BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Disciplinary Action of the Educator Certificate of Carol Smith Certificate 236476	**CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 6, 2026. On March 5, 2026, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Carol Smith a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 236476. After Ms. Smith received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Ms. Smith has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand of educator certificate 236476. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of Ms. Smith's educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Smith holds a South Carolina educator certificate. She has over twelve years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Smith was employed by the Rock Hill School District as a teacher at W.C. Sullivan Middle School.

Ms. Smith lost her patience and confronted a male student by pushing desks out of the way, one of which forced the student into a corner whereupon she told him, "Don't play with me. Do you understand." Ms. Smith has subsequently completed the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Prevention and Correction course.

Carol Smith
236476
s/CS
Initial
9/21/26
Date

FITSNEWS

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of Carol Smith's educator certificate.

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 the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Smith engaged in unprofessional conduct due to inappropriate conduct towards a student. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to publicly reprimand Ms. Smith's educator certificate.

The public reprimand of Ms. Smith's educator certificate 236476 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Carol Smith, certificate 236476, is publicly reprimanded.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

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

Columbia, South Carolina
October 6, 2026

Carol Smith
236476
s/CS
Initial
9/21/26
Date

FITSNEWS

I, Carol Smith, SC Educator Certificate 236476, 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 Public Reprimand are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three (3) pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, October 6, 2026. 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 have the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/Carol Smith
Carol Smith

9/21/26
Date

FITSNEWS

Carol Smith
236476
s/CS
Initial
9/21/26
Date