

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the	)	
	)	
Educator Certificate of	)	CONSENT ORDER OF
	)	SUSPENSION
Meryl L. Huckabey	)	
	)	
<u>Educator Certificate 267290</u>	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 14, 2018. On April 25, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Meryl L. Huckabey, concerning the pending action against her educator certificate 267290. After Ms. Huckabey received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to request a hearing. Prior to the scheduling of a hearing in this matter, Ms. Huckabey informed the SCDE that she agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of her educator certificate 267290 for a period of one year. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Huckabey's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on August 14, 2018, and ending on August 13, 2019. Ms. Huckabey will also be required to attend SCDE approved classroom management training.

Meryl L.
Huckabey
267290

Initial

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Meryl L. Huckabey holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Ms. Huckabey has over fifteen years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Huckabey was employed by the Georgetown County School District (District) and was employed at Georgetown High School (School) as a special education teacher.

Ms. Huckabey was placed on administrative leave on March 8, 2018, when the School received a report that a special needs student was left in her classroom unsupervised. Ms. Huckabey's class attended a fieldtrip and a student requiring one-on-one supervision was left in the classroom. Ms. Huckabey had received three previous written reprimands related to her lack of proper classroom supervision. The District later

reported concerns relating to the construction of the Individual Education Programs (IEPs) that Ms. Huckabey had written. Ms. Huckabey resigned from the District, effective on May 9, 2018.

Ms. Huckabey has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and to resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into an alternative resolution to the action against her educator certificate. She has also agreed participate in SCDE approved classroom management training. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Huckabey's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on August 14, 2018, and ending on August 13, 2019. Ms. Huckabey will also be required to complete SCDE approved classroom management training during the suspension period.

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 (Rev. 2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Huckabey engaged in unprofessional conduct by not properly supervising her classroom and potentially violating federal law due to her noncompliant IEPs. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Huckabey's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on August 14, 2018, and ending on August 13, 2019.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Meryl L. Huckabey, certificate 267290, is suspended for a period of one year commencing on August 14, 2018, and ending on August 13, 2019.

If Ms. Huckabey wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services and provide documentation that she has successfully completed her classroom management training as approved by SCDE. Ms. Huckabey shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Ms. Huckabey's

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educator certificate 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: *Del-Gracie Jones for*
Sharon Wall, EdD, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 14, 2018

I, Meryl L. Huckabey, SC Educator Certificate 267290, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I agree to successfully complete classroom management training as approved by OSES. I understand the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on August 14, 2018. I understand this Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter.

Meryl Huckabey
Meryl L. Huckabey

6/28/18
Date