

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

<b>J. T.,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>Appellant,</b>	:	
	:	<b>CASE NO.1997-12</b>
<b>vs.</b>	:	
	:	<b>DECISION</b>
<b>DOUGLAS COUNTY</b>	:	
<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>Appellee.</b>	:	

This is an appeal by J. T. (Student) from a decision by the Douglas County Board of Education (Local Board) to adopt the decision of a student disciplinary tribunal to expel him for one year after finding that he had telephoned a bomb threat to a teacher. The Student claims the decision is too harsh. The Local Board's decision is sustained.

On December 10, 1996, the Student, a tenth grader, telephoned a teacher's house and said there might be a bomb under the teacher's car. The Student admitted he made the call and a student disciplinary tribunal expelled him for one year and assigned him to an alternative school. The Local Board sustained the expulsion when the Student appealed. The Student then appealed to the State Board of Education.

On appeal, the Student complains that the punishment is too harsh. "A local board of education . . . is charged with the responsibility of managing the operation of its schools, and, in matters of discipline, the State Board of Education cannot substitute its judgment for the judgment of the local board. See, *Boney v. County Board of Education of Telfair County*, 203 Ga. 152 (1947); *Braceley v. Burke County Bd. of Ed.*, Case No. 1978-7." *Joseph M. v. Jasper County. Bd. of Educ.*, Case No. 198 1-40 (Ga. SBE, Feb. 11, 1982).

Based upon the foregoing, it is the opinion of the State Board of Education that the Local Board did not abuse its discretion. The Local Board's decision, therefore, is SUSTAINED.

Ms. Willou Smith was not present.

This 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1997.

Mr. Larry Thompson  
Vice Chairman for Appeals