

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Kimberly Dewitt
Certificate 314230

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 3, 2024. On November 4, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Kimberly Dewitt a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Kimberly Dewitt regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 314230. Ms. Dewitt timely requested a hearing on the matter. After Ms. Dewitt requested a hearing, she contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Ms. Dewitt has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter this Consent Order of Public Reprimand of educator certificate 314230.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Dewitt holds a South Carolina educator certificate. She has over seventeen years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Dewitt was employed by the state of Florida as a special education teacher.

During the fall semester of 2022, Ms. Dewitt falsified seven Individual Education Plans by asserting the teachers were present for either re-evaluation or 504 meetings when the teachers were not in attendance at the meetings.

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

Kimberly Dewitt
314230
s/KD
Initial
11/15/24
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 Ms. Dewitt engaged in unprofessional conduct due to falsifying teacher attendance on IEP documents. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to publicly reprimand Ms. Dewitt’s educator certificate.

The public reprimand of Ms. Dewitt’s educator certificate 314230 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 Kimberly Dewitt, certificate 314230, is publicly reprimanded.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

David C. O'Shields, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 3, 2024

Kimberly Dewitt
314230
s/KD
Initial
11/15/24
Date

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I, Kimberly Dewitt, SC Educator Certificate 314230, 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 South Carolina State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, December 3, 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/Kimberly Dewitt
Kimberly Dewitt

11/15/24
Date