

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Aja Raevon Adams
Certificate 295640

**Adams Aja Raevon Order of Summary
Suspension**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 8, 2023. 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 Aja Raevon Adams, educator certificate 295640, as a result of her arrest for the felony charges of hit run with great bodily injury; hit and run resulting in death; driving under the influence resulting in great bodily injury; and driving under the influence resulting in death.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Ms. Adams 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. Adams' 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. Adams of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Adams holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over three years of educator experience. At the time of her arrest, Ms. Adams was employed by Richland County School District Two (District). On December 14, 2022, the District placed Ms. Adams on administrative leave.

On November 29, 2022, Ms. Adams was allegedly driving a vehicle that struck a moped, injuring one individual and killing another. The vehicle then struck another vehicle in a head-on

collision further down on the same roadway. Law enforcement arrived to the scene and alleged Ms. Adams was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. She was arrested on four felony charges: hit run with great bodily injury; hit and run resulting in death; driving under the influence resulting in great bodily injury; and driving under the influence resulting in death.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Ms. Adams 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. Adams' 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. Adams 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 (2021). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2017), "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. Adams' unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, and evident unfitness for the position for which employed, due to her arrest on the four felony charges, there is reason to believe Ms. Adams may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Aja Raevon Adams, certificate number 295640 is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved.

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The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Adams 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/Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D.
Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 8, 2023