

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Catherine G. Weaver
Certificate 271414

**Weaver Catherine G. Order of Summary
Suspension**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 28, 2024. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2020), § 59-5-10 (2020), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Catherine G. Weaver, educator certificate 271414, as a result of her arrest on March 15, 2024 on the felony charges of financial transaction card theft and financial transaction card fraud, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-14-60(A) and § 16-14-20.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Ms. Weaver may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students, who may be under her instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. Weaver's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Weaver of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Weaver holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over nine years of educator experience. At the time of the incident, Ms. Weaver was a teacher for SC Public Charter School District (District). Ms. Weaver was placed on administrative leave on March 3, 2024, pending investigation and resigned from the District on March 10, 2024. On March 15, 2024, Ms. Weaver was arrested on felony charges for financial transaction card theft and financial card fraud.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Ms. Weaver may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students who may be under her instruction, and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. Weaver's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Weaver of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

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, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2017), "If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-10 (2017) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Ms. Weaver's unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, and evident unfitness for the position for which employed, due to her arrest on felony charges of financial transaction card theft and financial transaction card fraud, there is reason to believe Ms. Weaver may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Catherine G. Weaver, certificate number 271414, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Weaver of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

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AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

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

Columbia, South Carolina
March 28, 2024