

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Elizabeth J. Osborne
Certificate 230113

**ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 11, 2023. On March 31, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Elizabeth J. Osborne a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against her educator certificate. Ms. Osborne contacted the SCDE to discuss the matter but later ceased communication with the SCDE. On March 22, 2023, the SCDE informed Ms. Osborne that if she did not request a hearing or sign a consent order, the matter would be presented to the State Board as a default. Ms. Osborne did not request a hearing and is therefore now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept this Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Osborne holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over fourteen years of experience. At the time of the incident, Ms. Osborne was employed by the as a teacher at Buist Academy (School) with the Charleston County School District (District).

When Ms. Osborne arrived at the School on January 14, 2022, she drove into the wall of one of the School's parking lots. As others reported to the scene of the accident, it was noted that Ms. Osborne smelled of alcohol. She was sent for alcohol testing and recorded results of 0.258 and 0.279. She was allowed to resign from the District.

Ms. Osborne was notified about the pending action against her educator certification on March 31, 2022. She did receive the notice and reach out to the SCDE to discuss the matter. Ms. Osborne was then able to provide information on the completion of a SCDE-approved treatment program. After further discussions regarding the pending action, Ms. Osborne ultimately stopped

communication with the SCDE without requesting a hearing or signing a consent order. She is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Order of Public Reprimand with the terms set forth above.

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. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the District would not support a conclusion that just cause exists to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Elizabeth J. Osborne; however, the evidence would support a conclusion that Ms. Osborne engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of reporting to work under the influence of alcohol. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Osborne by the State Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Elizabeth J. Osborne, certificate 230113. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order with the grounds listed as “unprofessional conduct.” This Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE’s website and shall be maintained as a public record in the SCDE’s Office of General Counsel.

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