

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Michael Wayne Edwards
Certificate 262125

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PERMANENT VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 3, 2025. On May 19, 2025, the SCDE received notification that Mr. Edwards agreed to the permanent voluntary surrender of his educator certificate 262125 as part of the criminal proceedings due to his arrest for assault and battery, 3rd degree, and cruelty to children. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of Michael Wayne Edwards's educator certificate 262125, effective June 3, 2025.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Edwards holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over thirty-four years of educator experience. Mr. Edwards was reported to the SCDE by the Lancaster County School District following an investigation into allegations of inappropriate conduct. Specifically, it was reported that Mr. Edwards used inappropriate physical force when forcibly removing a student from a physical education activity. Those allegations led to Mr. Edwards' subsequent arrest for 3rd degree assault and battery and cruelty to children.

Mr. Edwards has decided to waive his right to a hearing and permanently surrender his South Carolina educator certificate. In entering into this consent order, Mr. Edwards does not make any admissions of fact concerning the underlying allegations and related criminal charges. He agrees to the permanent surrender of his South Carolina educator certificate subject to the following conditions: (1) his educator certificate will become permanently invalid and permanently revoked immediately upon the approval by the State Board of the Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender; (2) he has waived his right to a hearing and understands that

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the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review; and (3) he understands that the permanent surrender of his educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender of Michael Wayne Edwards, educator certificate 262125, effective June 3, 2025.

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. § 56-25-160 (2020). 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 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that Mr. Edwards has engaged in unprofessional conduct and that just cause exists to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of Mr. Edwards’s South Carolina educator certificate.

Mr. Edwards does not oppose and accepts the State Board’s decision to approve the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of his educator certificate 262125, issued under the name of Michael Wayne Edwards, and accepts the permanent revocation and permanent invalidation of his educator certificate, effect June 3, 2025.

Now, therefore it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Michael Wayne Edwards, certificate 262125, 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.

(Signature page attached)

Michael Wayne Edwards
262125
S/MWE
Initial
5/23/25
Date

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South Carolina Board of Education

s/David Mathis
David Mathis, Chair-Elect

Columbia, South Carolina
June 3, 2025

I, Michael Wayne Edwards, SC Educator Certificate 262125, 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 3 pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on [date State Board Hearing scheduled]. I hereby acknowledge that this permanent surrender shall have the same effect as a permanent 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/Michael Wayne Edwards
Michael Wayne Edwards

5/23/25
Date

Michael Wayne Edwards
262125
s/MWE
Initial
5/23/25
Date