

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation or)
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of)
Kenneth A. Williams,)
Certificate 235859)
_____)

**ORDER OF
SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 27, 2016. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Kenneth A. Williams, certificate 235859, as a result of his arrest on or about April 26, 2016, in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and being charged with four counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor, one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor, and one count of unlawful conduct toward a child. The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Williams may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Williams’s educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Williams of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Williams holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over eight years of teaching experience. Mr. Williams has been employed by the Rock Hill School District Three of York County (District) since 2008. He has been employed as an Assistant Principal at Northwestern High School (School) since July 1, 2014. Mr. Williams is currently on administrative leave from the District following allegations that he had a sexual relationship with a minor female student that began when the student was fourteen years old.

Mr. Williams was arrested on or about April 26, 2016, in the city of Rock Hill, South Carolina, and charged with four counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor, one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor and one count of unlawful conduct toward a child. These crimes are all classified as felony offenses. It is alleged that Mr. Williams engaged in an inappropriate relationship of a sexual nature with a minor female student that began when the student was fourteen years old. It is also alleged that Mr. Williams exerted coercion and manipulative control over the student. The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Williams may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Williams's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Williams of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

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). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), “If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action.” Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann § 59-5-10 (2004) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Mr. Williams' unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, evident unfitness for position for which employed and his arrest on the felony charges of third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor, four counts, one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor, and one count of unlawful conduct toward a child, there is reason to believe that Mr. Williams may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students and that emergency action is required. Accordingly, the educator certificate of Kenneth A. Williams, certificate 235859, is summarily

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suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Williams of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:  _____

Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

April 27, 2016