

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Cassandra Kilpatrick
Certificate 308932

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 14, 2023. On December 1, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Cassandra Kilpatrick a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. Kilpatrick received the notice on December 8, 2022, as evidence by 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 suspend Ms. Kilpatrick's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on February 14, 2023, and ending on February 13, 2024.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Kilpatrick holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. She has over three years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Kilpatrick does not have a record of educator employment in South Carolina.

On September 14, 2022, the SCDE received notice from the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) that Ms. Kilpatrick's New Jersey educator certification was suspended for a period of six years due to fraud. In 2019, Ms. Kilpatrick submitted an application for certification in New Jersey. The application required a record of professional experience from the North Penn School District (District). A record was submitted and signed by the District's superintendent. There were concerns about the form, and New Jersey investigated the incident. The District superintendent stated they had not signed the form and the form contained incorrect information regarding Ms. Kilpatrick's employment with the District.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Order of Suspension of Ms. Kilpatrick's educator certificate 308932 for a period of one year, commencing on February 14, 2023, and ending on February 13, 2024.

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 Cassandra Kilpatrick engaged in unprofessional conduct by being suspended by the New Jersey Department of Education, State Board of Examiners (NJDE) for providing incomplete and/or conflicting information in her applications for an upgraded Standard certification. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Kilpatrick's educator certificate 308932 for a period of one year, commencing on February 14, 2023, and ending on February 13, 2024.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Cassandra Kilpatrick, educator certificate 308932, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on February 14, 2023, and ending on February 13, 2024.

If Ms. Kilpatrick wishes to have the certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Ms. Kilpatrick shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Ms. Kilpatrick's educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

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AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D.
Crystal F. Stapleton, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 14, 2023