

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Traci Anjelica Powers
Certificate 209325

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 4, 2025. On September 8, 2025, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Traci Anjelica Powers a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. Powers received the notice on September 12, 2025, as evidenced by signed postal receipt. She contacted the SCDE to discuss the matter but did not request a hearing. Ms. Powers submitted a statement to the State Board of Education.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Traci Anjelica Powers's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on November 4, 2025, and ending on November 3, 2026.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Traci Anjelica Powers holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Ms. Powers has over nineteen years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Powers was employed by the Aiken County Public School District (District) as a teacher at North Augusta High School (School).

Ms. Powers was placed on administrative leave on September 22, 2022, after it was reported to the District that Ms. Powers yelled at the students and made disparaging comments about their intelligence. She also slammed a desk down on the floor and instructed a student to sit in the desk. When the student sat down, Ms. Powers took a notebook from his hand and slammed it down on the desktop. Ms. Powers subsequently resigned via a settlement agreement with the District effective January 31, 2023.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Powers's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on October 7, 2025 and ending on October 6, 2026.

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 (Rev. 2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2025). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2025); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Traci Anjelica Powers engaged in unprofessional conduct by yelling at the students, calling them "retarded," picking up a desk and slamming it down, and taking a notebook from a student's hand and slamming it down on the desktop. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Traci Anjelica Powers's educator certificate 209325 for a period of one year, commencing on November 4, 2025, and ending on November 3, 2026. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to require Ms. Powers successfully complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction Course and an SCDE-approved anger management program with a letter of safe return to work prior to the reinstatement of her certification.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Traci Anjelica Powers educator certificate 209325, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on November 4, 2025, and ending on November 3, 2026.

If Ms. Powers wishes to have the certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Ms. Powers shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Traci Anjelica Powers's educator certificate 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 State Board of Education

s/Rita Allison
Rita Allison, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
November 4, 2025