**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

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| **M.M.,** | : | |
| **Appellant** | : | |
| | : | **CASE NO. 1998-35** |
| **vs.** | : | |
| **GWINNETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION** | : | |
| | : | **DECISION** |
| **Appellee** | : | |

**M. M.** (Student) filed this appeal from a decision by the Gwinnett County Board **of** Education (Local Board) to uphold the decision of a student disciplinary tribunal to expel her until April 21, 1999. The tribunal found the Student guilty of fig1~ting after the Student admitted she had violated the rules of student conduct. The Student claims that the Local Board's decision is too harsh. The Local Board made its decision on May 14, 1998, but the Student did not file her appeal with the Local Superintendent until June 16, 1998. The State Board of Education lacks jurisdiction to consider an appeal from a local board's decision that is filed more than thirty days after the local board's decision is made. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1160. Because the Student's appeal was filed more than thirty days after the Local Board made its decision, the State Board lacks jurisdiction to consider it and it must be, and is hereby, DISMISSED.

This 10th day of September 1998.

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

Larry Thompson
Vice Chairman for Appeals