

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Grace K. McColgan
Certificate 296635

CONSENT ORDER OF PERMANENT
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 8, 2023. On November 2, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice letter to Grace K. McColgan regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. McColgan has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into a Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of her educator certificate 296635. After considering the evidence provided, the State Board has agreed to accept the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of Ms. McColgan's educator certificate 296635, effective August 8, 2023.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. McColgan holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate. She has over nineteen years of educator experience. At the time of her arrest, Ms. McColgan was employed as a special education teacher at Ocean Bay Elementary (School) with Horry County Schools (District). Following her arrest, on November 2, 2022, Ms. McColgan's educator certificate was summarily suspended by the State Board.

On or about November 1, 2022, Ms. McColgan was arrested on criminal charges with allegations of inappropriate conduct towards students. The allegations included leaving students in seclusion in the dark, rubbing hand sanitizer in a student's open wound, and hitting students. The SCDE has been notified Ms. McColgan has agreed to enter into a plea agreement to settle the criminal charges. As part of this agreement, Ms. McColgan has agreed to voluntarily permanently surrender her educator certification.

Grace K. McColgan
296635
s/GKM
Initial
7/13/23
Date

Ms. McColgan has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and to surrender her South Carolina educator certificate 296635, subject to the following conditions: (1) her educator certificate will become invalid and revoked immediately upon the approval by the State Board of the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender; (2) she has waived her right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and (3) she understands that the surrender of her educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a voluntary surrender and revocation.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of Ms. McColgan, educator certificate 296635, effective August 8, 2023.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020). Just cause includes “unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this state or the United States, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, and evident unfitness for the position for which one is employed.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 2 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (2021).

The State Board finds that Ms. McColgan, a South Carolina educator reported for allegations of inappropriate conduct towards students, has committed acts of unprofessional conduct and that just cause exists to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of Ms. McColgan’s South Carolina educator certificate.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Grace K. McColgan, certificate 296635, is hereby declared invalid and revoked. The voluntary surrender and revocation of the educator certificate of Grace K. McColgan, certificate 296635, shall be reported to

Grace K. McColgan
296635
s/GKM
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Grace K. McColgan, Certificate 296635
Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender
August 8, 2023
Page 3

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 State Board of Education
s/Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D.
Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 8, 2023

I, Grace K. McColgan, S.C. Educator Certificate 296635, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of education certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily surrender my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I hereby acknowledge that this surrender shall have the same effect as a revocation of my certificate. I knowingly forfeit and relinquish all right, title, and privilege of holding myself out as and being able to practice as an educator in the public schools in the State of South Carolina. I agree that I will not serve or be employed as a certified educator in a public school in the State of South Carolina. I understand the term 'public school' includes any public charter school but does not include any private school. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Consent Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on August 8, 2023. I understand this Consent 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/Grace K. McColgan
Grace K. McColgan

7/13/23
Date