BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Disciplinary Action of the Educator Certificate of Courtney Usher Brown Certificate 281037	**CONSENT ORDER OF** **PERMANENT VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 6, 2026. On April 6, 2023, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) summarily suspended educator certificate 281037 and sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Courtney Usher Brown concerning further pending action against the certificate. Ms. Brown's educator certificate was summarily suspended due to her arrest on two felony counts of sexual battery on a student and two counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The SCDE received notification that Ms. Brown agreed to the permanent voluntary surrender of her educator certificate 281037 as part of the criminal proceedings. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of Courtney Usher Brown's educator certificate 281037, effective October 6, 2026.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Brown holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over six years of educator experience. On March 24, 2023, the SCDE learned that Ms. Brown was arrested on two felony counts of sexual battery on a student and two counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor in Chesterfield County. Ms. Brown plead guilty to three counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and agreed to permanently surrender her educator certificate 281037 as part of her guilty plea entered on August 10, 2026.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender of Courtney Usher Brown, educator certificate 281037, effective October 6, 2026.

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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 (2025). Just cause includes "incompetence; willful neglect of duty; willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education; unprofessional conduct; drunkenness; cruelty; crime against the law of this State or the United States; immorality; any conduct involving moral turpitude; dishonesty; evident unfitness for position for which employed; or sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2025); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that Ms. Brown, South Carolina educator, has engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, and crime against the law of this State or the United States and that just cause exists to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of Ms. Brown's South Carolina educator certificate.

Ms. Brown does not oppose and accepts the State Board's decision to approve the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of her educator certificate 281037, issued under the name of Courtney Usher Brown, and accepts the permanent revocation and permanent invalidation of her educator certificate, effect October 6, 2026.

Now, therefore it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Courtney Usher Brown, certificate 281037, 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.

(Signature page attached)

Courtney Usher Brown
281037
s/CUB
Initial
9/11/26
Date

South Carolina Board of Education

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

Columbia, South Carolina
October 6, 2026

I, Courtney Usher Brown, SC Educator Certificate 281037, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Suspension, consisting of three (3) pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on October 6, 2026. I hereby acknowledge that this permanent surrender shall have the same effect as a permanent revocation of my certificate. I knowingly forfeit and relinquish all right, title, and privilege of holding myself out as and being able to practice as an educator in the public schools in the State of South Carolina.

I agree that I will not serve or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, band teacher, coach, or in any other position in a public school in the State of South Carolina. I understand the term 'public school' includes any public charter school. I understand this Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter. If approved by the State Board, I give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/Courtney Usher Brown — 9/11/26
Courtney Usher Brown — Date

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