

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Whitney Lynn Moores
Certificate 324553

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 10, 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 Whitney Lynn Moores, educator certificate 324553, as a result of her arrest for the felony charge of distributing methamphetamine.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Ms. Moores 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. Moores' 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. Moores of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Moores holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has fourteen years of educator experience in Florida. At the time of her arrest, Ms. Moores was not employed by a South Carolina school district.

According to arrest warrants, on or about February 14, 2025, it is alleged that Ms. Moores was in a vehicle that was pulled over by law enforcement for driving without headlights. During

the traffic stop, law enforcement were given probable cause to search the vehicle. Law enforcement found a zipper pouch containing a meth pipe, 10 grams of meth, and 1 gram of heroin. Ms. Moores was subsequently arrested for distributing methamphetamine. She has also been charged with a misdemeanor count for possession of narcotics.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Ms. Moores 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. Moores' 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. Moores 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 (2020). 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 (2020); 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. Moores' 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 for distributing methamphetamine, there is reason to believe Ms. Moores may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Whitney Lynn Moores, certificate number 324553, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is

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otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Moores of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/Rita Allison
Rita Allison, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 10, 2025