

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the  
Disciplinary Action of the  
Educator Certificate of  
Carrie D. Vereen  
Certificate 201174

**CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 14, 2023. On December 2, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Carrie D. Vereen a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. Vereen received the notice and contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Ms. Vereen has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 201174 for a period of two years. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Vereen's educator certificate for a period of two years, commencing on February 14, 2023 and ending February 13, 2025. Ms. Vereen has also agreed to complete an SCDE approved anger management course.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Ms. Vereen holds a South Carolina educator certificate. She has over thirteen years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Vereen was employed by Spartanburg County School District Three (District) as a special education teacher at Pacolet Elementary School (School).

On April 28, 2021, an instructional assistant in a neighboring classroom informed School administration that she witnessed Ms. Vereen hit a student. The assistant was the only witness to the action. During the District's investigation, Ms. Vereen denied hitting

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the student but admitted she may have spoken harshly to him. She stated that if her hands were near the student's head, it was to prevent him from harming himself as he was acting out and had a history of self harm. However, due to the incident, Ms. Vereen resigned from the District and stated she wished to exit the teaching the teaching profession, citing a mutual loss of trust.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Vereen's educator certificate 201174 for a period of two years, commencing on February 14, 2023, and ending on February 13, 2025. Ms. Vereen has also agreed to complete an SCDE approved anger management course.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The State Board 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 "incompetence; willful neglect of duty; willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education; unprofessional conduct; drunkenness; cruelty; crime against the law of this State or the United States; immorality; any conduct involving moral turpitude; dishonesty; evident unfitness for position for which employed; or sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Vereen engaged in unprofessional conduct due to improper physical contact with a student. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Vereen's educator certificate for a period of two years, commencing on February 14, 2023 and ending on February 13, 2025. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to accept the requirement of Ms. Vereen completing an SCDE approved anger management course.

If Ms. Vereen 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. Vereen 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. She shall

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provide the SCDE Office of Educator Services proof of the successful completion an SCDE approved anger management course prior to requesting reinstatement of her educator certificate. The suspension of Ms. Vereen’s educator certificate 201174 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Carrie D. Vereen, certificate 201174, is suspended for a period of two years, commencing on February 14, 2023, and ending on February 13, 2025.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

South Carolina Board of Education

s/Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D.

Crystal F. Stapleton, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
February 14, 2023

I, Carrie D. Vereen, SC Educator Certificate 201174, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State board for approval on February 14, 2023. I understand this Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter. If approved by the State Board, I have the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of “s/name” for required website publication.

S/Carrie D. Vereen  
Carrie D. Vereen

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