

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Christina Alexis Williams
Certificate 203864

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 11, 2021. On June 30, 2020 and August 10, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Christina Alexis Williams notice letters via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate. On April 2, 2021, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Ms. Williams a final notice letter via regular mail informing her that the State Board would meet on May 11, 2021, to consider action against her educator certification. The SCDE has verified Ms. Williams address and the letter sent via regular mail has not been returned. Under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure 5(b), Christina Alexis Williams has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. Ms. Williams has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Williams' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on May 11, 2021, and ending on May 10, 2022.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Christina Alexis Williams holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Ms. Williams has no prior educator experience and no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incidents, Ms. Williams was employed by Florence School District One (District) as an English teacher at Williams Middle School (School).

On October 31, 2019 the SCDE received notice from the District of Ms. Williams' termination following her failure to report twenty-six absences to administration, failure to report to work on twenty-six occasions, and failure to provide medical verification for twenty-four days absent. Ms. Williams' absences include August 29, September 9, 12, 17, 23, and October

22, 23, 24, 25. At no time surrounding these absences did Ms. Williams indicate a desire to resign from her position. On October 29, 2019, Ms. Williams was notified of her termination due to persistent neglect of duty and willful violation of rules and regulations of the District.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Order of Suspension of Christina Alexis Williams educator certificate 203864 for a period of one year, commencing on May 11, 2021, and ending on May 10, 2020.

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 Ms. Williams engaged in unprofessional conduct by repeatedly failing to report to work and failing to provide verification for days absent. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Christina Alexis Williams, educator certificate 203864, for a period of one year, commencing on May 11, 2021, and ending on May 10, 2022.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Christina Alexis Williams, educator certificate 203864, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on May 11, 2021, and ending on May 10, 2022.

If Ms. Williams wishes to have the certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services. Ms. Williams shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of (EDUCATOR) 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

By: s/Kristi Woodall
Kristi Woodall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
May 11, 2021