

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Thomas Daniel Norton
Certificate 289517

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION
(ADEPT)**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 13, 2022. On July 21, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education's (SCDE) Office of Educator Services sent Thomas Daniel Norton notice of his failure to meet the requirements of his ADEPT formal evaluation via certified mail. Pursuant to S.C. Reg. 43-58 (2021), S.C. Reg. 43-205.1 (2021), and ADEPT System Guidelines (2021), a second unsuccessful ADEPT formal evaluation at the annual-contract level requires that Mr. Norton's South Carolina teaching certificate be automatically suspended for a minimum of two years. On August 31, 2022, Mr. Norton received the notice as evidenced by postal tracking. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Norton's certificate for a minimum of two years, beginning September 13, 2022, and ending September 12, 2024, provided that Mr. Norton successfully completes a state-approved remediation plan.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Thomas Daniel Norton holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has four years of teaching experience. The Greenville County School District annual ADEPT report to the Office of Educator Effectiveness indicated that Thomas Daniel Norton was unsuccessful in meeting the requirements of his ADEPT formal evaluation for the 2021-2022 school year. This was Mr. Norton's second unsuccessful ADEPT evaluation at the annual-contract level.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board will automatically suspend for a minimum of two years the certificate of an annual-contract teacher who for the second time fails to meet ADEPT formal evaluation criteria. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-60 (2020); S.C. Reg. 43-58 (2021), S.C. Reg. 43-205.1 (2021). The State Board finds that sufficient evidence has been presented supporting its conclusion that Thomas Daniel Norton failed to meet ADEPT formal evaluation criteria for a second time,

warranting the suspension of his certificate for a minimum period of two years, commencing on September 13, 2022, through September 12, 2024, provided that Mr. Norton successfully completes a state-approved remediation plan. An “ineligible for hire” indicator will be placed in Thomas Daniel Norton’s certification file with the Office of Educator Services and will not be removed prior to September 12, 2024, provided that he successfully completes a state-approved remediation plan.

Before reentry into the profession and removal of the suspension, Mr. Norton must complete a state-approved remediation plan based on the areas that were identified as deficiencies during the formal evaluation process. Remediation plans must be developed and implemented in accordance with the State Board’s ADEPT implementation guidelines. Following the minimum two-year suspension period and the completion of the remediation plan, as certified by the Office of Educator Services, Mr. Norton’s educator certificate suspension will be lifted and he will be eligible for employment at the annual-contract level. All fees and eligibility requirements that are in effect at the time of Mr. Norton’s reapplication will apply.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Alan Walters
Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
September 13, 2022