BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension of the Educator Certificate of Andrew William Beck, Certificate 195095	)	**ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 10, 2012. On December 14, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Andrew William Beck notice of his unprofessional conduct for his failure to repay his National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) loan and the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate via certified and regular mail. Mr. Beck contacted the SCDE and requested a National Board Certification Repayment Agreement (Agreement).

On March 5, 2012, Mr. Beck signed an Agreement and waived his right to a hearing. Mr. Beck has not made a payment since April 2, 2012, and has an outstanding balance of $931.66 which is past due.

On August 20, 2012, the SCDE requested that the Richland County Sheriff's Department personally serve Mr. Beck with a notice letter regarding his unpaid balance of $931.66. The proof of service document indicates that Mr. Beck was personally served with the notice letter on September 5, 2012.

After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Beck's certificate until receipt of full payment of his outstanding NBPTS loan with the State of South Carolina, including all payable reinstatement fees.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Beck holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has over twelve years of teaching experience. On October 26, 2007, Mr. Beck 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. The loan was obtained through the Center for Teacher Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA). 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, the loan recipient did not continue or otherwise successfully complete the process of obtaining NBPTS certification. Under the terms of this agreement, Mr. Beck was obligated to repay the amount of $1,250.00.

On December 14, 2011, the SCDE sent Mr. Beck notice of his unprofessional conduct resulting from his failure to repay his NBPTS loan and the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate, via certified and regular mail. The certified mail was returned, marked unclaimed. The regular mail was not returned. Mr. Beck contacted the SCDE and requested an Agreement.

On March 5, 2012, Mr. Beck signed an Agreement and waived his right to a hearing. According to the Agreement, Mr. Beck agreed to pay monthly installments of $104.17 until the balance of $1,250.00 was paid in full. Mr. Beck made a payment of $208.34 on March 5, 2012, and a payment of $110.00 on April 2, 2012. Mr. Beck has an outstanding balance of $931.66 which is past due.

On August 20, 2012, the SCDE requested that the Richland County Sheriff's Department personally serve Mr. Beck with a notice letter regarding his outstanding balance. Mr. Beck was personally served with the notice letter, pursuant to the proof of service document dated September 5, 2012. He has made no further payments to SCDE.

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 Andrew William Beck, certificate 195095, from the date of this Order until he has satisfied his remaining financial obligation to the State of South Carolina, as established in the promissory note referenced above. Mr. Beck owes an outstanding balance of $931.66 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 Mr. Beck's educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: _____
Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
October 10, 2012