

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Michael D. Hackett
Certificate 177639

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION
(UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT)**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 13, 2019. On June 25, 2019, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Michael D. Hackett a notice via regular and certified mail of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate. Mr. Hackett received the notice on July 1, 2019, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Mr. Hackett has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Hackett's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing August 13, 2019, and ending August 11, 2020.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Hackett holds a valid South Carolina teaching certificate and has over twenty-three years of educator experience. Mr. Hackett was employed by Lexington County School District One (District) as an art teacher at Carolina Springs Elementary School (School) at the time of the incident.

Mr. Hackett was placed on administrative leave on November 5, 2018, after allegations arose that he used inappropriate force against a student. It was alleged that Mr. Hackett grabbed a student by the arms to move the student in a seat closer to the teacher's desk. The student was pushed into a bookcase during the incident and scratched his finger on a metal hinge on the piece of furniture. Mr. Hackett had received prior reprimands for unprofessional displays of temper with both coworkers and students.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board finds just cause exists to suspend Mr. Hackett's certificate 177639 for a period of one year, commencing on August 13, 2019, and ending on August 11, 2020.

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 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Hackett engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of inappropriate force used against a student. Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Michael D. Hackett, educator certificate 177639, for a period of one year, commencing on August 13, 2019, and ending on August 11, 2020.

If Mr. Hackett wishes to have his educator certification reinstated at the end of the suspension period, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Mr. Hackett shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Mr. Hackett's educator certificate 177639 shall be reported to the NASDTEC clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Del-Gratia Jones

Del-Gratia Jones, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 13, 2019