

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Paula Shaw
Certificate 144707

**ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 12, 2024. On July 17, 2023, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Paula Shaw a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. The SCDE has verified Ms. Shaw's address, the certified letter was returned unclaimed, and the letter sent via regular mail has not been returned. On December 19, 2023, the SCDE informed Ms. Shaw via regular mail that the State Board would meet on March 12, 2024, or as soon thereafter as is feasible, to consider action against her educator certificate. Under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure 5(b), Paula Shaw has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. Ms. Shaw has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to issue a public reprimand to Ms. Shaw and approved this Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Shaw holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over twenty-nine years of experience. She has no prior disciplinary action from the State Board. There is no record of Ms. Shaw serving as a certified educator in South Carolina after 1994.

On June 8, 2023, the SCDE learned that there was action against Ms. Shaw's Ohio educator certification. According to the Ohio order, Ms. Shaw left students unsupervised, made a disparaging remark to a student, and wrote an assignment for a student. Her Ohio certification was suspended for one year. However, the suspension was stayed as long as Ms. Shaw completed the terms of the Ohio order.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to issue a public reprimand to Ms. Shaw and approved this Order of Public Reprimand.

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 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the District would not support a conclusion that just cause exists to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Paula Shaw; however, the evidence would support a conclusion that Ms. Shaw engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of the stayed suspension of her Ohio educator certification. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Shaw by the State Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Paula Shaw, certificate 144707. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order with the grounds listed as “unprofessional conduct.” This Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE’s web site and shall be maintained as a public record in the SCDE’s Office of General Counsel.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

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

Columbia, South Carolina
March 12, 2024