

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
William Oscar Carson
Certificate 192475

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 17, 2020. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2017), § 59-5-10 (2017), 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 William Oscar Carson, educator certificate 192475, as a result of alleged inappropriate contact with a student and his arrest for assault and battery, 2nd degree.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Carson holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has Seventeen years of educator experience. At the time of his arrest, Mr. Carson was employed by Richland County School District One (District) as a teacher at W.J. Keenan High School (School).

On March 9, 2020, a female student informed Mr. Carson that she was not feeling well and had a stomach ache. Mr. Carson asked the student to go to his room. In his classroom, Mr. Carson allegedly touched the student's stomach and then placed his hand

down the student's pants. The student moved his hand, left the room, and reported the incident to a teacher. The incident was reported to the School Resource Officer, who made an incident report with the Richland County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Carson was subsequently arrested for assault and battery, 2nd degree.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Mr. Carson may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students who may be under his instruction, and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Carson'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 Mr. Carson of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation 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 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2017), "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 (2017) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Mr. Carson's unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, and evident unfitness for the position for which employed, due to his arrest for assault and battery, 2nd degree, there is reason to believe Mr. Carson may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

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Accordingly, the educator certificate of William Oscar Carson, educator certificate 192475, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Carson of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Michael Brennan
Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 17, 2020