

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

<b>S. W.</b>	:	
	:	
<b>Appellant,</b>	:	
	:	<b>CASE NO. 1999-4</b>
<b>vs.</b>	:	
	:	<b>DECISION</b>
<b>CAMDEN COUNTY</b>	:	
<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>Appellee.</b>	:	

This is an appeal by S. W. (Student) from a decision by the Camden County Board of Education (Local Board) to uphold the decision of a student disciplinary tribunal to expel her for the remainder of the 1998-1999 school year after finding her guilty of smoking a marijuana cigarette while enroute to school. The Student admitted in writing that she had smoked a marijuana cigarette. The Student argues that the decision is too harsh. The Local Board's decision is sustained.

Appellant claims that her written statement that she smoked a marijuana cigarette was coerced. The record, however, does not show that any coercion occurred.

Appellant also claims that the decision is too harsh because Appellant has never been involved in any previous disciplinary action. "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, Bonny 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. 198 1-40 (Ga. SBE, Feb. 11, 1982). The Student has not shown that the Local Board made any errors of law in reaching its decision. The State Board of Education concludes that the Student has not shown any reason to reverse the Local Board's decision.

Based upon the foregoing, the State Board of Education is of the opinion that the Local Board properly arrived at its decision. The Local Board's decision, therefore, is SUSTAINED.

The 2nd & 6th Congressional Districts are vacant.

This 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 1999.

Larry Thompson  
Vice Chairman for Appeal