

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Suspension )  
 )  
or Revocation of the Educator )  
 )  
Certificate of Rachel B. Tisdale )  
 )  
Certificate 218043 )

**CONSENT ORDER OF  
SUSPENSION**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

This matter comes before the South Carolina State Board of Education (hereinafter "State Board") on April 8, 2015. On January 29, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (hereinafter "SCDE") sent a notice letter of the possible suspension or revocation of South Carolina educator certificate 218043 to Rachel B. Tisdale by certified mail, return receipt requested, based on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Ms. Tisdale received the notice letter and requested a hearing. Prior to the hearing scheduled in this matter, Ms. Tisdale agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of her educator certificate for a period of two years beginning April 8, 2015, and ending April 7, 2017. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension and suspended Ms. Tisdale's educator certificate for a period of two years from the date of this order.

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**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Ms. Rachel B. Tisdale was employed as a mathematics teacher at James Island Charter High School (hereinafter "School") in Charleston County School District (hereinafter "District") since 2004. She has no record of prior disciplinary action with the State Board. On April 9, 2014, the Principal of the School informed Ms. Tisdale that her contract would not be renewed for the 2014-2015 school year.

Ms. Tisdale taught Algebra 1 at the School. She prepared Algebra 1 end of chapter reviews and Algebra 1 practice EOC review tests that she shared with the other Algebra 1 teachers at the School. On May 28, 2013, an Algebra 1 teacher reported to the School test coordinator that during the administration of the Algebra 1 End of Course Examination Program (EOCEP), he noticed that questions on the EOCEP were exactly

the same questions as the questions on a review test he had been using to prepare his students for the EOCEP for the past four to five years. The Algebra 1 teacher reported that he had received this review test from Ms. Tisdale a number of years ago (2008 or 2009). The School sent the review test to the SCDE Office of Assessment. The SCDE Office of Assessment compared this review test with the SCDE EOCEP secured tests and it was determined that the review test contained items identical to items on two SCDE secure EOCEP tests that had previously been administered at the School during the time of Ms. Tisdale's tenure. Other practice EOC review tests and end of chapter review sheets prepared by Ms. Tisdale and used by the algebra teachers at the School were also sent to the SCDE Office of Assessment and it was determined that other SCDE EOCEP secure tests that had previously been administered at the School had also been compromised.

The School technology employee conducted a search of computers belonging to the three algebra teachers who had used the Algebra I materials prepared by Ms. Tisdale. Ms. Tisdale's Algebra 1 folder contained end of chapter reviews and Algebra 1 practice EOC review tests prepared by Ms. Tisdale as well an SCDE EOCEP secure test that had been administered at the School in 2009. This document appeared to be a scan of a student's booklet as it contained handwritten calculations on several pages. The SCDE Office of Assessment has also determined that three other secure test forms were compromised and had to be replaced at a substantial cost to the SCDE.

Ms. Tisdale asserts that she located these documents from online internet searches. Evidence reviewed by the School's technology employee suggests that the documents on Ms. Tisdale's computer were uploaded from her external drive and that none of these documents were found in the online internet archives. None of the documents were found on the internet. The SCDE Office of Assessment has never released any portion of the Algebra I EOCEP tests since they were implemented in the 2002-2003 school year. The SCDE Office of Assessment has conducted periodic reviews of the internet since the implementation of the EOCEP program and has never found an EOCEP secured test after extensively searching the internet.

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Ms. Tisdale was trained by the test coordinator at the School yearly on EOCEP and understands all provisions of the Agreement to Maintain Test Security and Confidentiality for Test Administrators and understood she was not to keep, copy or reproduce in any manner SCDE EOCEP tests.

Ms. Tisdale acknowledges that she has engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of her possession of secure SCDE EOCEP test documents and consents to the suspension of her educator certificate for a period of two years. Ms. Tisdale further agrees she will not, in the future, serve as a test administrator or proctor any SCDE secure tests for any South Carolina School District.

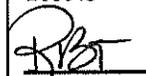
After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept this Consent Order of Suspension, effective on April 8, 2015, and ending on April 7, 2017.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 2 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented, demonstrates that Ms. Tisdale engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of her possession of secure SCDE EOCEP test documents. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Rachel B. Tisdale on the grounds of unprofessional conduct for a period of two years commencing on April 8, 2015, and ending on April 7, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board accepts the Consent Order and the educator certificate of Rachel B. Tisdale, certificate 218043, is hereby suspended for a period of two years, beginning April 8, 2015, and ending April 7, 2017. This action on certificate 218043 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order. Should Ms. Tisdale wish to have her educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she must submit a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services. Provided that Ms. Tisdale meets all certification requirements in effect at that time and pays all applicable fees, including any reinstatement fees, her license will be reinstated.

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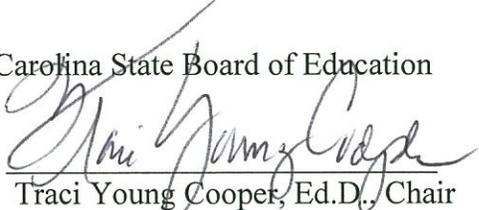
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It is expressly agreed that the reinstatement of Ms. Tisdale's educator certificate shall not be affected by any other legal actions relating to this matter, regardless of the outcome of said actions.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:

  
Traci Young Cooper, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
April 8, 2015

I, Rachel B. Tisdale, S.C. Educator Certificate 218043, hereby waive my right to a hearing in this matter. I have read and understood the terms set forth in this Consent Order. I understand that my signature on this document does not constitute my agreement to the facts as presented nor an admission of guilt. I understand that the terms of this Consent Order, upon execution, are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I hereby freely, knowingly and of my own accord, agree to the suspension of my educator certificate by the South Carolina State Board of Education. I understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board on April 8, 2015.

  
Rachel B. Tisdale

3/23/15  
Date