

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Keith Andre Campbell
Certificate 272011

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 10, 2024. On May 21, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, to Keith Andre Campbell concerning the pending action against educator certificate 272011. After Mr. Campbell received the notice, he contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Mr. Campbell agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter this Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 272011 for a period of one year.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Campbell's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on September 10, 2024 and ending on September 9, 2025. Mr. Campbell will also complete the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Prevention and Correction course prior to the reinstatement of his certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Keith Andre Campbell holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Mr. Campbell has over fifteen years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Campbell was employed by the Aiken County Public School District (District) as a teacher at Schofield Middle School (School).

Keith Andre Campbell
272011
s/KC
Initial
8/13/24
Date

On or around March 23, 2022, it was reported that Mr. Campbell engaged in inappropriate communications and behaviors with his students. Mr. Campbell made references to explicit topics in his classroom, and additionally contacted a female student via email and text messages about non school-related matters. While Mr. Campbell maintains that he rebuked the topics discussed in the classroom and that he contacted the female student out of genuine concern for her wellbeing, he admits that the communications and behaviors displayed poor boundaries and should have never happened, and that he should have reported his concerns through the appropriate channels.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Campbell's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on September 10, 2024 and ending on September 9, 2025. Mr. Campbell will also complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to the reinstatement of his 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 (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 Keith Andre Campbell engaged in unprofessional conduct by engaging in inappropriate communication and behavior with students. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Campbell's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on September 10, 2024 and ending on September 9, 2025. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to accept the requirement of Mr. Campbell successfully completing the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course.

Keith Andre Campbell
272011
s/KC
Initial
8/13/24
Date

If Mr. Campbell wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Mr. Campbell shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. Mr. Campbell shall complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to requesting reinstatement of his educator certificate. The suspension of Mr. Campbell'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.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Keith Andre Campbell, certificate 272011, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on September 10, 2024 and ending on September 9, 2025.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

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

Columbia, South Carolina
September 10, 2024

Keith Andre Campbell
272011
s/KC
Initial
8/13/24
Date

Keith Andre Campbell, Certificate 272011
Consent Order of Suspension
September 10, 2024
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I, Keith Andre Campbell, SC Educator Certificate 272011, 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 four pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on September 10, 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 give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/Keith Andre Campbell
Keith Andre Campbell

8/13/24
Date