

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Travis Lamont Alexander
Certificate 213635

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 10, 2019. On August 29, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Travis Lamont Alexander concerning the pending action against his educator certificate 213635. After Mr. Alexander received the notice, he contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and to discuss an alternative resolution. Prior to the scheduling of a hearing in this matter, Mr. Alexander agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of his educator certificate 213635 for a period of two years. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Alexander's educator certificate for a period of two years commencing on June 5, 2018 and ending on June 4, 2020. The State Board further finds the need for Mr. Alexander to successfully complete NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to requesting reinstatement of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Travis Lamont Alexander holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Mr. Alexander has over eleven years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board.

Mr. Alexander was employed by District Five Schools of Spartanburg County (District) as a social studies teacher and girls' track coach at James F. Byrnes High School (School). On June 25, 2018 Mr. Alexander resigned from the District following an investigation into allegations that he had been involved in an inappropriate relationship

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with a female student, which included the exchange of text messages as well as the purchase of personal items. Mr. Alexander denies there was a relationship with the student, but admits that his actions were unprofessional. On June 26, 2018, the District reported Mr. Alexander's unprofessional conduct to the SCDE. Mr. Alexander has not been teaching in public school since the effective date of his resignation.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Alexander's educator certificate for a period of two years commencing on June 25, 2018 and ending on June 4, 2020. Mr. Alexander also agrees to successfully complete NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to requesting reinstatement 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 (Rev. 2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Alexander engaged in unprofessional conduct by participating in an inappropriate relationship with a student of the District. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Alexander's educator certificate for a period of two years, commencing on June 25, 2018 and ending on June 4, 2020. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to accept the requirement of Mr. Alexander successfully completing the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Travis Lamont Alexander, certificate 213635, is suspended for a period of two years commencing on June 25, 2018 and ending on June 4, 2020.

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If Mr. Alexander wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Mr. Alexander shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. Mr. Alexander shall provide the SCDE Office of Educator Services proof of the successful completion of NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to requesting reinstatement of his educator certificate. The suspension of Mr. Alexander's 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

s/Del-Gratia Jones
Del-Gratia Jones, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 10, 2019

I, Travis Lamont Alexander, SC Educator Certificate 213635, 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 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 November 12, 2019. 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. If approved by the State Board, I give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/Travis Lamont Alexander
Travis Lamont Alexander

10/16/19
Date