

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the  
Disciplinary Action of the  
Educator Certificate of  
Ali De Jesus Sifontes  
Certificate 291241

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 8, 2022. On December 23, 2021, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail to Ali De Jesus Sifontes concerning the pending action against his educator certificate 291241. After Mr. Sifontes received the notice, he contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Mr. Sifontes agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 291241 for a period of one year. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Sifontes' educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on February 8, 2022 and ending on February 7, 2023. Mr. Sifontes has also agreed to complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ali De Jesus Sifontes holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Mr. Sifontes has over three years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Sifontes was employed by the School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties (District) as a Spanish teacher at Irmo High School (School).

Mr. Sifontes was placed on administrative leave on May 3, 2021, after the School administration's investigation into allegations that Mr. Sifontes engaged in inappropriate communications with multiple female students and touched female students in an inappropriate manner. Mr. Sifontes subsequently resigned on May 12, 2021.

Ali De Jesus Sifontes  
291241  
s/AS  
Initial  
1/7/2022  
Date

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Sifontes' educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on February 8, 2022 and ending on February 7, 2023. Mr. Sifontes will also complete NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course.

#### 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 Ali De Jesus Sifontes engaged in unprofessional conduct by engaging in inappropriate behavior toward students. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Sifontes' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on February 8, 2022 and ending on February 7, 2023. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to accept the requirement of Mr. Sifontes successfully completing the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course.

If Mr. Sifontes wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Mr. Sifontes shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. Mr. Sifontes shall provide the SCDE Office of Educator Services proof of the successful completion of the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to requesting reinstatement of his educator certificate.

Ali De Jesus Sifontes  
291241  
s/AS  
Initial  
1/7/2022  
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Ali De Jesus Sifontes, Certificate 291241  
Consent Order of Suspension  
February 8, 2022  
Page 3 of 3

The suspension of Mr. Sifontes' educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Ali De Jesus Sifontes, certificate 291241, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on February 8, 2022 and ending on February 7, 2023.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Alan Walters  
Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
February 8, 2022

I, Ali De Jesus Sifontes, SC Educator Certificate 291241, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on February 8, 2022. I understand this Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter. If approved by the State Board, I give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/Ali De Jesus Sifontes  
Ali De Jesus Sifontes

1/7/2022  
Date