

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Mary Simmons Dobbing
Certificate 295167

CONSENT ORDER OF REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 3, 2026. On January 13, 2026, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Mary Simmons Dobbing concerning pending action against her South Carolina educator certificate 170142. Ms. Dobbing contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Ms. Dobbing has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Revocation of educator certificate 295167. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Revocation of Mary Simmons Dobbing's educator certificate 295167, effective March 3, 2026.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Dobbing holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over five years of educator experience. At the time of the incident, she was employed with Spartanburg School District Seven (District) as a teacher at McCarthy Teszler School. She was placed on administrative leave on February 18, 2025. On March 20, 2025, the SCDE learned that Ms. Dobbing was arrested on two counts of cruelty to children. The criminal charges stemmed from allegations that Ms. Dobbing struck a special needs student. She resigned her position with the District on February 27, 2025. Ms. Dobbins subsequently entered a guilty plea to misdemeanor assault and battery, 3rd degree on September 9, 2025.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Revocation of Mary Simmons Dobbing, educator certificate 295167, effective March 3, 2026.

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 by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to revoke education certificate 295167, issued in the name of Ms. Dobbing, effective March 3, 2026. Ms. Dobbing has the right to reapply for certification after three years. Ms. Dobbing shall, pursuant to State Board Rule BBCDB, be subject to a character and fitness review before the State Board with employment information during the period of certificate surrender; community service records; letters of support from a current or prospective school district employer, if applicable; letters of support from community leaders; and SLED and FBI background checks. Ms. Dobbing shall also pay all applicable fees for certification, if any. The revocation of Mary Simmons Dobbing’s educator certificate 295167 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Ms. Dobbing does not oppose and accepts the State Board’s decision to approve the Consent Order of Revocation of her educator certificate 295167, issued under the name of Mary Simmons Dobbing, and accepts the revocation of her educator certificate, effective March 3, 2026.

Now, therefore it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Revocation is accepted and the educator certificate of Mary Simmons Dobbing, certificate 295167, shall be reported to the

Mary Simmons Dobbing
295167
s/MSD
Initial
2/6/26
Date

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NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

BY: _____
David M. Mathis, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 3, 2026

I, Mary Simmons Dobbing, SC Educator Certificate 295167, 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 [three] pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on March 3, 2026.

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 give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/Mary Simmons Dobbing
Mary Simmons Dobbing

2/6/26
Date

Mary Simmons Dobbing
295167
s/MSD
Initial
2/6/26
Date