

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Jesslyn Mejia
Certificate 297169

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 12, 2024. On September 29, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Jesslyn Mejia a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 297169. After Ms. Mejia received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternate resolution. Ms. Mejia has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 297169 for a period of two years. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Mejia's educator certificate for a period of two years, retroactively commencing on December 13, 2022 and ending December 12, 2024.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Mejia holds a South Carolina educator certificate. She 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, Ms. Mejia was a virtual program teacher at Mauldin Middle School (School) with the Greenville County School District (District).

In December of 2020, the District made several attempts to meet with Ms. Mejia to discuss various performance issues. The District alleged that Ms. Mejia failed to hold live virtual class meetings on a daily basis and expressed some concern with the material presented during the virtual classes. The District also noted that some virtual meetings with students occurred outside of normal class hours and did not appear to be academic in nature.

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s/JM
Initial
2/26/24
Date

On January 20, 2021, Ms. Mejia was placed on administrative leave for unprofessional conduct regarding student grades. During the District's investigation, Ms. Mejia stopped communicating with the District. As a result of the performance issues and Ms. Mejia's failure to communicate, the District terminated her, effective March 24, 2021. There is no record of Ms. Mejia working as a certified educator since her separation from the District.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Mejia's educator certificate 297169 for a period of two years, retroactively commencing on December 13, 2022, and ending on December 12, 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. Mejia engaged in unprofessional conduct due to willful neglect of duty for failure to hold class sessions and communicate with supervisors, as well as unprofessional conduct regarding student grades. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Mejia's educator certificate for a period of two years, retroactively commencing on December 13, 2022 and ending on December 12, 2024.

If Ms. Mejia 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. Mejia shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect

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s/JM
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at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Ms. Mejia's educator certificate 297169 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 Jesslyn Mejia, certificate 297169, is suspended for a period of two years, commencing on December 13, 2022, and ending on December 12, 2024.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

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

Columbia, South Carolina
March 12, 2024

I, Jesslyn Mejia, SC Educator Certificate 297169, 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 March 12, 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/Jesslyn Mejia
Jesslyn Mejia

2/26/24
Date

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s/JM
Initial
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