

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Nina Jo Hendrix
Certificate 259710

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 3, 2024. On June 25, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Nina Jo Hendrix a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. Hendrix received the notice on July 5, 2024, as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. She has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Hendrix's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on September 3, 2024, and ending on September 2, 2025.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Hendrix holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. She has over eight years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Hendrix was employed by Spartanburg School District Five (District) as a special education teacher at Florence Chapel Middle School (School).

On January 11, 2024, several teachers reported to School administration that they were concerned that Ms. Hendrix was under the influence. Staff members expressed concern it was unsafe for her to be on campus, as she appeared to wander around and bump into other staff members. In a statement to the District, Ms. Hendrix admitted to taking a medication with alcohol before she reported for work. She was placed on administrative leave that day and subsequently resigned from the District.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Order of Suspension of Ms. Hendrix's educator certificate 259710 for a period of one year, commencing on September 3, 2024, and ending on September 2, 2025.

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 demonstrates that Nina Jo Hendrix engaged in unprofessional conduct by reporting for work under the influence of medications and alcohol. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Nina Jo Hendrix's educator certificate 259710 for a period of one year, commencing on September 3, 2024, and ending on September 2, 2025.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Nina Jo Hendrix educator certificate 259710, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on September 3, 2024, and ending on September 2, 2025.

If Ms. Hendrix 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. Hendrix 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. Hendrix's educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days of the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

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

Columbia, South Carolina
September 3, 2024