

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Sallie Brown Folk
Certificate 173942

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 12, 2023. On August 2, 2023, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Sallie Brown Folk regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 173942. After Ms. Folk received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. She has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 173942 for a period of one year. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Folk's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on September 12, 2023, and ending September 11, 2024.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Folk holds an expired South Carolina educator certificate. She has over 28 years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Folk was employed by Florence County School District One (District) as a special education teacher at Sneed Middle School. She has retired from the District.

On October 28, 2021, a parent in the District submitted a due process hearing decision and alleged that Ms. Folk falsified the student's individualized education program (IEP). During the due process hearing procedures, Ms. Folk did admit to editing the student's IEP without holding a legally required IEP meeting or obtaining permission from the parents to edit the document without holding a meeting. The hearing officer

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s/SBF
Initial
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found the edit made material changes to the level of service the student received from the District.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Folk's educator certificate 173942 for a period of one year, commencing on September 12, 2023, and ending on September 11, 2024.

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. Folk engaged in unprofessional conduct by falsifying a student's record. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Folk's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on September 12, 2023 and ending on September 11, 2024.

If Ms. Folk 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. Folk 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. Folk's educator certificate 173942 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

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s/SBF
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Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Sallie Brown Folk, certificate 173942, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on September 12, 2023, and ending on September 11, 2024.

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
September 12, 2023

I, Sallie Brown Folk, SC Educator Certificate 173942, 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 3 of pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State board for approval on September 12, 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/Sallie Brown Folk
Sallie Brown Folk

8/14/23
Date