

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Elizabeth Carolina Delaney McDonald
Certificate 280849

ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 4, 2025. On December 17, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Elizabeth Carolina Delaney McDonald a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible action against her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. McDonald received the notice on December 24, 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 permanently revoke Ms. McDonald's educator certificate 280849, effective March 4, 2025.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. McDonald holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over six years of teaching experience. At the time of her arrest, Ms. McDonald was a teacher with the Lancaster County School District (District). She resigned from the District on April 25, 2023.

The State Board summarily suspended Ms. McDonald's educator certification on February 2, 2023. The suspension was the result of Ms. McDonald's arrest on three felony drug charges and twenty-one felony counts of possession of a weapon during a violent crime. On or about November 14, 2024, Ms. McDonald was sentenced for entering a guilty plea to possession with intent to distribute schedule I, II, or III controlled substance or flunitrazepam or analogue.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Ms. McDonald's educator certificate 280849, effective March 4, 2025.

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). Just cause includes “unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United State, evident unfitness for position for which employed, and sale or possession of narcotics.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that Ms. McDonald engaged in unprofessional conduct, conduct involving moral turpitude, and crime against the law of this State or the United States due to Ms. McDonald’s plea to possession with intent to distribute class I, II, III controlled substance, a Class F felony.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke education certificate 280849, issued in the name of Elizabeth Carolina Delaney McDonald, effective March 4, 2025. The permanent revocation of Ms. McDonald’s educator certificate 280849 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

Rita Allison
Rita Allison, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 4, 2025