

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

<b>MARY F. DICKENS,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>Appellant,</b>	:	
	:	<b>CASE NO. 1989-31</b>
<b>v.</b>	:	
	:	<b>DECISION</b>
	:	
<b>DEKALB COUNTY</b>	:	
<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>Appellee.</b>	:	

This is an appeal by Mary F. Dickens (“Appellant”) from a decision by the DeKalb County Board of Education (“Local Board”) not to renew her teaching contract for the 1989-1990 school year because she failed to maintain a valid Georgia teaching certificate. The decision of the Local Board is sustained.

Appellant was employed by the Local Board for a number of years. During the 1986-1987 and 1987-1988 school years, she was employed as a reading specialist with a PAT6 certificate that was valid until August, 1988. She also held a T5 certificate that was similarly valid until August, 1988.

On January 13, 1988, the Local Board granted Appellant a medical leave of absence. She was absent for the remainder of the 1987-1988 school year, and did not return for the 1988-1989 school year. On March 14, 1989, the Local Superintendent informed Appellant that he would not recommend renewal of her contract because she did not hold a valid teaching certificate. Appellant requested a hearing on the charge and the matter was referred to a tribunal assembled by the Professional Practices Commission for a hearing. The hearing was conducted on August 14, 1989.

During the hearing, the Local Board presented evidence that Appellant’s teaching certificates had expired in August, 1988, and she had not renewed them. Appellant had taken a sufficient number of class hours to renew her certificate, but she had not taken the Teacher

Certification Test. Appellant did not present any evidence that she was qualified to hold a valid teaching certificate.

The Hearing Tribunal found that Appellant did not hold a valid teaching certificate and recommended against renewal of her teaching contract. The Local Board adopted the Hearing Tribunal's findings and recommendations. Appellant then filed a timely appeal to the State Board of Education.

The standard for review by the State Board of Education is that if there is any evidence to support the decision of the local board of education, then the local board's decision will stand unless there has been an abuse of discretion, or the decision is so arbitrary and capricious as to be illegal. See, Ransum v. Chattooga County Bd. of Educ., 144 Ga. App. 783 (1978); Antone v. Greene County Bd. of Educ., Case No. 1976-11. In the instant case, the evidence was clear that Appellant did not hold a valid teaching certificate. Appellant did not present any evidence to show that the Local Board abused its discretion.

Based upon the foregoing, the State Board of Education is of the opinion that Appellant has not shown that the decision of the Local Board was erroneous. The decision of the Local Board, therefore, is  
SUSTAINED.

This 8th day of January, 1989.

Mr. Owens and Mr. Blanchard were not present

John M. Taylor  
Vice Chairman For Appeals