

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Thomas R. Schneider
Certificate 214051

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 9, 2024. On January 30, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Thomas R. Schneider a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Thomas R. Schneider regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate 214051. After Mr. Schneider received the notice, he contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Mr. Schneider has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand of educator certificate 214051. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of Mr. Schneider's educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Schneider holds a South Carolina educator certificate. He has over eighteen years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Mr. Schneider was employed by the Aiken County Public School District as a teacher at Langley Bath Clearwater Middle School.

On June 12, 2023, Mr. Schneider pled guilty to alteration of records, which states "that a person is guilty of a misdemeanor if they knowingly and willfully destroy, alter, or falsify medical records to conceal material facts." Georgia Code § 16-10-94.1. While the charge is a misdemeanor, it is a crime of dishonesty. Mr. Schneider has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter in to this public reprimand of his educator certificate.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of Thomas R. Schneider's educator certificate.

Thomas R. Schneider
214051
s/TRS
Initial
2/14/24
Date

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 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020). 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 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Schneider engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, and crime against the law of this State or the United States due to pleading guilty to alteration of records in the state of Georgia. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to publicly reprimand Mr. Schneider’s educator certificate.

The public reprimand of Mr. Schneider’s educator certificate 214051 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days of the date of this order.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Thomas R. Schneider, certificate 214051, is publicly reprimanded.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/David C. O’Shields

David C. O'Shields, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 9, 2024

Thomas R. Schneider
214051
s/TRS
Initial
2/14/24
Date

Thomas R. Schneider, Certificate 214051

Consent Order of Public Reprimand

April 2, 2024

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I, Thomas R. Schneider, SC Educator Certificate 214051, 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 Public Reprimand are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State board for approval on April 9, 2024. 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/Thomas R. Schneider

Thomas R. Schneider

2/14/24

Date

Thomas R. Schneider

214051

s/TRS

Initial

2/14/24

Date