

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Lisbeth Hawley Chapman
Certificate 241155

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 9, 2024. On November 29, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Lisbeth Hawley Chapman regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 241155. After Ms. Chapman received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. She has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 241155 for a period of one year.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Chapman's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on January 9, 2024, and ending January 8, 2025.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Chapman holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate. She has over 11 years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Chapman was employed by Richland County School District Two (District) as a teacher at Windsor Elementary School.

On May 22, 2022, School administration received a report that Ms. Chapman appeared to be unwell. Administration noted that Ms. Chapman was slurring her speech and appeared drowsy. Ms. Chapman stated she was on medication but was fine to return to her classroom. She was taken to the School nurse's office, where she did agree to a breathalyzer. Ms. Chapman did record a blood alcohol level of 0.06%, just below the legal

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driving limit of 0.08%. She was instructed to call for a ride home and placed on administrative leave. Ms. Chapman later resigned from the District.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Chapman's educator certificate 241155 for a period of one year, commencing on January 9, 2024, and ending on January 8, 2025.

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 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Chapman engaged in unprofessional conduct by reporting to work while under the influence of alcohol. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Chapman's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on January 9, 2024 and ending on January 8, 2025.

If Ms. Chapman 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. Chapman 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. Chapman's educator certificate 241155 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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Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Lisbeth Hawley Chapman, certificate 241155, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on January 9, 2024, and ending on January 8, 2025.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/David C. O'Shields

David C. O'Shields, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
January 9, 2024

I, Lisbeth Hawley Chapman, SC Educator Certificate 241155, 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 Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of 3 of pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State board for approval on January 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/Lisbeth H. Chapman
Lisbeth Hawley Chapman

12/20/23
Date