

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Sarah McKinnon
Certificate 194037

ORDER OF REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 6, 2026. On 12/14/2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Sarah McKinnon a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. McKinnon received the notice and requested a hearing on or about December 31, 2020. Prior to the hearing, Ms. McKinnon withdrew her request for hearing in order to default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Ms. McKinnon’s educator certificate 194037, effective January 6, 2026.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. McKinnon holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over twenty-two years of teaching experience. On December 11, 2020, the SCDE learned that Ms. McKinnon was arrested for trafficking in methamphetamine. Her educator certificate was summarily suspended by this Board on December 15, 2020. Subsequently, on April 16, 2025, Ms. McKinnon entered a guilty plea to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine in violation of S.C. Code Ann. 44-53-3751(B).

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Ms. McKinnon’s educator certificate 194037, effective January 6, 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 (2025). Just cause includes “unprofessional conduct, crime

against the law of this State or the United State, evident unfitness for position for which employed, and sale or possession of narcotics.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2025); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that Ms. McKinnon engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, and crime against the law of this State or the United States due to her plea to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine (S.C. Code Ann. 44-53-3751(B)).

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to revoke education certificate 194037, issued in the name of Ms. McKinnon, effective January 6, 2026. Ms. McKinnon has the right to reapply for certification after three years. Ms. McKinnon 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. Ms. McKinnon shall also pay all applicable fees for certification, if any. The revocation of Sarah McKinnon’s educator certificate 194037 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
January 6, 2026