

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the  
Disciplinary Action of the  
Educator Certificate of  
Sally Blue Burgis  
Certificate 275492

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION  
(BREACH OF CONTRACT)**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 5, 2024. On August 21, 2024, and September 10, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Sally Blue Burgis a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. The SCDE has verified Ms. Burgis' address. On October 7, 2024, the SCDE informed Ms. Burgis via regular mail that the State Board would meet on November 5, 2024, or as soon thereafter as is feasible, to consider action against her educator certificate. Under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure 5(b), Ms. Burgis has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. She has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Burgis' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing November 5, 2024, and ending on November 4, 2025.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

This case concerns a formal complaint from the Colleton County School District (District) seeking the suspension of the educator certificate of Ms. Burgis for breach of contract. The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2020) and S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2020).

On May 1, 2024, Ms. Burgis signed a contractual agreement with the District to serve as a teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. On June 11, 2024, Ms. Burgis submitted her resignation to the District, effective immediately. She did not provide a reason for her

resignation. On June 11, 2024, the District informed Ms. Burgis she would not be released from her contract until the District was able to secure a suitable replacement unless there were extenuating circumstances. She did not return to fulfill her contract. The District Board voted to report Ms. Burgis' breach of contract to the SCDE on June 26, 2024. The District reported the matter to the SCDE on July 31, 2024.

After considering the evidence, the State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Burgis breached her contract with the District, and that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Burgis' certificate 275492 for a period of one year, commencing on November 5, 2024, and ending on November 4, 2025.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." Just cause includes, *inter alia*, "unprofessional conduct" and "willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (3) and (4) (2020). Pursuant to 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2) and (14) (2021), the State Board of Education has the legal authority to suspend a certificate for "failure to comply with the provision of a contract without the written consent of the local school board." With respect to breach of contract, "any teacher who fails to comply with the provisions of his [or her] contract without written consent of the school board shall be deemed guilty of unprofessional conduct." S. C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2020). "Upon formal complaint of the school board, substantiated by conclusive evidence, the state board shall suspend or revoke the teacher's certificate, for a period not to exceed one calendar year." *Id.*

The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Burgis breached her contract without the consent and/or approval of the District. Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Sally Blue Burgis for a period of one year, commencing on November 5, 2024, and ending on November 4, 2025.

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If Ms. Burgis wishes to have her educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services and shall meet all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement. Ms. Burgis shall also pay any applicable reinstatement fee. The suspension of Ms. Burgis' educator certificate 275492 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order, with the reason stated as "unprofessional conduct, breach of contract, willful neglect of duty, and failure to comply with the provisions of a contract without the written consent of the local school board."

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/David C. O'Shields

David C. O'Shields, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
November 5, 2024