

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Serena Marie Olivi
Certificate 278182

**Olivi Serena Marie Order of Summary
Suspension**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 6, 2022. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2020), § 59-5-10 (2020), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Serena Marie Olivi, educator certificate 278182, as a result of her arrest for three counts of felony tax evasion.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Ms. Olivi may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students, who may be under her instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. Olivi's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Olivi of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Olivi holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over six years of educator experience. At the time of her arrest, Ms. Olivi was a classroom teacher at White Knoll Middle School with Lexington County School District One. On or about September 26, 2022, Ms. Olivi was arrested on three counts of felony tax evasion. The arrest warrants allege that Ms. Olivi failed to report \$72,460 of income on her 2019 taxes, \$60,617 of income on her 2020 taxes, and \$240,101 of income on her 2021 taxes.

After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. Olivi's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is

held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Olivi of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

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, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2020). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2020), “If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action.” Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-10 (2020) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Ms. Olivi’s crime against the law of this State or the United States, there is reason to believe Ms. Olivi may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Serena Marie Olivi, certificate number 278182, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Olivi of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education
s/Alan Walters
Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
October 6, 2022