

K.G., on behalf of minor child, G.R., :
PETITIONER, :
V. : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE : DECISION
BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG,
SOMERSET COUNTY, :
RESPONDENT. :

SYNOPSIS

Petitioner challenged the respondent Board's determination that her daughter, G.R., was not entitled to a free public education in the Borough of Watchung schools for the 2013-2014 school year. Petitioner asserted that she is domiciled in respondent's school district, but had not provided the district with an address for G.R. out of security and privacy concerns for herself and her daughter. Petitioner had submitted two letters from her landlord confirming that she resided in Watchung, but this documentation was rejected by the respondent Board as insufficient to prove residency. The Board contended that petitioner did not reside in the school district, and requested tuition reimbursement for the 2013-2014 school year in the amount of \$13,863.

The ALJ found that, based on the documentation submitted by the petitioner and her credible testimony at hearing, K.G. resided within the Watchung Borough school district during the period at issue here. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that petitioner's child is entitled to a free public education in the Watchung Borough schools, and that K.G. is not liable for tuition to the school district.

Upon review of the record and the Initial Decision, the Commissioner concurred with the ALJ's findings and conclusions. Accordingly, the Initial Decision was adopted as the final decision in this matter.

This synopsis is not part of the Commissioner's decision. It has been prepared for the convenience of the reader. It has been neither reviewed nor approved by the Commissioner.

February 3, 2015

OAL DKT. NO. EDU 3712-14
AGENCY DKT. NO. 53-3/14

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The record of this matter and the Initial Decision of the Office of Administrative Law have been reviewed. The parties did not file exceptions to the Initial Decision.

Upon such review, the Commissioner concurs with the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) that the petitioner established that her child was entitled to attend school in the Watchung Borough District for the 2013-2014 school year. Accordingly, the recommended decision of the ALJ is adopted for the reasons expressed therein.

IT IS SO ORDERED.*

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: February 3, 2015
Date of Mailing: February 3, 2015

* This decision may be appealed to the Superior Court, Appellate Division, pursuant to *P.L. 2008, c. 36 (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9.1)*.