BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension	)	
	)	
of the Educator Certificate of	)	
	)	**ORDER OF INDEFINITE SUSPENSION**
Alicia LaShawn Thompson	)	
	)	
Certificate 208413	)	
	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 11, 2014, regarding the indefinite suspension of the educator certificate Alicia LaShawn Thompson in light of her failure to repay a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) loan.

FINDINGS OF FACT

On October 23, 2009, Ms. Thompson signed a promissory note with the State of South Carolina to obtain a loan of $2,500.00 to complete the NBPTS. The loan was obtained through the Center for Teacher Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA). Subsequently, Ms. Thompson failed to complete the NBPTS program pursuant to the terms of the agreement, and was therefore obligated to repay the loan. Thereafter, Ms. Thompson failed to satisfy the terms of the loan and, as of the date of this Order, is in breach and default of the loan agreement, owing an amount of $1,250.00.

On April 17, 2014, the SCDE sent Ms. Thompson a notice of her unprofessional conduct resulting from her failure to repay her NBPTS loan, and the possible indefinite suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate, via certified mail.

On April 23, 2014, Ms. Thompson received the notice of possible suspension, as evidenced by a return receipt bearing her signature. Subsequently, Ms. Thompson did not request a hearing on the matter within fifteen days, and, therefore, as of May 29, 2014, has waived her right to a hearing.

After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend the educator certificate of Ms. Thompson until full payment of her outstanding NBPTS loan in the amount of $1,250.00 has been satisfied, along with any applicable reinstatement fees.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). The State Board finds that failure to repay a National Board Certification loan is unprofessional conduct. The State Board further finds that the SCDE has presented sufficient evidence to support the indefinite suspension of the educator certificate of Alicia LaShawn Thompson, Certificate 208413, commencing immediately on the date of this Order, and continuing indefinitely unless and until she has satisfied her remaining financial obligation to the State of South Carolina, as established in the promissory note referenced above.

Upon confirmation of full payment of the balance due and payment of a reinstatement fee, the SCDE's Office of Educator Certification shall reinstate Ms. Thompson's educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:
Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
June 11, 2014