

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Teffanie May Nneka Uwalor
Certificate 250652

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 13, 2020. On June 30, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Teffanie May Nneka Uwalor concerning the pending action against her educator certificate 250652. After Ms. Uwalor received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 250652 for a period of one year. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Uwalor's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on September 8, 2020 and ending on September 7, 2021.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Uwalor holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Ms. Uwalor has over nine years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Uwalor was employed by Berkeley County School District (District) as the Director of Counseling Services at Sedgefield Middle School (School).

Part of Ms. Uwalor's duties included entering grades for students transferring into the School. During the Fall 2019 semester, Ms. Uwalor inaccurately entered a student's grades. When confronted with the discrepancy, Ms. Uwalor initially attempted to cover-up her mistake. However, Ms. Uwalor later admitted she made mistakes after feeling overwhelmed by her responsibilities as the Director of Counseling Services. Following the allegations of misconduct, Ms. Uwalor resigned from her position effective January 24, 2020. As of the date of this order, Ms. Uwalor is not currently working in education.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the

Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Uwalor educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on September 8, 2020 and ending on September 7, 2021.

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 the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Uwalor engaged in unprofessional conduct by falsifying student records. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Uwalor’s educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on September 8, 2020 and ending on September 7, 2021.

If Ms. Uwalor wishes to have the certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services. Ms. Uwalor shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Ms. Uwalor’s educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Ms. Uwalor, certificate 250652, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on September 8, 2020 and ending on September 7, 2021.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

Michael Brenan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
October 13, 2020

I, Teffanie May Nneka Uwalor, SC Educator Certificate 250652, 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

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 October 13, 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/Teffanie May Nneka Uwalor
Teffanie May Nneka Uwalor

10/1/20
Date