

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Voluntary)
Surrender of the Educator)
Certificate of Alicia Lynn Worner)
Certificate 279792)

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

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 10, 2018. On March 12, 2018 the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Alicia Lynn Worner, via regular mail and certified mail, restricted delivery, regarding possible disciplinary action to be taken against her educator certificate, 279792. After receiving the notice, Ms. Worner informed the SCDE, on March 21, 2018, that she desired to waive her right to a hearing and enter into a Consent Order of Suspension of her educator certificate 279792, effective April 10, 2018 and ending April 9, 2019.

After considering the evidence provided, the State Board has agreed to accept the Consent Order of Suspension, effective April 10, 2018.

FINDINGS OF FACT

This case concerns a formal complaint by Spartanburg County School District Five (District) seeking the suspension of the educator certificate of Alicia Lynn Worner for breach of contract. The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2017) and S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2017).

Ms. Worner holds a South Carolina professional educator certificate and has four years of teaching experience. On March 16, 2017, Ms. Worner signed a Contractual Agreement with the District for the 2017-2018 school year. On February 1, 2018, Ms. Worner submitted a resignation letter to the District. Ms. Worner noted that she was resigning due to a "major life circumstance" and that her last day at the District would be February 23, 2018. On February 14, 2018, the District notified Ms. Worner that her resignation would be reported to the SCDE as a breach of contract.

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SC Dept. Of Education
Office of General Counsel

On January 11, 2018, the District reported Ms. Worner's breach of contract to the SCDE. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Worner's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing April 10, 2018 and ending April 9, 2019.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." Just cause includes, *inter alia*, "unprofessional conduct" and "willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (3) and (4) (2017). Pursuant to 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2) and (14) (Supp. 2011), the State Board of Education has the legal authority, *inter alia*, to suspend a certificate for "willful neglect of duty" and "failure to comply with the provisions of a contract without the written consent of the local school board."

The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Worner breached her contract and engaged in unprofessional conduct, willfully neglected her duty, and failed to comply with the provision of her contract without the written consent of Spartanburg County School District Five. The evidence presented further supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Alicia Lynn Worner, certificate 279792, for a period of one year, commencing April 10, 2018 and ending April 9, 2019.

If Ms. Worner 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. Worner shall also pay all applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Ms. Worner's educator certificate 279792 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within 30 days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

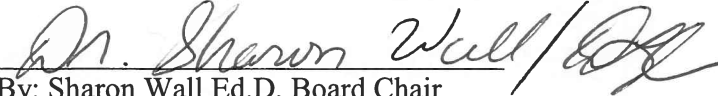
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Alicia Lynn Worner, Certificate # 279792
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South Carolina State Board of Education


By: Sharon Wall Ed.D, Board Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 10, 2018

I, Alicia Lynn Worner, Certificate # 279792, 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 agree that during the period of suspension, I will not seek employment or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, coach or in any other paid position in a public school in the State of South Carolina. I understand the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on April 10, 2018.


Alicia Lynn Worner


Date