

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Jamez E. Dudley
Certificate 257704

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION
(UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT)**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 17, 2022. On March 31, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, regarding the possible suspension of South Carolina educator certificate 257704. Mr. Dudley contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternate resolution. Mr. Dudley has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 257704 for a period of one year. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Dudley's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on February 11, 2022, and ending on February 10, 2023. Mr. Dudley has also agreed to complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to his reinstatement.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Dudley holds a South Carolina educator certificate. He has over ten years of educator experience. On February 24, 2022, the SCDE received notification from the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) that Mr. Dudley's Georgia educator certification was suspended.

Between October and December of 2018, Mr. Dudley exchanged unprofessional text messages with a student he had previously taught. The student was in ninth grade at the time of

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s/JED
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the communications. Mr. Dudley admitted he used some profanity in his text exchanges with the student, but denied that the communication was inappropriate.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Jamez E. Dudley's educator certificate 257704 for a period of one year, commencing on February 11, 2022, and ending on February 10, 2023. Mr. Dudley has also agreed to complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to the reinstatement of his certificate.

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); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes "incompetence; willful neglect of duty; willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education; unprofessional conduct; drunkenness; cruelty; crime against the law of this State or the United States; immorality; any conduct involving moral turpitude; dishonesty; evident unfitness for position for which employed; or sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Dudley engaged in unprofessional conduct due to the suspension of his Georgia educator certification for inappropriate communication with a student. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Dudley's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on February 11, 2022 and ending on February 10, 2023. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to accept the requirement of Mr. Dudley successfully completing the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course.

If Mr. Dudley wishes to have the 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. Dudley 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. He shall provide the SCDE

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Office of Educator Services proof of the successful completion of the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to requesting reinstatement of his educator certificate. The suspension of Dudley's educator certificate 257704 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 Jamez E. Dudley, certificate 257704, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on February 11, 2022, and ending on February 10, 2023.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/ Alan Walters
Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
May 17, 2022

I, Jamez E. Dudley, SC Educator Certificate 257704, 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 May 17, 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 have the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/Jamez E. Dudley
Jamez E. Dudley

4/30/2022
Date

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s/JED
Initial
4/30/2022
Date