

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Travis B. Howard
Certificate 229331

CONSENT ORDER OF PERMANENT
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 11, 2020. On or about September 21, 2017, Travis B. Howard was charged with two felony counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor, 3rd degree. Based on these charges, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Howard's certificate. On November 1, 2017, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Mr. Howard regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate. After receiving the notice, Mr. Howard's representative contracted the SCDE for an alternate resolution. After considering the evidence provided, the State Board has agreed to accept the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender for Travis B. Howard, certificate 229331, effective February 11, 2020.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Howard holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate that was summarily suspended by the Chair of the State Board on November 1, 2017. He has over eleven years of educator experience. Mr. Howard was employed by Spartanburg County School District Seven (District) as a teacher at the Cleveland Academy of Leadership. He resigned from the District on September 27, 2017.

On or about September 27, 2017, Mr. Howard was arrested on two counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor. These criminal counts were dismissed after Mr. Howard entered an Alford plea to the misdemeanor charge of assault and battery, 2nd degree, on March 27, 2019. The indictment notes the assault charge involved nonconsensual touching of private parts, either under or above the clothing.

Travis B. Howard
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By signing this order, Mr. Howard has informed the SCDE that he no longer wishes to serve as an educator in South Carolina and that he desires to permanently surrender his South Carolina educator certificate. He agrees to the permanent surrender of his South Carolina educator certificate 229331 subject to the following conditions: (1) his educator certificate will become permanently invalid and permanently revoked immediately upon the approval by the State Board of the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender; (2) he has waived his right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review; and (3) he understands that the permanent surrender of his educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a permanent voluntary surrender and permanent revocation.

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 (Rev. 2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that Mr. Howard, a South Carolina educator, reported for allegations of inappropriate conduct and crimes against the laws of this State, has committed acts of unprofessional conduct and that just cause exists to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of Mr. Howard’s South Carolina educator certification.

Mr. Howard does not oppose and accepts the State Board’s decision to approve the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of his educator certificate 229331, issued under the name of Travis B. Howard, and accepts the permanent revocation and

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permanent invalidation of his educator certificate, effective February 11, 2020.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Travis B. Howard, certificate 229331, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent voluntary surrender and permanent revocation of the educator certificate of Travis B. Howard, certificate 229331, shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Michael Brennan
Michael Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 11, 2020

I, Travis B. Howard, SC Educator Certificate 229331, 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 the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on February 11, 2020. I understand this 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/Travis B. Howard
Travis B. Howard

01/29/2020
Date