

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Aaron Guy Brazier
Certificate 262554

ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 14, 2023. On January 4, 2021, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Aaron Guy Brazier a notice via regular and certified mail of his right to a hearing regarding the possible permanent revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate. Mr. Brazier received the notice on October 9, 2023, as evidence by a signed postal receipt. He has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Brazier's educator certificate 262554, effective November 14, 2023.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Brazier holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over six years of educator experience. At the time of the incident, Mr. Brazier was a teacher and coach for Lexington County School District Two (District). He resigned from the District following his arrest.

Mr. Brazier's South Carolina educator certificate was summarily suspended on January 7, 2021, after his arrest for sexual exploitation of a minor, 3rd degree. It was alleged Mr. Brazier exchanged inappropriate texts with a minor who was one of his former students. On or about January 13, 2023, Mr. Brazier pled guilty to sexual exploitation of a minor, 3rd degree, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-410. Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-280, if an educator pleads guilty to this charge the State Board "permanently shall revoke" the educator's certificate. Mr. Brazier was also ordered to register with the South Carolina Public Sex Offender Registry.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Brazier's educator certificate 262554, effective November 14, 2023.

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). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United State, evident unfitness for position for which employed, and sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that Mr. Brazier engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, and crime against the law of this State or the United States due to his plea to sexual exploitation of a minor, third degree.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke education certificate 262554, issued in the name of Aaron Guy Brazier, effective November 14, 2023. The permanent revocation of Mr. Brazier's educator certificate 262554 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

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
November 14, 2023