

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

In the Matter of the Suspension )  
 )  
of the Educator Certificate )  
 )  
of Linda T. Johnson )  
 )  
Certificate 161269 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION  
(Failure to meet ADEPT Requirements)**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 18, 2011. On July 7, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Education's (SCDE) Office of Educator Evaluation sent Ms. Linda T. Johnson notice of her failure to meet the requirements of her ADEPT formal evaluation for the second time via certified mail. On July 14, 2011, Ms. Johnson received the notice as evidenced by a return receipt bearing a signature of a person of age and discretion living in the household. Pursuant to 24 S.C. Reg. 43-58 (Supp. 2010), 24 S.C. Reg. 43-205.1 (Supp. 2010), and the ADEPT System Guidelines (2006), a second unsuccessful ADEPT formal evaluation at the annual-contract level requires that Ms. Johnson's South Carolina teaching certificate be automatically suspended for a minimum of two years. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Johnson's certificate for a minimum of two years, beginning August 18, 2011, and ending August 17, 2013.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Ms. Johnson holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over fifteen years of teaching experience. The Greenville County School District's annual ADEPT report to the Office of Educator Evaluation indicated that Ms. Johnson was unsuccessful in meeting the requirements of her ADEPT formal evaluation for the 2010-2011 school year. This failure was Ms. Johnson's second unsuccessful ADEPT evaluation at the annual-contract level.

On July 7, 2011, the SCDE's Office of Educator Evaluation sent Ms. Johnson notice of her failure to meet the requirements of her ADEPT formal evaluation for the second time via

certified mail. On July 14, 2011, Ms. Johnson received the notice as evidenced by a return receipt bearing a signature of a person of age and discretion living in the household.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The State Board will automatically suspend for a minimum of two years the certificate of an annual-contract teacher who for the second time fails to meet ADEPT formal evaluation criteria. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-60 (2004); 24 S.C. Reg. 43-58 (Supp. 2010), 24 S.C. Reg. 43-205.1 (Supp. 2010). The State Board finds that sufficient information has been presented supporting its conclusion that Ms. Johnson failed to meet ADEPT formal evaluation criteria for a second time, warranting the suspension of her certificate for a minimum period of two years, commencing on August 18, 2011, through August 17, 2013. An "ineligible for hire" indicator will be placed in Ms. Johnson's certification file with the Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment and Preparation and will not be removed prior to August 17, 2013.

Before reentry into the profession and removal of the suspension, Ms. Johnson must complete a state-approved remediation plan based on the areas that were identified as deficiencies during the formal evaluation process. Remediation plans must be developed and implemented in accordance with the State Board's ADEPT implementation guidelines. Following the minimum two-year suspension period and the completion of the remediation plan, as verified by the Office of Educator Evaluation, Ms. Johnson's certificate suspension will be lifted and Ms. Johnson will be eligible for employment at the annual-contract level. All fees and eligibility requirements that are in effect at the time of Ms. Johnson's reapplication will apply.

#### **AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 

Gerrita Postlewait, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
August 18, 2011