

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
William Scott Simpson
Certificate 326176

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION
(BREACH OF CONTRACT)**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 6, 2026. On November 4, 2025, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent William Scott Simpson a notice via regular and certified mail of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate. Mr. Simpson received the notice on November 21, 2025, as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. He has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Simpson's educator certificate for a period of six months, commencing on October 7, 2025, and ending on April 6, 2026.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Simpson holds a South Carolina educator certificate. He has over thirty years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time, Mr. Simpson was employed by the Greenville County School District as a teacher at Rudolph G. Gordon School at Jones Mill.

On April 23, 2025, Mr. Simpson signed a contractual agreement with the District to serve as a teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. On October 7, 2025, Mr. Simpson submitted his resignation to the District, effective October 7, 2025, citing health concerns. On October 14, 2025, the District informed Mr. Simpson he would not be released from his contract until a satisfactory replacement was obtained or the superintendent determined that no replacement was necessary. He did not return to fulfill his contract.

The District Board voted to report Mr. Simpson's breach of contract to the SCDE on October 28, 2025. The District reported the matter to the SCDE on October 31, 2025.

After considering the evidence, the State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that William Scott Simpson breached his contract with the District, and that just cause exists to suspend Mr. Simpson's certificate 326176 for a period of six months, commencing on October 7, 2025, and ending on April 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. Just cause includes "breach of contract." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (13) (2025). Pursuant to 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2) and (14) (2021), the State Board of Education has the legal authority to suspend a certificate for "failure to comply with the provision of a contract without the written consent of the local school board." With respect to breach of contract, "any educator who fails to comply with the provisions of his contract without the written consent of the school board is considered to be in breach of contract." S. C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2025). "Upon formal complaint of the school board, substantiated by conclusive evidence, the state board shall suspend or revoke the teacher's certificate." *Id.* The period of suspension for breach of contract, "must begin on the date such contract is breached with the district and run for a period of time deemed appropriate by the State Board of Education, not to exceed six months from the date of breach." *Id.* An educator may not be signed to an employment contract by any South Carolina public school during the term of suspension. *Id.*

The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Simpson breached his contract without the consent and/or approval of the District. Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of William Scott Simpson for a period of six months, commencing on October 7, 2025, and ending on April 6, 2026.

William Scott Simpson, Certificate 326176
Order of Suspension
January 6, 2026
Page 3

If Mr. Simpson wishes to have his educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services and shall meet all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement. Mr. Simpson shall also pay the applicable reinstatement fee. The suspension of William Scott Simpson's educator certificate 326176 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order, with the reason stated as "failure to comply with the provisions of a contract without the written consent of the local school board."

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

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

Columbia, South Carolina
January 6, 2026