

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Charmara Jacinta English
Certificate 281354

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 11, 2023. On December 2, 2021, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Charmara Jacinta English a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. English contacted the SCDE thereafter but did not request a hearing at that time. On July 15, 2022, the SCDE informed Ms. English via regular mail that the State Board would meet on September 13, 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. English 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. English's educator certificate for a period of one year, retroactively commencing on July 26, 2021, and ending on July 26, 2022.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. English holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. She has over eight years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. She received her South Carolina certification based on reciprocity with Georgia.

On November 4, 2021, the SCDE received notice that Ms. English's Georgia educator certificate was suspended for a period of one year. The Georgia order stated that Ms. English was under the influence on school property during school hours. She took a breathalyzer test two times and the alcohol reading was .246 and .267. Ms. English admitted to drinking the night before but stated she did not consume alcohol at school. She entered into a consent order to suspend her Georgia educator certification from July 26, 2021, to July 26, 2022.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Order of Suspension of Ms. English's educator certificate 281354 for a period of one year, retroactively commencing on July 26, 2021, and ending on July 26, 2022.

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. English engaged in unprofessional conduct by being under the influence of alcohol on school property during school hours. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. English for a period of one year, commencing on July 26, 2021, and ending on July 26, 2022, mirroring the Georgia Consent Order.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Charmara Jacinta English, educator certificate 281354, is suspended for a period of one year, retroactively commencing on July 26, 2021, and ending on July 26, 2022.

If Ms. English 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. English 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. The suspension of Ms. English'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

s/Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D.

Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 11, 2023