

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Sarah S. Avery
Certificate 226492

CONSENT ORDER OF REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 2, 2025. On July 1, 2025, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Sarah S. Avery a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Sarah S. Avery regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 226492. After Ms. Avery received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to advise that she did not wish to request a hearing. Ms. Avery has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Revocation of educator certificate 226492. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Revocation of Ms. Avery's educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Avery holds a South Carolina educator certificate. She has over seventeen years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Avery was employed by the Greenville County School District as a special education teacher at Robert E. Cashion Elementary School.

On April 14, 2023, Ms. Avery improperly placed a special education student who was disrobing as part of a behavioral response in the restroom, preventing the student from leaving by blocking the door with her body. While preventing the student from exiting the restroom, Ms. Avery was overheard by another teaching directing profanity towards the student and speaking in a hostile manner.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Revocation of Sarah S. Avery's educator certificate. Ms. Avery was

Sarah S. Avery

226492

s/SSA

Initial

8/20/25

Date

placed on administrative leave on April 17, 2023. She subsequently resigned from the District, effective June 1, 2023.

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 (2025). 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 (2025); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Avery engaged in unprofessional conduct due to improperly placing a student who was disrobing as part of a behavioral response into the restroom and preventing the student from exiting the restroom. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to revoke Ms. Avery’s educator certificate.

The Revocation of Ms. Avery’s educator certificate 226492 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 Sarah S. Avery, certificate 226492, is revoked.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/Rita Allison

Rita Allison, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
September 2, 2025
[signature on next page]

Sarah S. Avery
226492
s/SSA
Initial
8/20/25
Date

Sarah S. Avery, Certificate 226492
Consent Order of Revocation
September 2, 2025
Page 3

I, Sarah S. Avery, SC Educator Certificate 226492, 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 Revocation are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Revocation, consisting of 3 pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, September 2, 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/Sarah S. Avery
Sarah S. Avery

8/20/25
Date

Sarah S. Avery
226492
s/SSA
Initial
8/20/25
Date