

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Rachel Elise Moore
Certificate 290929

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 5, 2024. On October 2, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Rachel Elise Moore a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. Moore received the notice on October 9, 2024, as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. 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. Moore's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on November 5, 2024, and ending on November 4, 2025. Ms. Moore must also complete the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Prevention and Correction course.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Moore holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. She has over four years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Moore was employed by Richland School District Two (District) as a teacher at Blythewood High School (School).

On May 20, 2022, the District informed the SCDE that Ms. Moore resigned in lieu of termination from the District effective June 3, 2022, following an investigation into allegations of unprofessional conduct. Although the investigation stemmed from an arrest for driving while under the influence that occurred outside of school hours, the SCDE found several concerns noted by the District. Ms. Moore used her phone during class, conducting inappropriate phone

conversations about her job in front of students. During one such incident, she cursed in front of the students. It was also noted that Ms. Moore failed to appropriately handle at least two instances of a student reporting harming thoughts, despite being trained in the District's procedures for such reports.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Order of Suspension of Ms. Moore's educator certificate 290929 for a period of one year, commencing on November 5, 2024, and ending on November 4, 2025. Ms. Moore must also successfully complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course.

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 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Rachel Elise Moore engaged in unprofessional conduct through inappropriate conversations with students, use inappropriate language in front of students, lack of supervision of students, and not following training procedures for a student in crisis. The State Board finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Moore's educator certificate 290929 for a period of one year, commencing on November 5, 2024, and ending on November 4, 2025. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to accept the requirement of Ms. Moore successfully completing the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Rachel Elise Moore educator certificate 290929, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on November 5, 2024, and ending on November 4, 2025. Ms. Moore must also successfully complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course.

If Ms. Moore 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. Moore shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she

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requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Ms. Moore's educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Davic D. O'Shields

David C. O'Shields, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
November 5, 2024