BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Disciplinary Action of the Educator Certificate of Jennifer Dixon Hooks Certificate 293152	**ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 15, 2025 2025. 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 Jennifer Dixon Hooks, educator certificate 293152, as a result of her arrest on September 23, 2025, on two counts of the felony charge of breach of trust with fraudulent intent value $10,000 or more, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-230(A).

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Ms. Dixon Hooks 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. Dixon Hooks'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. Dixon Hooks of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Dixon Hooks holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over seven years of educator experience. At the time of the incident, Ms. Dixon Hooks was employed as a teacher for the Darlington County School District (District).

On or about September 23, 2025, Ms. Dixon Hooks was arrested on two counts of the felony charge of breach of trust with fraudulent intent value $10,000 or more. The criminal charges stem from allegations that Ms. Dixon Hooks misappropriated funds from a church in Darlington County.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Ms. Dixon Hooks 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. Dixon Hooks'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. Dixon Hooks 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 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2025). 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 (2025); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2021). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2020), "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 (2020) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Ms. Dixon Hooks'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 two counts of the felony charge of breach of trust with fraudulent intent value $10,000 or more, there is reason to believe Ms. Dixon Hooks may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Jennifer Dixon Hooks, certificate number 293152, 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. Dixon Hooks of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/Rita Allison
Rita Allison, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
October 15, 2025 2025