

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Andrew Ketron
Certificate 308846

Order Of Summary Suspension

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 3, 2024. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2020), § 59-5-10 (2020), 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 Andrew Ketron, educator certificate 308846, as a result of his arrest for state charges from Tennessee for arrested for continuous sexual abuse of a child and 76 counts of statutory rape in Tennessee.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Ketron may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students who may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Ketron'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 Mr. Ketron of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Ketron holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over one year of educator experience. At the time of the incident, Mr. Ketron was a teacher for Dorchester School District Two (District). He resigned from the District on October 25, 2023.

The District placed Mr. Ketron on administrative leave on October 4, 2023, after learning of alleged criminal charges against Mr. Ketron in Tennessee. On or about October 25, 2023, Mr.

Ketron was arrested for continuous sexual abuse of a child and 76 counts of statutory rape in Tennessee

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Mr. Ketron 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 Mr. Ketron'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 Mr. Ketron of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his 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 Mr. Ketron's unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, and evident unfitness for the position for which employed, due to his arrested for continuous sexual abuse of a child and 76 counts of statutory rape in Tennessee, there is reason to believe Mr. Ketron may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Andrew Ketron, certificate number 308846, 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 Mr. Ketron of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

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AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/David C. O'Shields
David C. O'Shields, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 3, 2024