

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation or)
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of)
Korey Deon Washington,)
Certificate 272877)
_____)

**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 26, 2017. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (Supp. 2016), § 59-5-10 (Supp. 2016), 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 Korey Deon Washington, certificate 272877, as a result of the SCDE's receipt on January 24, 2017, of a Final Order (Order) of the Education Practices Commission of the State of Florida (Commission), dated January 23, 2017, in which the Commission accepted a Settlement Agreement (Agreement) as the appropriate resolution of the Administrative Complaint (Complaint) against Mr. Washington. The Agreement stipulates that Mr. Washington accepts the permanent revocation of his Florida educator certificate and further agrees that he is permanently barred from reapplying for, or holding, a Florida educator certificate.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this matter, Mr. Washington 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. Washington'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. Washington of the summary suspension, as well as, the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Washington holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate, effective July 1, 2014, and has over eleven (11) years of teaching experience, including his teaching experience in Florida. Mr. Washington is currently employed by the Aiken County School District (District) as a special education teacher at Wagener-Salley High School (School). On January 23, 2017, the Commission accepted the Agreement entered into by Mr. Washington and the Commission. Mr. Washington accepted the permanent revocation of his Florida educator certificate, and

agreed to never apply for or hold a Florida educator certificate, after it was alleged that he sent inappropriate text messages of a sexual nature to students as well as had conversations of a sexual nature with students in person while serving as a Dean at Boone High School in the Orange County School District. Mr. Washington neither admits nor denies, but elects not to contest the allegations set forth in the Administrative Complaint.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Washington 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. Washington'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. Washington 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 and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (Supp. 2016), "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 (Supp. 2016) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of Mr. Washington's inappropriate communications of a sexual nature with minor students and the subsequent forfeiture of his Florida teaching certificate, he has engaged in unprofessional conduct and demonstrated evident unfitness for the position for which employed. The Chair also finds that there is reason to believe that Mr. Washington may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students and that emergency action is required. Accordingly, the educator certificate of Korey Deon Washington, certificate 272877, 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. Washington of the summary suspension, as well as, the possible suspension or revocation of his

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educator certificate. The suspension of Mr. Washington's educator certificate 272877 shall be immediately reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 
Ivan Randolph, Ph.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
January 26, 2017