

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Deniese L. Garlin
Certificate 283281

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 9, 2024. On July 28, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, to Deniese L. Garlin concerning the pending action against educator certificate 283281. After Ms. Garlin received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Ms. Garlin agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 283281 for a period of six months. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Garlin's educator certificate for a period of six months commencing on April 9, 2024 and ending on October 8, 2024.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Deniese L. Garlin holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Ms. Garlin has less than one year of educator experience in South Carolina and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. In 2019, Ms. Garlin was employed by Spartanburg School District 7 (District) as a special needs teacher at McCarthy Teszler School (School). Ms. Garlin no longer resides in South Carolina and her South Carolina professional educator certificate has expired.

Ms. Garlin was terminated from McCarthy Teszler School on September 27, 2019, following allegations of inappropriate behavior. Specifically, a staff member reported an incident where Ms. Garlin responded to a student behavioral issue by acting in a threatening manner. The staff member reported that Ms. Garlin removed her belt and

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displayed it in a threatening manner before striking the back of the student's chair. The staff member also reported a previous incident where she alleged that Ms. Garlin displayed a ruler in a threatening manner. The staff member claimed she heard the ruler strike something but was unsure of the location of any impact. According to the principal at the School, Ms. Garlin conceded that she struck the student's chair with her belt and that she used a ruler to point at a student.

Ms. Garlin vehemently denies making any physical contact with any student and further denies threatening any student. She does, however, acknowledge hitting the back of a student's chair with her belt in an effort to get the student's attention and stop the student's disruptive behavior. Ms. Garlin also acknowledges pointing a ruler at the student while asking the student to step away from her desk. Ms. Garlin admits an error of judgment in response to both of the incidents and wishes to resolve this matter by entering into this Consent Order of Suspension.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Garlin's educator certificate for a period of six months commencing on April 9, 2024 and ending on October 8, 2024.

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. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Deniese L. Garlin engaged in unprofessional conduct by responding to a student behavioral issue in an inappropriate manner. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Garlin's educator certificate for a period of six months, commencing on April 9, 2024 and ending on October 8, 2024.

If Ms. Garlin 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

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

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Deniese L. Garlin, certificate 283281, is suspended for a period of six months, commencing on April 9, 2024 and ending on October 8, 2024.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/David C. O'Shields
David C. O'Shields, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 9, 2024

I, Deniese L. Garlin, SC Educator Certificate 283281, 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 April 9, 2024. 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/Deniese L. Garlin
Deniese L. Garlin

4/2/24
Date

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283281
s/DG
Initial
4/2/24
Date