

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Reed Germaine Messer
Certificate 275968

**Messer Reed Germaine Order of Summary
Suspension**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 5, 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 Reed Germaine Messer, educator certificate 275968, as a result of her arrest for 22 counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Messer holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over ten years of educator experience. Ms. Messer received her South Carolina educator certification through reciprocity with Delaware. She began the 2022-23 school year as an educator at Legacy Early College with the SC Public Charter School District.

On April 26, 2023, the Greenville County Sheriff's Office arrested Ms. Messer as a fugitive from justice. Ms. Messer had warrants for 22 counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor with

the Delaware State Police. The Delaware Department of Education informed the SCDE of the arrest on May 2, 2023.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Ms. Messer 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. Messer's 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. Messer 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) (2020), "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. Messer's 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 for 22 counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor, there is reason to believe Ms. Messer may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Reed Germaine Messer, certificate number 275968, is 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. Messer of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

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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
May 5, 2023