

256-26
OAL Dkt. No. EDU 09872-26
Agency Dkt. No. 252-06-26

New Jersey Commissioner of Education
Final Decision

A.O., on behalf of minor child, K.R., Petitioner, v. Jersey City Board of Education, Hudson County, Respondent.

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

Upon review, the Commissioner concurs with the Administrative Law Judge that this matter should be dismissed because no issues remain to be addressed following the resolution of petitioner's motion for emergent relief.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is adopted as the final decision in this matter, and the petition of appeal is hereby dismissed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.¹


COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: July 17, 2026
Date of Mailing: July 17, 2026

¹ This decision may be appealed to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9.1*. Under *N.J.Ct.R. 2:4-1(b)*, a notice of appeal must be filed with the Appellate Division within 45 days from the date of mailing of this decision.



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

INITIAL DECISION

DIMSISAL

OAL DKT. NO. EDU 09872-26
AGENCY DKT. NO. 252-06-26

A.O. ON BEHALF OF K.R.,

Petitioner,

v.

JERSEY CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION,

Respondent.

A.O. petitioner appearing pro se

Cherie L. Adams, Esq., for respondent Jersey City Board of Education (Adams, Lattiboudere, Croot & Herman, LLC)

BEFORE **MARIANNE B. ORTEGA**, ALJ:

Record Closed: June 18, 2026

Decided: June 24, 2026

Petitioner, A.O. challenges the Jersey City Board of Education's (Board or respondent) decision to exclude her child K.R. from her 8th grade graduation ceremony. On June 17, 2026, petitioner filed a Motion for Emergent Relief to compel respondent to allow K.R. to walk in the graduation ceremony on June 18, 2026. The Board prohibited K.R. from participation in the ceremony due to a vaping incident during an overnight trip. The matter was filed with the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) as a contested matter June 17, 2026.

On June 17, 2026, I conducted a hearing and closed the record. An order denying petitioner's request for emergent relief was issued on the same date. By Order dated

June 18, 2026, the Commissioner upheld my decision that petitioner has failed to demonstrate entitlement to emergent relief pursuant to the standards enunciated in Crowe v. DeGioia, 90 N.J. 126, 132-34 (1982) and codified at N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.6.

Accordingly, I **CONCLUDE** that no other issues remain. It is therefore **ORDERED** that this matter be and is hereby **DISMISSED**.

I hereby **FILE** this initial decision with the **COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** for consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified, or rejected by the **COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**, who by law is authorized to make a final decision in this matter. If the Commissioner of the Department of Education does not adopt, modify, or reject this decision within forty-five days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

Within thirteen days from the date on which this recommended decision was mailed to the parties, any party may file written exceptions with the **COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**. Exceptions may be filed by email to ControversiesDisputesFilings@doe.nj.gov or by mail to Office of Controversies and Disputes, 100 Riverview Plaza, 4th Floor, PO Box 500, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500. A copy of any exceptions must be sent to the judge and to the other parties.

June 24, 2026

DATE

Date Received at Agency:

Date Mailed to Parties:

ljb



MARIANNE B. ORTEGA, ALJ

DOCUMENTS RELIED ON

- Commissioner's Final Decision, dated June 18, 2026
- Order on Emergent Relief, dated June 17, 2026