

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

In the Matter of the

Disciplinary Action of the

Educator Certificate of

Eric Jeffrey Beers

Certificate 292212

**CONSENT ORDER OF  
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 13, 2019. On May 2, 2019, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Eric Jeffrey Beers a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against his educator certificate. Mr. Beers contacted the SCDE and advised that he desired to waive his right to a hearing and pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. Mr. Beers agreed to complete the Prevention & Correction course offered by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC). After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept this Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Mr. Beers holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over twenty-three years of experience. At the time of the incident, Mr. Beers was a teacher with the Coastal Leadership Academy (School).

On May 29, 2018, the SCDE learned a charter school teacher was suspected of sending inappropriate text messages to a student. The student involved in the incident alleged Mr. Beers' messages were "an innocent mistake." A screenshot of the messages demonstrated the social media communications were not related to an educational matter and were therefore inappropriate communications with a student. Mr. Beers was allowed to resign from the District, effective June 7, 2018.

Mr. Beers has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, subject to the following

terms: (1) a Public Reprimand shall be issued by the State Board, (2) the Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order, and (3) the Consent Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE's website and shall be maintained as a public record in the OGC. Further, Mr. Beers agrees to complete the NASDTEC Prevention & Correction course. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand with the terms set forth above.

### **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 by the District would not support a conclusion that just cause exists to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Eric Jeffrey Beers; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Mr. Beers engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of inappropriate communications with students. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Mr. Beers by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Eric Jeffrey Beers, certificate 282646. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct." This Consent Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE's web site and shall be maintained as a public record in the SCDE's Office of General Counsel. The SCDE will expect Mr. Beers to submit proof of completion for the NASDTEC course within six months of the date of this order.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

(signature page attached)

Eric Jeffrey Beers, Certificate 282646  
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South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Del-Gratia Jones  
Del-Gratia Jones, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
August 13, 2019

I, Eric Jeffrey Beers, S.C. Educator Certificate 282646, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Public Reprimand are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I have read the Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, August 13, 2019. I understand this Consent Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter. If approved by the State Board, I give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "/S/ name" for required website publication.

s/Eric Jeffrey Beers  
Eric Jeffrey Beers

07/07/2019  
Date