

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE OF GEORGIA

M. W.,	:	
	:	
Appellant,	:	
	:	
vs.	:	CASE NO. 2006-66
	:	
DEKALB COUNTY	:	
BOARD OF EDUCATION,	:	
	:	
Appellee.	:	DECISION

This is an appeal by M. W. (Student) from a decision by the DeKalb County Board of Education (Local Board) to uphold the decision of a student disciplinary tribunal to expel him until the end of the 2006-2007 school year, with the option of attending an alternative school during the expulsion period, after finding him guilty of having a gun in his car on campus.¹ The Student has now graduated from high school. The State Board of Education cannot provide the Student with any relief, thus making any issues raised moot. The appeal, therefore, is dismissed.

The Student claims that the issues raised are not moot because the effects of having a disciplinary record in school will follow him as he attempts to go to college, enter the military, or seek civilian employment. The Student's argument, however, is speculative since there has not been any showing that a school disciplinary record has any effect on a student's life. The State Board of Education has consistently held that if the period during which disciplinary sanctions are imposed has passed, then the State Board of Education cannot provide a student with any relief. *See, e.g., J. B. v. Lamar Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, Case No. 2006-1 (Ga. SBE, Sep. 9, 2005), *John H. v. Columbia Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, Case No. 1990-2 (Ga. SBE, Apr. 12, 1990), *James v. Washington Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, Case No. 1978-8 (Ga. SBE, June 8, 1978). The Student has not shown any compelling reason why this doctrine should be set aside.

Based upon the foregoing, it is the opinion of the State Board of Education that the issues raised are moot because the Student has graduated from high school and the State Board of Education cannot provide him with any relief. Accordingly, the appeal is hereby **DISMISSED**.

This _____ day of July 2006.

William Bradley Bryant
Vice Chairman for Appeals

¹ The expulsion period extended into the next year although the Student was able to graduate at the end of the 2005-2006 school year by attending the alternative school.

Summary

This is an appeal by M. W. (Student) from a decision by the DeKalb County Board of Education (Local Board) to uphold the decision of a student disciplinary tribunal to expel him until the end of the 2006-2007 school year, with the option of attending an alternative school during the expulsion period, after finding him guilty of having a gun in his car on campus.² The Student has now graduated from high school. The State Board of Education cannot provide the Student with any relief, thus making any issues raised moot. The appeal, therefore, is dismissed.

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