

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Suzanne Marie Pratt)
)
Certificate 277025)
_____)

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION
(Failure to meet ADEPT Requirements)**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 14, 2018. On July 2, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education's (SCDE) Office of Educator Effectiveness sent Ms. Pratt notice of her failure to meet the requirements of her ADEPT formal evaluation via regular and certified mail. Pursuant to S.C. Reg. 43-58 (2017), S.C. Reg. 43-205.1 (2017), and the ADEPT System Guidelines (2018), a second unsuccessful ADEPT formal evaluation at the annual-contract level requires that Ms. Pratt's South Carolina teaching certificate be automatically suspended for a minimum of two years. On July 5, 2018, Ms. Pratt received the notice as evidenced by postal tracking. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Pratt's certificate for a minimum of two years, beginning August 14, 2018, and ending August 13, 2020, provided that Ms. Pratt successfully completes a state-approved remediation plan.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Pratt holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has five years of teaching experience. The Berkeley County School District's annual ADEPT report to the Office of Educator Effectiveness indicated that Ms. Pratt was unsuccessful in meeting the requirements of her ADEPT formal evaluation for the 2017-2018 school year. This was Ms. Pratt's second unsuccessful ADEPT evaluation at the annual-contract level.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board will automatically suspend for a minimum of two years the certificate of an annual-contract teacher who for the second time fails to meet ADEPT formal evaluation criteria. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-60 (2004); S.C. Reg. 43-58 (2017), S.C. Reg. 43-205.1 (2017). The State Board finds that sufficient evidence has been presented supporting its conclusion that Ms. Pratt failed to meet ADEPT formal evaluation criteria for a second time, warranting the suspension of

her certificate for a minimum period of two years, commencing on August 14, 2018, through August 13, 2020, provided that Ms. Pratt successfully completes a state-approved remediation plan. An "ineligible for hire" indicator will be placed in Ms. Pratt's certification file with the Office of Educator Services and will not be removed prior to August 13, 2020, provided that she successfully completes a state-approved remediation plan.

Before reentry into the profession and removal of the suspension, Ms. Pratt must complete a state-approved remediation plan based on the areas that were identified as deficiencies during the formal evaluation process. Remediation plans must be developed and implemented in accordance with the State Board's ADEPT implementation guidelines. Following the minimum two-year suspension period and the completion of the remediation plan, as verified by the Office of Educator Services, Ms. Pratt's educator certificate suspension will be lifted and Ms. Pratt will be eligible for employment at the annual-contract level. All fees and eligibility requirements that are in effect at the time of Ms. Pratt's reapplication will apply.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 
Sharon Wall Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 14, 2018