

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

<b>J. B.,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>Appellant,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>vs.</b>	:	<b>CASE NO. 2000-24</b>
	:	
<b>BIBB COUNTY</b>	:	
<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>Appellee.</b>	:	<b>DECISION</b>

This is an appeal by J. B. (Student) from a decision by the Bibb County Board of Education (Local Board) to uphold the decision of a student disciplinary tribunal to assign her to an alternative school for one semester after finding her guilty of possessing a knife and a can of mace on school property. The Student argues that the punishment is too harsh because this was her first offense. The decision of the Local Board is sustained.

"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 any error on the part of the Local Board. The State Board of Education concludes that the Local Board did not abuse its discretion in affirming the Student's assignment to an alternative school for one semester for possessing a knife on campus in violation of Local Board policy.

Based upon the foregoing, it is the opinion of the State Board of Education that the Local Board did not abuse its discretion or deny the Student due process. Accordingly, the Local Board's decision to affirm the Student's assignment to an alternative school is hereby **AFFIRMED**.

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of August 2000.

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Bruce Jackson  
Vice Chairman for Appeals