

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension	)	
	)	
or Revocation of the Educator	)	CONSENT ORDER OF
	)	
Certificate of Jacqueline Anne Zimmers	)	SUSPENSION
	)	
Certificate 238576	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 13, 2014. On April 17, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Jacqueline Anne Zimmers of the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On April 28, 2014, the SCDE received a letter from Ms. Zimmers' acknowledging receipt of the notice and requesting a hearing. On April 29, 2014, the SCDE received notice that Ms. Zimmers was represented by an attorney. On July 23, 2014, Ms. Zimmers' attorney informed the SCDE that Ms. Zimmers agreed to waive her right to a hearing and agreed to the suspension of her educator certificate for a period of two years, commencing August 13, 2014, and ending on August 12, 2016. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to approve the Consent Order of Suspension and suspend Ms. Zimmers' educator certificate for a period of two years, effective August 13, 2014, and ending on August 12, 2016.

Accepted:

JAZ
Initial Here

7-29-14
Date:

Jacqueline
Anne
Zimmers
238576

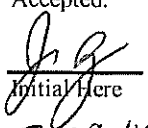
FINDINGS OF FACT

Jacqueline Anne Zimmers holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over 13 years of teaching experience in South Carolina. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Zimmers began her employment with Richland School District Two (District) in 2008. She previously taught out of state.

During the 2013-2014 school year, Ms. Zimmers served as a special education teacher at Richland Northeast High School (School). During the summer of 2013, a routine audit of Ms. Zimmers' individualized education program (IEP) records revealed a pattern of irregularities. According to the audit, Ms. Zimmers had 27 IEPs on her caseload during the 2012-2013 school year. Of the 27 IEPs reviewed, 26 IEPs had at least one non-compliance issue. The only IEP in Ms. Zimmers' caseload determined to be compliant was completed by

a different special education teacher. The non-compliance issues included deficiencies in the following areas: IEP documentation; progress reporting; parent notification; and IEP meeting attendance. On September 9, 2013, Ms. Zimmers was placed on administrative leave pending an investigation into the allegations that she may have violated the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act regulations when she allegedly falsified IEPs for several of her assigned students. Ms. Zimmers subsequently resigned from her employment with the District on September 16, 2013.

In lieu of a hearing regarding this unprofessional conduct, Ms. Zimmers agrees to waive her right to a hearing and consents to a suspension of her educator certificate 238576, for a period of two years, beginning August 13, 2014, and ending August 12, 2016. She has waived her right to a hearing and acknowledges that the terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review, and that the two year suspension of her educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse.

Accepted:

Initial Here
7-29-14
Date
Jacqueline Anne Zimmers 238576

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004). "The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004) 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Zimmers has engaged in unprofessional conduct resulting from noncompliance issues and deficiencies in her IEP documentation and that just cause exists to suspend her educator certificate for a period of two years, beginning on August 13, 2014, and ending on August 12, 2016.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the educator certificate of Jacqueline Anne Zimmers, certificate 238576, is hereby suspended for a period of two years, commencing on August 13, 2014, and ending on August 12, 2016. If Ms. Zimmers wishes to have her educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she must meet all certification requirements and shall submit a written request to the SCDE's Office of

Educator Services. Ms. Zimmers shall be responsible for the payment of all applicable fees, including any reinstatement fees.

The suspension of Ms. Zimmers' educator certificate 238576 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

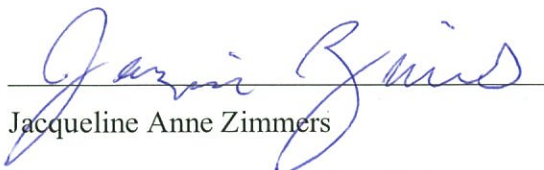
South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 
Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

August 13, 2014

I, Jacqueline Anne Zimmers, S.C. Educator Certificate 238576, understand that there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of education certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily enter into this consent to the suspension of my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I agree to the terms of the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board of Education on August 13, 2014.


Jacqueline Anne Zimmers

7-29-14
Date