 ESY)?

7. Should the District be ordered to reimburse the Parents for additional related expenses including, but not limited to, costs for private evaluations and speech therapies not covered by insurance?

SUMMARY AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY:

Case 20-0442 was commenced by the Parents by request received by the Board on May 15, 2020. A prehearing conference was held on May 21, 2020. At the prehearing conference, a hearing date was set for July 7, 2020 and the decision date was determined to be July 29, 2020. The hearing date was later cancelled and the decision date extended to October 27, 2020.

On October 20, 2020, the undersigned hearing officer was advised by the attorney for the Parents that the matter was being withdrawn without prejudice.

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:

The matter is dismissed without prejudice.