

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Beth Todd Vierling
Certificate 293107

**ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 13, 2023. On March 28, 2023, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Beth Todd Vierling a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against her educator certificate. Ms. Vierling received the notice on April 13, 2023, as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. Ms. Vierling has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to publicly reprimand the educator certification of Ms. Vierling, certificate 293107.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Vierling holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over twelve years of experience. At the time of the incident, Ms. Vierling was an educator at Daniel Jenkins Academy (School) with the Charleston County School District (District).

On March 2, 2021, Ms. Vierling was placed on administrative leave after allegations she used inappropriate language in front of her students. Several students alleged Ms. Vierling used the N-word in class, with some alleging she also repeated an old rhyme that used the word. During the investigation, Ms. Vierling did provide a statement to the District. She admitted to using the word and claimed she was repeating a student's comment. The comment was repeated in front of other students when the student asked why he did not earn behavior points in class.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to publicly reprimand the educator certification of Ms. Vierling and approve this Order of Public Reprimand.

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 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). 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 Beth Todd Vierling; however, the evidence would support a conclusion that Ms. Vierling engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of using racially inflammatory language in front of her students. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Vierling by the State Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Beth Todd Vierling, certificate 293107. 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 web site 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
June 13, 2023