

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Debbie Bond
Certificate 229704

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 6, 2025. On April 3, 2025, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Debbie Bond a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Debbie Bond regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 229704. Ms. Bond timely requested a hearing on the matter. After Ms. Bond received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Ms. Bond has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand of educator certificate 229704. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of Ms. Bond's educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Bond holds a South Carolina educator certificate. She has over sixteen years of educator experience along with twelve years of out-of-state experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board or in any previous States. At the time of the incident, Ms. Bond was employed as a teacher at PACE Academy (School), a school within the South Carolina Public Charter School District.

On December 17, 2024, School staff members reported that Ms. Bond appeared to be under the influence of alcohol during the school day. When confronted by School administration, Ms. Bond admitted to being under the influence of alcohol along with her prescribed medication during the school day. Additionally, Ms. Bond admitted to possessing alcohol on school grounds. Ms. Bond maintains that she consumed alcohol

Debbie Bond
229704
s/DB
Initial
4/21/25
Date

prior to the school day and not on school grounds. Ms. Bond was placed on administrative leave on December 18, 2024, and subsequently resigned on January 03, 2025, citing emotional distress. Following the incident, Ms. Bond sought and obtained treatment for substance abuse and has successfully completed a rehabilitative program and will be continuing treatment indefinitely. Ms. Bond has also taken steps to address mental and physical health ailments that contributed to her conduct.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of Debbie Bond's educator certificate.

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); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020). Just cause includes "incompetence; willful neglect of duty; willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education; unprofessional conduct; drunkenness; cruelty; crime against the law of this State or the United States; immorality; any conduct involving moral turpitude; dishonesty; evident unfitness for position for which employed; or sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Bond engaged in unprofessional conduct due to being under the influence of alcohol during the school day and possession alcohol on school grounds. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to publicly reprimand Ms. Bond's educator certificate.

The public reprimand of Ms. Bond's educator certificate 229704 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Debbie Bond, certificate 229704, is publicly reprimanded.

(signature block on following page)

Debbie Bond
229704
s/DB
Initial
4/21/25
Date

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AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/Rita Allison

Rita Allison, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
May 6, 2025

I, Debbie Bond, SC Educator Certificate 229704, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Public Reprimand are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of 3 pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. I understand this Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter. If approved by the State Board, I have the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

S/Debbie Bond

Debbie Bond

4/24/25

Date

Debbie Bond

229704

s/DB

Initial

4/21/25

Date