

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Rebecca C. Moore
Certificate 211055

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 8, 2022. On September 1, 2021, and October 20, 2021, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Rebecca C. Moore 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. Moore's address and the letters sent via regular mail have not been returned. On December 31, 2021, the SCDE sent notice to Ms. Moore that this matter would be presented to the State Board on February 8, 2022. Ms. Moore 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. Moore's educator certificate for a period of two years, commencing on February 8, 2022, and ending on February 7, 2024. Prior to her reinstatement, Ms. Moore will be required to submit a letter from a licensed psychiatrist indicating that she is safe to return to work.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Moore holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. She has over seventeen years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Moore was employed by District Five Schools of Spartanburg County (District) as a speech language pathologist.

On December 18, 2019, District administrators met with Ms. Moore to discuss concerns with speech services provided to students. Ms. Moore was required to pull students from other classrooms at particular times to provide them speech services as detailed in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The students' teachers noted that the students were not being pulled and therefore not receiving the appropriate amount of speech services. The District was further concerned about Ms. Moore leaving District property without following the appropriate

procedures to inform supervisors if she was working from a different location or absent for the day. Ms. Moore stated she did not mean to be dishonest about her work location, but did have times when she would arrive to a location and not be able to enter the building due to anxiety. Ms. Moore admitted she was not fulfilling her job responsibilities and felt this was due to stress she was experiencing in her personal life.

At the end of the meeting, Ms. Moore was placed on administrative leave while the District conducted further investigation into the possible misconduct. Ms. Moore resigned from the District the following day.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Moore's educator certificate 212055 for a period of two years, commencing on February 8, 2022, and ending on February 7, 2024.

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. Moore engaged in unprofessional conduct by being dishonest to her supervisors and failing to follow student IEPs. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Moore's educator certificate 211055 for a period of two years, commencing on February 8, 2022, and ending on February 7, 2024.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Rebecca C. Moore, educator certificate 211055, is suspended for a period of two years, commencing on February 8, 2022, and ending on February 7, 2024.

If Ms. Moore 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. Moore 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. Ms. Moore will also be required to submit a return to work letter from a licensed psychiatrist prior to the

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reinstatement. The suspension of Ms. Moore'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.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: s/Alan Walters
Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 8, 2022