

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Wendy E. Condrón
Certificate 220608

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION
(BREACH OF CONTRACT)**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 14, 2021. On June 11, 2021, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Wendy E. Condrón a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. On July 22, 2021, the SCDE sent Ms. Condrón notice that the State Board would be meeting on September 14, 2021, to review the pending action against her educator certification. Postal tracking verified delivery to Ms. Condrón's address and the letters have not been returned. Ms. Condrón 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 Wendy E. Condrón's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing September 14, 2021, and ending on September 13, 2022.

FINDINGS OF FACT

This case concerns a formal complaint of the Fort Mill School District (District) seeking the suspension of the educator certificate of Ms. Condrón for breach of contract. The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2018) and S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2018).

On April 21, 2020, Ms. Condrón signed a contractual agreement with the District to serve as a teacher for 2020-21 school year. On January 5, 2021, Ms. Condrón submitted her resignation to the District, effective February 5, 2021. Ms. Condrón was informed she would not be released from her contract until a qualified replacement was secured. The District attempted to locate a replacement while Ms. Condrón stayed on staff. On April 15, 2021, Ms. Condrón did not return to fulfill her contract with the District. The District

informed Ms. Condron the breach of contract would be reported to the SCDE for possible action on her teaching certificate. The District Board voted to report Ms. Condron's breach of contract to the SCDE on April 27, 2021. The District reported the matter to the SCDE on June 3, 2021.

After considering the evidence, the State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Condron breached her contract with the District, and that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Condron, certificate 220608, for a period of one year, commencing on September 14, 2021, and ending on September 13, 2022.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." Just cause includes, *inter alia*, "unprofessional conduct" and "willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (3) and (4) (2018). Pursuant to 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2) and (14) (2018), the State Board of Education had the legal authority to suspend a certificate for "failure to comply with the provision of a contract without the written consent of the local school board." With respect to breach of contract, "any teacher who fails to comply with the provisions of his [or her] contract without written consent of the school board shall be deemed guilty of unprofessional conduct." S. C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2018). "Upon formal complaint of the school board, substantiated by conclusive evidence, the state board shall suspend or revoke the teacher's certificate, for a period not to exceed one calendar year." *Id.*

The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Condron breached her contract without the consent and/or approval of the District. Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Wendy E. Condron for a period of one year, commencing on September 14, 2021, and ending on September 13, 2022.

If Ms. Condron wishes to have her educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator

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Services, and shall meet all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement. Ms. Condrón shall also pay the applicable reinstatement fee. The suspension of Ms. Condrón's educator certificate 200608 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order, with the reason stated as "unprofessional conduct, breach of contract, willful neglect of duty, and failure to comply with the provisions of a contract without the written consent of the local school board."

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/ Kristi Woodall

Kristi Woodall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
September 14, 2021