BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension of the Educator Certificate of Gail A. Bradshaw, Certificate 230962	)	**ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 8, 2012. On September 30, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Gail A. Bradshaw notice of her unprofessional conduct for her failure to repay her National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) loan and the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate via certified mail with return receipt requested. Ms. Bradshaw received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature. On October 13, 2011, Ms. Bradshaw responded to the SCDE and requested a hearing. After receiving the hearing notice letter, Ms. Bradshaw signed a National Board Certification Default Payment Agreement (Agreement) on December 4, 2011, and waived her right to a hearing. According to the Agreement, Ms. Bradshaw agreed to pay monthly installments of $75.00 until the balance of $1,250.00 was paid in full. Ms. Bradshaw made a payment of $75.00 on December 14, 2011, a payment of $75.00 on February 2, 2012, a payment of $75.00 on March 9, 2012, a payment of $75.00 on April 5, 2012, and a payment of $75.00 on July 17, 2012. Ms. Bradshaw has an outstanding balance of $875.00 which is past due.

After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Bradshaw's certificate until receipt of full payment of her outstanding NBPTS loan with the State of South Carolina. This loan was obtained through the Center for Teacher Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA) and pay all applicable reinstatement fees.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Bradshaw holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has over twenty years of teaching experience. On February 16, 2007, Ms. Bradshaw signed a promissory note with the

State of South Carolina to obtain a loan of $2,500.00 to pay for the costs of applying for certification from the NBPTS. One of the terms of the promissory note was that the loan recipient would be obligated to repay one half of the loan amount, $1,250.00, if, after participation in the process for one year, she did not continue or otherwise successfully complete the process of obtaining NBPTS certification. Under the terms of this agreement, Ms. Bradshaw is obligated to repay the amount of $1,250.00.

On September 30, 2011, the SCDE sent Ms. Bradshaw a notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate via certified mail with return receipt requested. Ms. Bradshaw received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature. On October 13, 2011, Ms. Bradshaw responded to the SCDE and requested a hearing. On November 22, 2011, SCDE sent a hearing notice letter to Ms. Bradshaw. On December 2, 2011, Ms. Bradshaw received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature and requested a National Board Certification Default Repayment Agreement (Agreement).

Ms. Bradshaw signed the Agreement on December 4, 2011, and waived her right to a hearing. The terms of the Agreement stated that Ms. Bradshaw would pay monthly installment payments of $75.00 until the balance of $1,250.00 was paid in full. Ms. Bradshaw made payments of $75.00 on December 14, 2011, February 2, 2012, March 9, 2012, April 5, 2012, and July 17, 2012. Ms. Bradshaw has an outstanding balance of $875.00 which is past due.

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). Failure to repay a National Board Certification loan is considered unprofessional conduct. The State Board finds that the SCDE has presented sufficient evidence to support its decision to suspend the educator certificate of Gail A. Bradshaw, certificate 230962, from the date of this Order until she has satisfied her remaining financial obligation to the State of South Carolina, as established in the promissory note referenced above. Ms. Bradshaw owes an outstanding balance of $875.00 and is in default.

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. Bradshaw's educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: _____
David Blackmon, PhD, Chair-Elect

Columbia, South Carolina
August 8, 2012