

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE OF GEORGIA

J. W.,
 Appellant,

vs.

HOUSTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION,

 Appellee.

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: **CASE NO. 1997-1**
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: **DECISION**
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This is an appeal by J. W. (Student) from a decision by the Houston County Board of Education to uphold the decision of a Student Disciplinary Tribunal to suspend him for the remainder of the first semester of the 1996-1997 school year, with the opportunity of attending an alternative school, after finding that he took a sip of an alcoholic beverage on a school bus. The Student claims that the punishment was too harsh and there was no evidence that he was aware there was an alcoholic beverage in the cup he sipped from. In addition, the Student claims that the Local Board's policy does not provide equal protection because college-bound students are punished more severely than other students since the alternative school does not have any college-bound courses available. The Student further claims that he was denied equal protection because another student who was involved in the incident was not similarly punished. The expulsion term has passed and the State Board of Education is unable to provide the Student with any relief. The issues, therefore, are moot. Because the issues are moot, the appeal is hereby

DISMISSED.

This 12th day of April, 1997.

Dr. Bill Grow, Ms. Willou Smith and Mr. J.T. Williams were not present.

Larry Thompson
Vice Chairman for Appeals