

NEWS RELEASE

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
6 Raymond Street, North West
Atlanta, Georgia, 30314

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 10, 1964

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
SIT-IN ARE SUSPENDED

ATLANTA, GEORGIA: "At least 79" Negro students have been suspended from high school here after they had participated in two days of anti-segregation protests.

The day of the suspensions, an official at Washington High School told a delegation from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Committee On Appeal For Human Rights (COAHR), and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) that no students would be "suspended or expelled" because of participation in demonstrations during school time.

"It's not technically a suspension," asserted Dr. R. W. Stephens, deputy superintendent of schools. But "practically speaking," he added, "it's the same thing."

Most of the students received notices from Washington High School principal J. Y. Moreland informing them they would not be readmitted to school immediately. Dr. Stephens said the decision to suspend the students was entirely Principal Moreland's.

150 demonstrators went to Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen Jr.'s office on Tuesday, January 7, demanding an end to overcrowding at Negro schools here. They had also demonstrated at segregated eating places on Tuesday and Wednesday with members of SNCC and COAHR.

The suspended students received a notice saying they must bring one or both parents to school for a "consultation" with the principal before the students will be readmitted.

In May 1963 the Birmingham school system suspended large numbers of students who had participated in protests there. A federal judge ordered them readmitted.