

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Nathan Chad Horsley
Certificate 231187

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 9, 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 Nathan Chad Horsley, educator certificate 231187, as a result of his arrest on five felony charges of sexual exploitation of a minor, 3rd degree, in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-410(A) (2004).

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Dr. Horsley may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students, who may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Dr. Horsley'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 Dr. Horsley of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Dr. Horsley holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over eighteen years of educator experience. At the time of his arrest, Dr. Horsley was a teacher at McDonald Elementary with the Georgetown County District. He was placed on admin leave on December 18, 2024.

On or about December 18, 2024, Dr. Horsley was arrested on five felony charges of sexual exploitation of a minor, 3rd degree, in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-410(A) (2004). It is

alleged that Dr. Horsley knowingly and willingly possessed material visual representation of minors engaged in sexual activity or appearing in a state of sexually explicit nudity. The material was allegedly located on an electronic device in Dr. Horsley's residence.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Dr. Horsley may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students who may be under his instruction, and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Dr. Horsley'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 Dr. Horsley of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his 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 (2020). 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 (2020); 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 Dr. Horsley'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 his arrest for five counts of sexual exploitation of a minor, there is reason to believe Dr. Horsley may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Nathan Chad Horsley, certificate number 231187, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise

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resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Dr. Horsley of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/Rita Allison
Rita Allison, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
January 9, 2025