

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In-the Matter of the Revocation or)
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of)
Christopher Lamont Guy,)
Certificate 263523)
_____)

**ORDER OF
SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 23, 2015. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), 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 Christopher Lamont Guy, certificate 263523, as a result of his arrest for Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, 2nd degree, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-655(B) (Supp. 2014).

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Guy may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that 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. Guy'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. Guy of the summary suspension, as well as, the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Guy holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has been employed with the Beaufort County School District (District) since 2013 as a teacher at Lady's Island Middle School (School). On June 17, 2015, Mr. Guy was arrested and charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, 2nd degree, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-655(B) (Supp. 2014). On June 18, 2015, Mr. Guy signed a settlement agreement with the District resigning his position immediately.

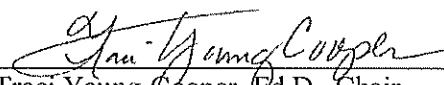
The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Guy may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Guy'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. Guy 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 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), “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 (2004) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of Mr. Guy’s inappropriate interactions of a sexual nature with a minor student and his arrest for Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, 2nd degree, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-655(B) (Supp. 2014); he has engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed. The Chair also finds that there is reason to believe that Mr. Guy may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students and that emergency action is required. Accordingly, the educator certificate of Christopher Lamont Guy, certificate 263523, 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. Guy of the summary suspension, as well as, the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate. The suspension of Mr. Guy’s educator certificate 263523 shall be immediately reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 
Traci Young-Cooper, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
June 23, 2015