

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Anthony Melo
Certificate 325526

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 16, 2026. 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 Anthony Melo, educator certificate 325526, as a result of his arrest for arrest on the felony charge of dissemination of obscene materials (SC Code of Laws Ann. § 16-15-385) and the misdemeanor charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor (SC Code of Laws Ann. § 16-17-490).

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Melo may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students, who may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Melo'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 Mr. Melo of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Melo holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over three (3) years of educator experience. At the time of the incident, Mr. Melo was a teacher for Florence Public School District One (District). He resigned from the District on April 1, 2026.

On or about April 2, 2026, Mr. Melo was arrested on the felony charge of dissemination of obscene materials (SC Code of Laws Ann. § 16-15-385) and the misdemeanor charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor (SC Code of Laws Ann. § 16-17-490).

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Mr. Melo may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students who may be under his instruction, and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Melo'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 Mr. Melo of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his 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 Mr. Melo'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 his arrest on the felony charge of dissemination of obscene materials (SC Code of Laws Ann. § 16-15-385) and the misdemeanor charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor (SC Code of Laws Ann. § 16-17-490), there is reason to believe Mr. Melo may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Anthony Melo, Certificate 325526
Order of Summary Suspension
April 16, 2026
Page 3

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Anthony Melo, certificate number 325526, 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 Mr. Melo of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/David M. Mathis
David M. Mathis, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 16, 2026