BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension of the Educator Certificate of Mabel W. Brown, Certificate 092532	)	**ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 9, 2012. On November 9, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Mabel W. Brown a notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate via certified mail and return receipt requested. Ms. Brown received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature, and signed the National Board Certification Default Payment Agreement (Agreement) on November 28, 2011. According to the Agreement, Ms. Brown agreed to pay monthly installments of $95.84 until the balance of $1,150.00 was paid in full. Ms. Brown made one payment of $100.00 to the SCDE on November 30, 201, and has made no further payments. Ms. Brown has an outstanding balance of $1,050.00 which is now past due. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Brown's certificate until she repays the full amount owed on her outstanding loan with the State of South Carolina obtained through the Center for Teacher Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA) and pay all applicable reinstatement fees.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Brown holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has over twenty-eight years of teaching experience. On July 27, 2001, Ms. Brown signed a promissory note with the State of South Carolina to obtain a loan of $2,300.00 to pay for the costs of applying for certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (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, $1,150.00, 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. Brown is obligated to repay the amount of $1,150.00.

On November 9, 2011, the SCDE sent Ms. Brown a notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate via certified mail and return receipt requested. Ms. Brown received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature, and signed the Agreement on November 28, 2011. According to the Agreement, Ms. Brown agreed to pay monthly installments of $95.84 until the balance of $1150.00 was paid in full. Ms. Brown made a payment to the SCDE on November 30, 2011. The payment was posted by the SCDE on December 7, 2011. Ms. Brown has not made any payments to SCDE. Ms. Brown has an outstanding balance of $1,050.00 which is now past due. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Brown's certificate until she repays the full amount owed on her outstanding loan with the State of South Carolina obtained through the CERRA and pay all 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). 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 Mabel W. Brown, certificate 092532, 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. Upon confirmation of full payment of the balance due and payment of all reinstatement fees, the SCDE's Office of Educator Certification shall reinstate Ms. Brown's educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: _____
Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
May 9, 2012