

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Revocation	)	
	)	
of the Educator Certificate of	)	ORDER OF REVOCATION
	)	
Jonathan O'Neal White,	)	(DISCIPLINARY)
	)	
Educator Certificate #264241	)	
_____	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 12, 2018. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) notified Jonathan O'Neal White (White) of his right to a hearing regarding potential disciplinary action against his South Carolina Educator Certificate by letters dated July 29, 2016, October 3, 2016, and December 2, 2016 sent via certified and regular U.S. Mail. White timely requested a hearing. On March 24 and 26, 2018, a hearing was held concerning White's alleged unprofessional conduct in the nature of dishonesty to his supervisors regarding his work attendance; creation of false therapy documentation; and failure to perform his duties in providing therapy services to students as required by their Individual Education Plans (IEP's).

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board hereby voted to revoke White's educator certificate, effective immediately.

FINDINGS OF FACT

This case is a disciplinary matter involving White's dishonesty, unprofessional conduct and neglect of duty during his employment as a speech therapist with Barnwell School District 45 (the District). The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004).

White holds a valid South Carolina Educator Certificate and was assigned to Barnwell Elementary School (BES) for the 2014-2015 school year but was also called upon to perform certain duties at Barnwell Primary School (BPS) as needed. On numerous occasions, White was dishonest with his superiors about his presence at BPS, when in fact, he was not present at either school. When this was discovered, an investigation ensued which revealed that White had falsely documented Medicaid billing sheets reflecting that therapy sessions were provided to

students on dates that he was absent from the school, during times the student was absent from school, at times when students had been released early, or at other dates of service that would have been impossible. Apart from three make-up sessions that could be documented by teachers, there was no evidence that White had provided the services on any other date. White continually misrepresented to school officials that the missed sessions were made up. Further investigation revealed that White was not providing the number of therapy sessions specified in student IEP's. In some cases, less than half the required therapy sessions were provided.

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent White a notice of his right to a hearing regarding possible disciplinary action affecting his South Carolina Educator Certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. White timely requested a hearing. On March 24 and 26, 2018 a hearing was held concerning White's conduct in this matter.

After considering the evidence presented at the hearing, the State Board finds:

- (a) White was dishonest with his superiors regarding his whereabouts during school hours.
- (b) White fabricated documentation, to include Medicaid documentation, concerning therapy sessions that he did not actually provide.
- (c) White neglected his duties in failing to provide the number of therapy sessions required in the IEP's for students he was assigned to service and made no attempt to disclose this fact to his superiors or seek assistance in making up these sessions.
- (d) White was dishonest with his superiors in the District's investigation of his wrongdoing in that he continued to maintain that he had conducted make-up sessions for each of the dates that he claimed in his Medicaid billing sheets

Accordingly, the Board finds that just cause exists to revoke White's Educator Certificate, effective immediately.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State 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, *inter alia*, "willful neglect of duty"; "unprofessional conduct", and "dishonesty". S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2), (4), and (10) (2004), respectively.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that White's conduct exhibited neglect of duties, dishonesty and unprofessional conduct. Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to revoke the Educator Certificate of Jonathan O'Neal White, Educator Certificate #264241.

White has the right to apply for certification after three years. White shall, pursuant to State Board Rule BBCDB, be subject to a character and fitness review before the State Board, shall be required to provide 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. White shall also pay all applicable fees, if any. The revocation of White's Educator Certificate #264241 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty (30) days from the date of this order with the reason stated as "unprofessional conduct."

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: Sharon Wall
Dr. Sharon Wall, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
June 12, 2018