

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Aaron Guy Brazier
Certificate 262554

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 7, 2021. 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 Aaron Guy Brazier, educator certificate 262554, as a result of his arrest on the felony charge of sexual exploitation of a minor, third degree, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-410 (2018).

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Brazier 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. Brazier'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. Brazier of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Brazier holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over six years of educator experience. At the time of the incident, Mr. Brazier was a teacher and coach for Lexington County School District Two (District). He was allowed to resign from the District after his arrest.

On December 28, 2020, the District received a report alleging Mr. Brazier was exchanging inappropriate texts with a teenager. The District contacted law enforcement in Lexington County. Police learned the teenager was a former student of Mr. Brazier's

and that the victim's parents were making a report in a neighboring county. After reviewing the evidence and interviewing Mr. Brazier, law enforcement arrested him on the charge of sexual exploitation of a minor, 3rd degree.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Mr. Brazier 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. Brazier'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. Brazier 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 (EDUCATOR) 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 felony arrest for charges of sexual exploitation of a minor, third degree, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-410 (2018), there is reason to believe Mr. Brazier 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 Aaron Guy Brazier, educator certificate 262554, 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. Brazier 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/Kristi Woodall, Ed.D

Kristi Woodall, Ed.D, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
January 7, 2021