

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the  
Disciplinary Action of the  
Educator Certificate of  
Paige Hoffman Kronberger  
Certificate 277812

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

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 13, 2022. On June 15, 2022, and August 12, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Paige Hoffman Kronberger a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. The SCDE has verified Ms. Kronberger's address and the letter sent via regular mail has not been returned. On September 22, 2022, the SCDE informed Ms. Kronberger via regular mail that the State Board would meet on October 11, 2022, or as soon thereafter as is feasible, to consider action against her educator certification. Under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure 5(b), Ms. Kronberger has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. She has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Kronberger's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing December 13, 2022, and ending on December 12, 2023.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

This case concerns a formal complaint of the Aiken County Public School District (District) seeking the suspension of the educator certificate of Ms. Kronberger for breach of contract. The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2020) and S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2020).

On May 10, 2021, Ms. Kronberger signed a contractual agreement with the District to serve as a teacher for the 2021-22 school year. On May 16, 2022, Ms. Kronberger submitted her resignation to the District, effective May 20, 2022. In discussion with the District, Ms. Kronberger stated she was resigning to move to a new career field. On May

17, 2022, the District informed Ms. Kronberger she would not be released from her contract until the District was able to find a suitable candidate to fill her position. She did not return to fulfil her contract. The District Board voted to report Ms. Kronberger's breach of contract to the SCDE on May 24, 2022. The District reported the matter to the SCDE on May 25, 2022.

After considering the evidence, the State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Kronberger breached her contract with the District, and that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Kronberger's certificate 277812 for a period of one year, commencing on December 13, 2022, and ending on December 12, 2023.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The South Carolina 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) (2020). Pursuant to 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2) and (14) (2021), the State Board of Education had the legal authority to suspend a certificate for "failure to comply with the provision of a contract without the written consent of the local school board." With respect to breach of contract, "any teacher who fails to comply with the provisions of his [or her] contract without written consent of the school board shall be deemed guilty of unprofessional conduct." S. C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2020). "Upon formal complaint of the school board, substantiated by conclusive evidence, the state board shall suspend or revoke the teacher's certificate, for a period not to exceed one calendar year." *Id.*

The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Kronberger breached her contract without the consent and/or approval of the District. Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Paige Hoffman Kronberger for a period of one year, commencing on December 13, 2022, and ending on December 12, 2023.

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If Ms. Kronberger 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 he requests reinstatement. Ms. Kronberger shall also pay the applicable reinstatement fee. The suspension of Ms. Kronberger's educator certificate 277812 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order, with the reason stated as "unprofessional conduct, breach of contract, willful neglect of duty, and failure to comply with the provisions of a contract without the written consent of the local school board."

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Crystal F. Stapleton

Crystal F. Stapleton, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
December 13, 2022