

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE OF GEORGIA

B. K.,	:	
	:	
	:	
Appellant	:	
	:	
	:	CASE NO. 1998-33
	:	
vs.	:	
	:	
BARTOW COUNTY	:	
BOARD OF EDUCATION	:	
	:	
Appellee	:	DECISION

B. K. (Student) filed this appeal from a decision by the Bartow County Board of Education (Local Board) to suspend her for the remainder of the 1997-1998 school year and to place her in in-school suspension for the first six weeks of the 1998-1999 school year. The Local Board’s decision followed the Student’s admission before a student disciplinary tribunal that she attempted to use cocaine on school grounds.

The Student contends that the punishment is too harsh. The State Board of Education, however, cannot adjust the level or degree of discipline imposed by a local board of education. “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 for Telfair County*, 203 Ga. 152, 45 S.E.2d 442 (1947); *Braceley v. Burke County Bd. of Ed*, Case No. 1978-7.” *Joseph M. v. Jasper Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, Case No. 1981-40 (Ga. SBE, Feb. 11, 1982). The Student has not shown that the Local Board committed any error in reaching its decision.

Based upon the foregoing, it is the opinion of the State Board of Education that the Local Board of Education properly exercised its authority. Accordingly, the Local Board’s decision is SUSTAINED.

This 10th day of September 1998.

Ms. Willou Smith & Mr. Phil Wilheit were not present. The seat for the 2nd Congressional District is vacant.

Larry Thompson
Vice Chairman for Appeals