

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation or)
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of)
Michael Philip Landreth,)
Certificate 262346)
_____)

**ORDER OF
SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 23, 2015. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Michael Philip Landreth, certificate 262346, as a result of allegations and his admission to hosting parties with students in attendance, providing alcohol to some students at the parties, and having inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature with a male student.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Landreth may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Landreth's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Landreth of the summary suspension, as well as, the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Landreth holds an initial South Carolina educator certificate and has two (2) years of teaching experience in South Carolina. Mr. Landreth has been employed by the York County School District Two (District) since 2013 as a Math teacher at Clover High School (School). The District received a report from the mother of a female student that Mr. Landreth had allegedly hosted parties for students at his home and had provided alcohol to some students at his parties. The District received a separate report regarding allegations that Mr. Landreth may have been involved in inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature with a student. On January 22, 2015, the District discussed the allegations with Mr. Landreth. Mr. Landreth admitted to having students attend parties at his home and serving alcohol to some of the students. He also admitted

to having sex with a male student. Mr. Landreth immediately resigned from his position with the District. The District promptly reported the allegations, admission and resignation to the School Resource Officer (York County Sheriff's Department) and to the SCDE.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Landreth may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Landreth's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Landreth of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

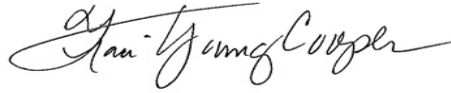
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), "If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann § 59-5-10 (2004) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of Mr. Landreth's admission to hosting parties and providing alcohol to minors, and engaging in inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature with a male student; he has engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed. The Chair also finds that there is reason to believe that Mr. Landreth may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students and that emergency action is required. Accordingly, the educator certificate of Michael Philip Landreth, certificate 262346, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Landreth of the summary suspension, as well as, the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate. The suspension of Mr. Landreth's educator certificate 262346 shall be immediately reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts.

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AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Traci Young-Cooper".

By: _____
Traci Young-Cooper, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
January 23, 2015