

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Kayla Michelle Mullins
Certificate 278385

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 11, 2024. On March 28, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Kayla Michelle Mullins a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against her educator certificate. Ms. Mullins received the notice and contacted the SCDE to advise that she desired to waive her right to a hearing and wished to pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. Ms. Mullins has agreed to a public reprimand of her educator certification.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept this Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Mullins holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over six years of experience. At the time of the incident, Ms. Mullins was employed as a teacher with Lexington County School District Four (District).

On or about August 16, 2022, Ms. Mullins was acting as a foster parent to four children. At this time, a personal acquaintance was staying in a halfway house after being released from prison. This person was a registered sex offender. After an incident at the halfway house, they went to stay with Ms. Mullins. Shortly after their arrival, Ms. Mullins realized this was not a good arrangement. The person left the house and Ms. Mullins reported the issue herself to the appropriate agency. None of the children in her care were injured. She was allowed to resign from the District.

Kayla Michelle Mullins
296339
s/KMM
Initial
5/17/24
Date

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Order of Public Reprimand.

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 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the District would not support a conclusion that just cause exists to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Ms. Mullins; however, the evidence would support a conclusion that Ms. Mullins engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of endangering minors in her care. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Mullins by the State Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Kayla Michelle Mullins, certificate 278385. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order with the grounds listed as “unprofessional conduct.” This Consent Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE’s website and shall be maintained as a public record in the SCDE’s Office of General Counsel.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/David C. O’Shields
Dr. David O’Shields, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
June 11, 2024

I, Kayla Michelle Mullins, SC Educator Certificate 278385, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the

Kayla Michelle Mullins
296339
s/KMM
Initial
5/17/24
Date

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 Public Reprimand are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on June 11, 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 have the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/Kayla Michelle Mullins
Kayla Michelle Mullins

5/17/24
Date