BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Disciplinary Action of the Educator Certificate of Kerri Dexter Certificate 315884	**ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 1, 2026. On July 23, 2026, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Kerri Dexter a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. Dexter received the notice on July 30, 2026, as evidenced by signed postal receipt. She has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Kerri Dexter's educator certificate for a period of one (1) year, commencing on September 1, 2026, and ending on August 31, 2027.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Kerri Dexter holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Ms. Dexter has over three years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms.Dexter was employed by Aiken County Public School District (District) as a special education teacher at Wagener-Salley High School.

On September 30, 2025, the SCDE became aware that Ms. Dexter resigned from the District following an investigation that determined she had an inappropriate relationship with a student resource officer during school hours and on school property.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Order of Suspension of Kerri Dexter's educator certificate 315884 for a period of one (1) year, commencing on September 1, 2026, and ending on August 31, 2027.

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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 (Rev. 2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2025). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2025); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Kerri Dexter engaged in unprofessional conduct by engaging in an inappropriate relationship with a student resource officer during school hours and on school property. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Kerri Dexter's educator certificate 315884 for a period of one (1) year, commencing on September 1, 2026, and ending on August 31, 2027.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Kerri Dexter educator certificate 315884, is suspended for a period of one (1) year, commencing on September 1, 2026, and ending on August 31, 2027.

If Ms. Dexter wishes to have the certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Ms. Dexter shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Kerri Dexter'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 State Board of Education

s/David M. Mathis
David M. Mathis, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
September 1, 2026

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