

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Annabelle Grace Tedder
Certificate 314450

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

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 5, 2026. On March 12, 2026, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Annabelle Grace Tedder a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate based on her breach of contract. Ms. Tedder contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution and has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter this Consent Order of Suspension.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Tedder's educator certificate for a period of six months, commencing October 10, 2025, and ending April 9, 2026.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Tedder holds a South Carolina educator certificate. She has over less than one years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Tedder was employed by the Darlington County School District as a teacher at Thornwell School for the Arts.

On April 20, 2025, Ms. Tedder signed a contractual agreement with Darlington County School District to serve as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Ms. Tedder submitted her resignation on September 29, 2025, effective October 10, 2025, citing financial stress and being offered a new opportunity. The Darlington County School District informed Ms. Tedder that she would not be released from her contract via letter on October 1, 2025. Ms. Tedder did not return to fulfill her contract. On December 8,

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2025, the School Board of Trustees voted to report Ms. Tedder's breach of contract to the SCDE. On December 9, 2025, the District reported the matter to the SCDE.

After being notified of the pending action against her educator certificate, Ms. Tedder contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternate resolution to a hearing. Ms. Tedder has agreed to the suspension of her educator certificate for a period of six months, beginning October 10, 2025, and ending April 9, 2026.

After considering the evidence, the State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Tedder breached her contract with the District, and that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Tedder's certificate 314450 for a period of six months, commencing on October 10, 2025, and ending April 9, 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.

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The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Tedder breached her contract without the consent and/or approval of the Darlington County School District. Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Annabelle Grace Tedder for a period of six months, commencing on October 10, 2025, and ending on April 9, 2026. If Ms. Tedder wishes to have her educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services, and shall meet all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement. Ms. Tedder shall also pay the applicable reinstatement fee. The suspension of Ms. Tedder's educator certificate 314450 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
May 5, 2026

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I, Annabelle Grace Tedder, S.C. Educator Certificate 314450, 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 that the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review. I have read the Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of 4 pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

I understand this Consent 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/Annabelle Grace Tedder

Annabelle Grace Tedder

4/2/226

Date