

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Tiara Shea Riser
Certificate 254532

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 14, 2023. On February 23, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, to Tiara Shea Riser, concerning the summary suspension and pending action against educator certificate 254532. After Ms. Riser received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Ms. Riser has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of certificate 254532 for a period of two years.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Riser's certificate for a period of two years, commencing on May 19, 2023 and ending on May 18, 2025.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Riser holds a South Carolina professional educator certificate. The certificate was summarily suspended on March 1, 2022, and reinstated on September 11, 2023. She has over nine years of educator experience. At the time of the incident, Ms. Riser was a teacher at Woodfield Elementary School (School) with Greenwood School District Fifty (District).

On February 14, 2022, School administration reported medication was missing from the nurse's office. The nurse was running late and an administrator distributed morning medications to students using an extra set of keys. Though it was unclear if the administrator gave her the keys, Ms. Riser did obtain them. The School nurse reported the medication had been missing for a few days, but she failed to report the discrepancy

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s/TR
Initial
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because she wanted to check her counts. During this time, the nurse reported Ms. Riser was in her office.

Ms. Riser was charged for taking the student medication, resulting in the summary suspension of her educator certificate. After the charge was adjudicated on May 19, 2023, Ms. Riser's certification was reinstated. She has consented to a two year suspension of her educator certificate.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Riser's certificate for a period of two years, commencing on May 19, 2023 and ending on May 18, 2025.

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 (Rev. 2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Riser engaged in unprofessional conduct by illegally obtaining student medication for personal use. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Riser's certificate for a period of two years, commencing on May 19, 2023 and ending on May 18, 2025.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Tiara Shea Riser, certificate 254532, is suspended for a period of two years, commencing on May 19, 2023 and ending on May 18, 2025.

If Ms. Riser wishes to have her 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. Riser 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. The suspension of Ms. Riser's administrative certificate shall be reported to the

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NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

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
November 14, 2023

I, Tiara Shea Riser, SC Educator Certificate 254532, 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 November 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 give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/Tiara S. Riser
Tiara Shea Riser

10/17/23
Date

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s/TR
Initial
10/17/23
Date