

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Zackary Turner
Certificate 300278

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 9, 2022. On May 24, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Zackary Turner a notice via regular and certified mail of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate. The SCDE sent a final notice via regular mail to Mr. Turner on June 16, 2022 and again on June 23, 2022. After Mr. Turner received the final notice, he contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Mr. Turner has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of his educator certificate 300278 for a period of one year. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Turner's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on May 21, 2022, and ending on May 21, 2023.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Zackary Turner holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate; however, he has no educator experience in South Carolina and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board.

On April 21, 2022, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission suspended Mr. Turner's educator certificate for a period of one year beginning May 21, 2022, and ending May 21, 2023. The suspension of Mr. Turner's educator certificate resulted from an incident where four male students reported Mr. Turner showed them female nude pictures and requested they go home and measure their genitals. Mr. Turner denied the allegations but entered into a consent agreement where he agreed to the suspension of

Zackary Turner
300278
s/ZT
Initial
07/25/22
Date

his Georgia educator certificate for one year. He has agreed to follow the same term for suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Turner's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on May 21, 2022, and ending on May 21, 2023.

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 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Turner engaged in unprofessional conduct through inappropriate conduct towards students. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Turner's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on May 21, 2022, and ending on May 21, 2023.

If Mr. Turner wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Mr. Turner shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees.

The suspension of Mr. Turner'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 Zackary Turner, certificate 300278, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on May 21, 2022, and ending on May 21, 2023.

Zackary Turner
300278
s/ZT
Initial
07/25/22
Date

Zackary Turner, Certificate 300278
Consent Order of Suspension
August 9, 2022
Page 3 of 3

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Alan Walters
Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 9, 2022

I, Zackary Turner, SC Educator Certificate 300278, 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 August 9, 2022. 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/ Zackary Turner
Zackary Turner

07/25/22
Date