BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Disciplinary Action of the Educator Certificate of Dawn M. Barnes Floyd Certificate 323441	**ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 6, 2026. On April 22, 2026, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Dawn M. Barnes Floyd a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. The SCDE has verified Ms. Barnes Floyd's address, the certified letter was returned unclaimed, and the letter sent via regular mail has not been returned. On September 16, 2026, the SCDE informed Ms. Barnes Floyd via regular mail that the State Board would meet on October 6, 2026, or as soon thereafter as is feasible, to consider action against her educator certificate. Pursuant to South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure 5(b), Ms. Barnes Floyd has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. 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 Ms. Barnes Floyd's educator certificate for a period of one (1) year, commencing on October 6, 2026, and ending on October 5, 2027.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Dawn M. Barnes Floyd holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Ms. Barnes Floyd has less than one (1) year of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Barnes Floyd was employed by Lancaster County School District (District) as a teacher at McDonald Green Elementary School.

On February 19, 2026, Ms. Barnes Floyd forcibly pulled a student out of a classroom by the wrist, in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2018).

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After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Order of Suspension of Dawn M. Barnes Floyd's educator certificate 323441 for a period of one (1) year, commencing on October 6, 2026, and ending on October 5, 2027.

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 (2025). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2025); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Dawn M. Barnes Floyd engaged in unprofessional conduct by forcibly pulling a student out of a classroom by the wrist. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Dawn M. Barnes Floyd educator certificate 323441 for a period of one (1) year, commencing on October 6, 2026, and ending on October 5, 2027.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Dawn M. Barnes Floyd educator certificate 323441, is suspended for a period of one (1) year, commencing on October 6, 2026, and ending on October 5, 2027. If Ms. Barnes Floyd wishes to have her 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. Barnes Floyd 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 Dawn M. Barnes Floyd's educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty (30) 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
October 6, 2026

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