

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Anna Patton
Certificate 294453

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 Anna Patton a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. Patton received the notice on June 1, 2022, as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. She 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 Ms. Patton's educator certificate 294453, effective August 9, 2022.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Patton holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has no previous teaching experience. On January 14, 2020, the State Board summarily suspended Ms. Patton's educator certification due to her arrest on the felony counts of criminal exploitation of a minor, disseminating harmful material to minors, and sexual battery with a student 16 or 17 years of age, no aggravated force or coercion.

On May 9, 2022, Ms. Patton pled guilty to sexual battery with a student, 16 or 17 years old. At the time of her arrest, Ms. Patton was teacher for the Darlington County School District. She has been ordered to have no further contact with the victim.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Ms. Patton's educator certificate 294453, 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 Ms. Patton engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, and crime against the law of this State or the United States due to her guilty plea of sexual battery with a student 16 or 17 years of age.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke education certificate 294453, issued in the name of Anna Patton, effective August 9, 2022. The permanent revocation of Patton’s educator certificate 294453 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 Walter
Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 9, 2022