

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Christine Ariana Cook)
)
Certificate 277002)
_____)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION
(Failure to meet ADEPT Requirements)

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 12, 2017. On June 30, 2017, the South Carolina Department of Education's (SCDE) Office of Educator Effectiveness and Leadership sent Ms. Christine Ariana Cook notice of her failure to meet the requirements of her ADEPT formal evaluation via regular and certified mail. Pursuant to S.C. Reg. 43-58 (2011), S.C. Reg. 43-205.1 (2011), and the ADEPT System Guidelines (2006), a second unsuccessful ADEPT formal evaluation at the annual-contract level requires that Ms. Cook's South Carolina teaching certificate be automatically suspended for a minimum of two years. On July 27, 2017, Ms. Cook received the notice as evidenced by a postal product and tracking receipt. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Cook's certificate for a minimum of two years, beginning September 12, 2017, and ending September 11, 2019, provided that Ms. Cook successfully completes a state-approved remediation plan.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Cook holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has four years of teaching experience. The Beaufort County School District's annual ADEPT report to the Office of Educator Effectiveness and Leadership indicated that Ms. Cook was unsuccessful in meeting the requirements of her ADEPT formal evaluation for the 2015-2016 school year. This was Ms. Cook's second unsuccessful ADEPT evaluation at the annual-contract level.

On June 30, 2017, the SCDE's Office of Educator Effectiveness and Leadership sent Ms. Cook notice of her failure to meet the requirements of her ADEPT formal evaluation via regular and certified mail.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

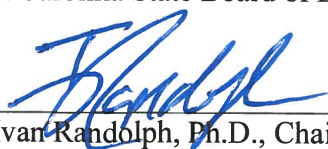
The State Board will automatically suspend for a minimum of two years the certificate of an annual-contract teacher who for the second time fails to meet ADEPT formal evaluation criteria. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-60 (2004); S.C. Reg. 43-58 (2011), S.C. Reg. 43-205.1 (2011). The State Board finds that sufficient evidence has been presented supporting its conclusion that Ms. Cook failed to meet ADEPT formal evaluation criteria for a second time, warranting the suspension of her certificate for a minimum period of two years, commencing on September 12, 2017, through September 11, 2019, provided that Ms. Cook successfully completes a state-approved remediation plan. An "ineligible for hire" indicator will be placed in Ms. Cook's certification file with the Office of Educator Services and will not be removed prior to September 11, 2019, provided that she successfully completes a state-approved remediation plan.

Before reentry into the profession and removal of the suspension, Ms. Cook must complete a state-approved remediation plan based on the areas that were identified as deficiencies during the formal evaluation process. Remediation plans must be developed and implemented in accordance with the State Board's ADEPT implementation guidelines. Following the minimum two-year suspension period and the completion of the remediation plan, as verified by the Office of Educator Services, Ms. Cook's educator certificate suspension will be lifted and Ms. Cook will be eligible for employment at the annual-contract level. All fees and eligibility requirements that are in effect at the time of Ms. Cook's reapplication will apply.

The suspension of Ms. Cook's educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within five days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 

Ivan Randolph, Ph.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
September 12, 2017