

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Christopher T. Price
Certificate 187625

**CONSENT ORDER
OF SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 11, 2020. On August 27, 2019, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Christopher T. Price a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against his educator certificate. Mr. Price subsequently contacted the SCDE and advised that he desired to waive his right to a hearing and wished to pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. Mr. Price has agreed to this Consent Order of Suspension.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Price's administrative certificate for a period of one year, commencing on January 14, 2020, and ending on January 13, 2021. Further, Mr. Price has agreed to complete the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Prevention and Correction course prior to the reinstatement of his certification.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Price holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over twenty-one years of educator experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Mr. Price was employed by the Chesterfield County School District (District) as the Executive Director of Student Services and Administration for the District.

On May 3, 2019, Mr. Price was placed on administrative leave after the District received allegations that Mr. Price had engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a

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subordinate employee. During the District investigation, it was found Mr. Price had engaged in inappropriate conduct on district property.

Mr. Price has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into an alternate resolution to the action against his educator certificate. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Mr. Price's administrative certificate for a one year, commencing on January 14, 2020, and ending on January 13, 2021. Mr. Price has further agreed to complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to the reinstatement of his certification.

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 (2017); 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 Mr. Price engaged in unprofessional conduct by engaging in an inappropriate relationship with a subordinate on school grounds. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Price's administrative certificate for a period of one year, commencing on January 14, 2020, and ending on January 13, 2021. Mr. Price has further agreed to complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to the reinstatement of his administrative certification.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the administrative certificate of Christopher T. Price, certificate 187625, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on January 14, 2020, and ending on January 13, 2021. Mr. Price will complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to the reinstatement of his certification.

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If Mr. Price 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 and submit proof of completion for the NASDTEC course. Mr. Price 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. The suspension of Mr. Price's administrative 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/Michael Brenan
Michael Brenan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 11, 2020

I, Christopher T. Price, S.C. Educator Certificate 187625, 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 that the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I have read the Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, February 11, 2020. I understand this Consent 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.

Christopher T. Price
Christopher T. Price

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