

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Jordan Brittani Lewis
Certificate 267291

**ORDER OF DISMISSAL
(BREACH OF CONTRACT)**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 5, 2025. On February 22, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Jordan Brittani Lewis a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. Lewis received thereafter timely requested a hearing which was held on February 21, 2025. This matter is properly before the State Board pursuant to S.C Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2020) and referred to a hearing officer pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 59-5-70 (2004). After considering the evidence presented, the State Board hereby dismisses this action against Ms. Lewis's educator certification 267291.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Lewis holds a 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. Lewis was employed by the Richland County School District Two as a teacher at Dent Middle School.

On July 31, 2023, Ms. Lewis signed a contractual agreement with the District to serve as an educator for the 2023-24 school year. On January 10, 2024, Ms. Lewis submitted her separation request to the District, effective January 12, 2024, citing pursuit of work in another career field. Ms. Lewis was notified she would not be released from her contract until a suitable replacement can be found. She did not return to fulfil her contract. The District Board voted to

report Ms. Lewis's breach of contract to the SCDE on January 13, 2024. On February 20, 2024, the District reported the matter to the SCDE.

After considering all of the evidence presented at the hearing, the Hearing Officer recommended that the State Board issue an Order of Dismissal. The Hearing Officer noted that there was no "meeting of the minds" concerning Ms. Lewis' contract because of a miscommunication between Ms. Lewis and the District concerning her starting salary. Specifically, the Hearing Officer found that Ms. Lewis reasonably relied on the publicly available salary scale mentioned in her contract, and the District did not clearly communicate that Ms. Lewis would be paid a lower amount because her educator certificate was not fully active at the time the contract was signed due to a processing delay in her certificate reinstatement. The District did not object to the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation.

After considering the evidence, the State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Lewis breached her contract with the District for good cause, and that just cause exists to dismiss the action against Ms. Lewis's educator certificate 267291.

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. Just cause includes "breach of contract." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (13) (2025). Pursuant to 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2) and (14) (2021), the State Board of Education has the legal authority to suspend a certificate for "failure to comply with the provision of a contract without the written consent of the local school board." With respect to breach of contract, "any educator who fails to comply with the provisions of his contract without the written consent of the school board is considered to be in breach of contract." S. C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2025). "Upon formal complaint of the school board, substantiated by conclusive evidence, the state board shall suspend or revoke the teacher's certificate." *Id.* The period of suspension for breach of contract, "must begin on the date such contract is breached with the district and run for a period of time deemed appropriate by the State Board of Education, not to exceed six months from the date of breach." *Id.* An educator

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may not be signed to an employment contract by any South Carolina public school during the term of suspension. *Id.*

The State Board finds that the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does not exist to suspend the professional educator certificate of Ms. Lewis in this matter. Accordingly, this action against Jordan Brittani Lewis, educator certificate 267291 is hereby dismissed.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Rita Allison

Rita Allison, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

August 5, 2025