

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Ellen E. Weaver
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: September 16, 2025

RE: Clarification Regarding Unprofessional Educator Conduct

There have been multiple reports of disturbing, publicly posted comments by a handful of local educators in response to the horrifying assassination of Charlie Kirk. That type of dehumanizing behavior has no place in South Carolina public schools.

Parents have committed the educational formation of their children to our schools, and they have every right to expect that all educators will honor that trust by modeling civility, respect, and good judgment. Anyone who celebrates or condones murder or political violence should be disqualified from teaching or working with children.

I appreciate the seriousness and speed with which you have addressed these issues. I encourage you to continue to investigate these reports in accordance with your local school board policies and South Carolina's [standards of professional conduct](#).

As a reminder, local school districts must notify the State Board of Education (SBE) of any certified educator who is dismissed, resigns, or is otherwise separated from the district when there are allegations of misconduct. Subsequently, the SBE may investigate and revoke educator certificates for unprofessional conduct. Longstanding state law (S.C. Code Ann. [§59-25-150 et seq.](#)), SBE regulation ([R. 43-58](#)), and Board policy ([Governance BCAF](#)) govern this process.

The South Carolina Attorney General has also [clarified state law](#), verifying that it does not pose a threat of prosecution against Districts taking appropriate action related to employee misconduct. The South Carolina Department of Education has specifically confirmed with the Attorney General's office that this analysis applies to all public employees, including K-12 educators.

I would also encourage you to review your district's employee code of conduct and/or social media policy with your local board of trustees, remind your staff of their obligations, and encourage them to continue to model the professionalism embodied by the vast majority of South Carolina educators.

Teachers carry a weighty responsibility to convey both knowledge and character to their students. The few who fail to uphold reasonable expectations of professional conduct dishonor the service of their peers and breach the trust our parents and communities place in our schools.

By addressing these issues swiftly and responsibly, we hold forth the highest example of excellence, integrity, and human decency that our impressionable students deserve to see modeled by the adults they look up to.

Please refer questions to Todd Atwater, SCDE General Counsel, at tkatwater@ed.sc.gov.