

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Nicole Leigh Callaham
Certificate 284681

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on July 31, 2025. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2020), § 59-5-10 (2020), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Nicole Leigh Callaham, educator certificate 284681, as a result of her arrest on four counts of unlawful conduct toward a child, and six counts of the felony charge of criminal sexual conduct with a minor under 16 years of age.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Ms. Callaham may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students, who may be under her instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. Callaham's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Callaham of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Callaham holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over eight years of educator experience. At the time of the incident, Ms. Callaham was employed a kindergarten teacher in Anderson School District Five (District). She resigned from the District on May 21, 2025

On or about July 10, 2025, Ms. Callaham was arrest on four counts of unlawful conduct toward a child, and six counts of the felony charge of criminal sexual conduct with a minor under 16 years of age.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Ms. Callaham may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students who may be under her instruction, and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. Callaham's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Callaham of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

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 (2025). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2025); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2021). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2020), "If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-10 (2020) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Ms. Callaham's unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, and evident unfitness for the position for which employed, due to her arrest on four counts of unlawful conduct toward a child, and six counts of the felony charge of criminal sexual conduct with a minor under 16 years of age, there is reason to believe Ms. Callaham may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Nicole Leigh Callaham, certificate number 284681, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Callaham of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

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South Carolina Board of Education

s/Rita Allison
Rita Allison, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
July 31, 2025