

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Melissa Frances Groleau
Certificate 306477

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PERMANENT VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 4, 2026. On August 26, 2025, Ms. Groleau's educator certificate was summarily suspended by the State Board due to her arrest on two counts of the felony charge of second degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor, second degree assault and battery, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Melissa Frances Groleau on April 24, 2026 concerning further pending action against her certificate. Ms. Groleau has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this order of permanent voluntary surrender of her educator certificate 306477. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of Melissa Frances Groleau's educator certificate 306477, effective August 4, 2026.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Groleau holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over four years of educator experience. On August 8, 2025, Ms. Groleau was arrested on two counts of the felony charge of second degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor, second degree assault and battery, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Ms. Groleau subsequently entered a

guilty plea to first degree assault and battery and the original charges were dismissed. The indictment for first degree assault and battery included specific allegations concerning criminal sexual acts involving a minor. Ms. Groleau was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, suspended upon the service of one year imprisonment and completion of five years' probation. Additionally, Ms. Groleau was required to register as a sex offender.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender of Melissa Frances Groleau, educator certificate 306477, effective August 4, 2026.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board 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 "incompetence; willful neglect of duty; willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education; unprofessional conduct; drunkenness; cruelty; crime against the law of this State or the United States; immorality; any conduct involving moral turpitude; dishonesty; evident unfitness for position for which employed; or sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2025); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that Ms. Groleau has engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, and crime against the law of this State or the United States and that just cause exists to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of Ms. Groleau's South Carolina educator certificate.

Melissa Frances Groleau
306477
s/FG
Initial
6/1/26
Date

Ms. Groleau does not oppose and accepts the State Board's decision to approve the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of her educator certificate 306477, issued under the name of Melissa Frances Groleau, and accepts the permanent revocation and permanent invalidation of her educator certificate, effective August 4, 2026.

Now, therefore it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Melissa Frances Groleau, certificate 306477, 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 Board of Education

s/David M. Mathis
David M. Mathis, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 4, 2026

(signature on next page)

I, Melissa Frances Groleau, SC Educator Certificate 306477, 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 Permanent Voluntary Surrender are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Suspension, consisting of three (3) pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on August 4, 2026. I hereby acknowledge that this permanent surrender shall have the same effect as a permanent

Melissa Frances Groleau
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revocation of my certificate. I knowingly forfeit and relinquish all right, title, and privilege of holding myself out as and being able to practice as an educator in the public schools in the State of South Carolina.

I agree that I will not serve or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, band teacher, coach, or in any other position in a public school in the State of South Carolina. I understand the term 'public school' includes any public charter school. 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/Melissa Frances Groleau
Melissa Frances Groleau

6/1/26
Date