

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
John Connor Wiebel
Certificate 286171

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 11, 2024. On January 31, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent John Connor Wiebel a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to John Connor Wiebel regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate 286171. Mr. Wiebel timely requested a hearing on the matter. After Mr. Wiebel received the notice, he contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and to discuss an alternative resolution. Mr. Wiebel has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand of educator certificate 286171. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of Mr. Wiebel's educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Wiebel holds a South Carolina educator certificate. He has over one year of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Mr. Wiebel was employed by the Cherokee County School District (District) as a teacher at Blacksburg High School.

Mr. Wiebel resigned his position with the District on December 4, 2023, following allegations he was in possession of and consumed alcohol on school property. Specifically, Mr. Wiebel admitted to District administrators that he was in possession of a bottle of alcohol, which he consumed during the school day on December 4, 2023. It was determined that Mr. Wiebel was under the influence. Following the incident, Mr. Wiebel

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286171
s/JCW
Initial
5/28/24
Date

sought and obtained treatment for alcohol dependence. Mr. Wiebel has submitted a letter from his treating physician indicating that he can safely return to work.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of John Connor Wiebel's educator certificate.

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 (2021). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Wiebel engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of his admitted possession and consumption of alcohol on school property. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to publicly reprimand Mr. Wiebel's educator certificate.

The public reprimand of Mr. Wiebel's educator certificate 286171 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 John Connor Wiebel, certificate 286171, is publicly reprimanded.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

Columbia, South Carolina
June 11, 2024

South Carolina Board of Education
s/David C. O'Shields
David C. O'Shields, Chair

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s/JCW
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I, John Connor Wiebel, SC Educator Certificate 286171, 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 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 3 pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, 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/John Connor Wiebel
John Connor Wiebel

5/28/24
Date

John Connor Wiebel
286171
s/JCW
Initial
5/28/24
Date