

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Tiara Shea Riser
Certificate 254532

**Riser, Tiara Shea Order of Summary
Suspension**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 1, 2022. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2017), § 59-5-10 (2017), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Tiara Shea Riser, educator certificate 254532, as a result of her arrest on the felony charge of theft of a controlled substance, 1st offense, S.C. Code Ann. §44-53-365(b)(1).

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Ms. Riser may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students, who may be under her instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. Riser's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Riser of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Riser holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over nine years of educator experience. At the time of her arrest, Ms. Riser was a teacher at Woodfields Elementary School (School) for with Greenwood School District 50 (District).

On or about February 14, 2022, the School's nurse noticed a student's medication was missing. The medication was kept locked in the nurse's office. However, it was determined the

Ms. Riser had access to the office key. It was further alleged by School administration that Ms. Riser had a history of taking things. Ms. Riser was arrested for theft of a controlled substance.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Ms. Riser may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students who may be under her instruction, and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. Riser's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Riser of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

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 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2017), "If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-10 (2017) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Ms. Riser's unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, and evident unfitness for the position for which employed, there is reason to believe Ms. Riser may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Tiara Shea Riser, certificate number 254532, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Riser of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

(signature page attached)

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AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

BY: s/Alan Walters
Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 1, 2022