

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Victoria Katherine Montgomery
Certificate 304573

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 8, 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 Victoria Katherine Montgomery, educator certificate 304573, as a result of her arrest for sexual battery with a student 18 years of age or older where there is direct supervisory authority, no aggravated force or coercion.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Montgomery holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over eight years of educator experience. At the time of her arrest, Ms. Montgomery was employed as a teacher for Beaufort County School District (District). Ms. Montgomery was placed on administrative leave by the District following her arrest.

Victoria Katherine Montgomery, Certificate 304573

Order of Summary Suspension

May 8, 2025

Page 2

On May 5, 2025, Ms. Montgomery was arrested for sexual battery with a student 18 years of age or older where there is direct supervisory authority, no aggravated force or coercion.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Ms. Montgomery 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. Montgomery'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. Montgomery 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 (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 Ms. Montgomery'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 for sexual battery with a student 18 years of age or older, there is reason to believe Ms. Montgomery may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Victoria Katherine Montgomery, certificate number 304573, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter

Victoria Katherine Montgomery, Certificate 304573

Order of Summary Suspension

May 8, 2025

Page 3

is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Montgomery 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

May 8, 2025