

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Jonathan Eugene Grantham
Certificate 232596

**Grantham Jonathan Eugene Order of
Permanent Revocation**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 9, 2022. On May 25, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Jonathan Eugene Grantham a notice via regular and certified mail of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate. Mr. Grantham received the notice on May 31, 2022, as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. He has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Grantham's educator certificate 232596, effective August 9, 2022.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Grantham holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over thirteen years of teaching experience. On February 8, 2021, the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Grantham's educator certification due to his arrest on the federal charge of transportation of a minor with intent to engage in sexual activity. At the time of his arrest, Mr. Grantham was teaching in the Aiken County School District.

On January 11, 2022, the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of Georgia announced that Mr. Grantham was sentenced to 140 months in prison for pleading guilty to Coercion and Enticement of a Minor to Engage in Sexual Activity. He was also ordered to pay \$50,000 in restitution, serve the rest of his life on supervised release, and register as a sex offender at the end of his prison term.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Grantham's educator certificate 232596, effective August 9, 2022.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2016). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United State, evident unfitness for position for which employed, and sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that Mr. Grantham engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, and crime against the law of this State or the United States due to his felony conviction for coercion and enticement of a minor to engage in sexual activity.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke education certificate 232596, issued in the name of Jonathan Eugene Grantham, effective August 9, 2022. The permanent revocation of Mr. Grantham's educator certificate 232596 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 Board of Education

s/Alan Walters
Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 9, 2022