

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation or)
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of)
Julisa G. White,)
Educator Certificate 258927)
_____)

**ORDER OF
SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on July 10, 2018. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2016), § 59-5-10 (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 Julisa G. White, educator certificate 258927, as a result of her arrest for three felony charges of unlawful conduct toward a child, S.C. Code Ann. §63-5-70 (2017).

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Ms. White may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students, who may be under her instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. White'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 Ms. White of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. White holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over four years of teaching experience. Ms. White was employed by York County School District Three (District) as an eighth grade English teacher at Saluda Trail Middle School (School). Ms. White was placed on administrative leave from the District.

On March 6, 2018, the Rock Hill Police Department charged Ms. White with three felony count of unlawful conduct towards a child, S.C. Code Ann. §63-5-70 (2017). It is alleged Ms.

White placed her children at unreasonable risk of harm affecting the children's lives, physical or mental health, or safety. The charges date back to an incident that occurred on March 29, 2017, when Ms. White's infant died while staying with Ms. White's mother. Ms. White allegedly left the infant and two other children in the care of her parents. While staying in the grandparents' home, the child died from exposure to fentanyl. It is alleged that Ms. White placed her three children in unlivable conditions by allowing them to reside in the grandparents' home.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Ms. White may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students who may be under her instruction, and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. White'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 Ms. White of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her 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 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (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 (2016) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Ms. White's unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for the position for which employed due to her felony arrest for unlawful conduct towards a child, there is reason to believe Ms. White may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required. Accordingly, the educator certificate of Julisa G. White, educator certificate 258927, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise

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resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. White of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: Sharon Wall

Sharon Wall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
July 16, 2018