STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE OF GEORGIA

NATASHA D., :

:

Appellant,

CASE NO. 1996-34

VS. : CASE NO. 1770-34

: DECISION

GWINNETT COUNTY:

BOARD OF EDUCATION, :

:

Appellee. :

This is an appeal by Natasha D. (Student), an eighth-grader, from a decision by the Gwinnett County Board of Education (Local Board) to uphold the decision of a Student Disciplinary Tribunal to suspend her for the remainder of the 1995-1996 school year after finding that she violated three rules of student conduct when she entered a sixth-grade classroom and began fighting with a sixth-grade student. The Student was given an opportunity to attend an alternative school during her suspension period. The suspension period is over and the State Board of Education cannot provide the Student with any relief. The issues raised, therefore, are moot. In addition, the appeal was not timely filed. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1160 requires appeals to be filed within 30 days after a local board's decision. The Local Board in this case received the appeal two days late. Based upon these factors, the appeal is hereby DISMISSED.

This 8th day of August, 1996.

Mr. Brinson, Mr. Sessoms, and Ms. King were not present. The seat for the Eleventh District is vacant.

J. T. Williams, Jr., Chairman State Board of Education