

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Priscilla May Dennis
Certificate 282191

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 15, 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 Priscilla May Dennis, educator certificate 282191, as a result of her arrest for unlawful conduct towards a child.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Dennis holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over fifteen years of educator experience. At the time of the incident, Ms. Dennis was employed as a teacher for the Hampton County School District (District).

On or about September 24, 2025, Ms. Dennis was arrested for unlawful conduct towards a child. It is alleged that on the incident date, she struck her 13-year-old child in the head and face several times with her closed fist, and the injuries required treatment from EMS personnel.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct,

Ms. Dennis 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. Dennis'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. Dennis 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. Dennis'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 for unlawful conduct towards a child there is reason to believe Ms. Dennis may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Priscilla May Dennis, certificate number 282191, 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. Dennis of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

Columbia, South Carolina
October 15, 2025

South Carolina Board of Education
s/Rita Allison
Rita Allison, Chair