

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Ajadae Marle Williams
Certificate 289822

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 9, 2024. On December 20, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Ajadae Marle Williams regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 289822. On January 19, 2023, Ms. Williams requested a hearing. Prior to the hearing, Ms. Williams consented to an alternative resolution. She has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 289822.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Williams' educator certificate, commencing on May 26, 2024, and ending on August 6, 2024. Ms. Williams has also agreed to complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Williams holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate. She has over four years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Williams was a teacher with Greenwood School District 50 (District).

On March 4, 2020, a teaching evaluation noted Ms. Williams' lack of professionalism in the classroom as she spoke to students about makeup and hair. The following summer, Ms. Williams was notified she was being transferred to a different District school. She did not agree with the move and spoke publicly about the

Ajadae Marle Williams
289822
s/AMW
Initial
3/11/24
Date

employment matter on social media. When the new school year began, she was placed on administrative leave for the social media posts. Ms. Williams resigned from the District.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Williams' educator certificate 289822, commencing on May 26, 2024, and ending on August 6, 2024. Ms. Williams has also agreed to complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course.

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. Williams engaged in unprofessional conduct by showing a lack of professionalism in communication with students and on social media. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Williams' educator certificate for a period of three months, commencing on May 26, 2024 and ending on August 6, 2024. Ms. Williams will also complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course.

If Ms. Williams 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. Williams 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. Williams' educator certificate 289822 shall be

Ajadae Marle Williams
289822
s/AMW
Initial
3/11/24
Date

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 Ajadae Marle Williams, certificate 289822, is suspended for a period of three months, commencing on May 26, 2024, and ending on August 6, 2024.

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

I, Ajadae Marle Williams, SC Educator Certificate 289822, 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 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/Ajadae Marle Williams
Ajadae Marle Williams

3/11/24
Date