

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Kevin E. Palmer
Certificate 276469

ORDER OF REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 3, 2025. On February 28, 2023, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Kevin E. Palmer a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Kevin E. Palmer concerning the pending action against educator certificate 276469. Mr. Palmer thereafter timely requested a hearing which was held on March 31, 2025. This matter is properly before the State Board pursuant to S.C Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2020) and referred to a hearing officer pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 59-5-70 (2004). After considering the evidence, testimony, and the report and recommendations presented, the State Board voted to revoke the certificate of Kevin E. Palmer, effective June 3, 2025.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Palmer holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over twenty years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Mr. Palmer was employed by the Charleston County School District (District) as a learning disability resource teacher at Baptist Hill Middle High School.

On July 19, 2023, the District reported that Mr. Palmer had been terminated from his employment as a special education teacher by the District for failure to provide appropriate instruction to special education students. The District's investigation found that Mr. Palmer "cut and pasted" information from multiple prior year Individual Education Plans (IEPs) to current IEPs and failed to monitor student progress and maintain appropriate data.

The Hearing Officer found substantial evidence that Mr. Palmer failed to follow and properly update IEPs for multiple students. Specifically, the Hearing Officer noted that substantial evidence demonstrated that Mr. Palmer failed to prepare students' required annual IEPs and instead copied and pasted provisions from prior IEPs. The Hearing Officer noted that Mr. Palmer's denials were not credible, given the strength of the evidence to the contrary. The Hearing Officer recommended that Mr. Palmer's educator certificate be suspended for one year.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board finds just cause for the revocation of Mr. Palmer's educator certificate, effective June 3, 2025. While the State Board respects the Hearing Officer's findings and recommendation, the State Board finds the underlying circumstances to be particularly serious given the scope of misconduct, Mr. Palmer's extensive experience as an educator, and Mr. Palmer's dishonesty towards the District and Hearing Officer.

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 (2020). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United State, evident unfitness for

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position for which employed, and 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 the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Palmer engaged in unprofessional conduct by falsifying IEP documentation. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the revocation of Mr. Palmer's educator certificate.

Mr. Palmer has the right to reapply for certification after three years. Mr. Palmer shall, pursuant to State Board Rule BBCDB, be subject to a character and fitness review before the State Board with employment information during the period of certificate surrender; community service records; letters of support from a current or prospective school district employer, if applicable; letters of support from community leaders; and SLED and FBI background checks. Mr. Palmer shall also pay all applicable fees for certification, if any. The revocation of Mr. Palmer's educator certificate 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/Davis Mathis

David Mathis, Chair-Elect

Columbia, South Carolina

June 3, 2025