
Ashley Hobbs
Suspension, 2 Years with Proof of Treatment

The Background:

Prior History: N/A

Facts: On April 5, 2021, Ms. Hobbs was observed by two colleagues acting incoherent while in the classroom and attempting to administer an exam to students. Ms. Hobbs was removed from the classroom and stated that she might not pass a drug test. Ms. Hobbs subsequently consented to a reasonable suspicion drug test that yielded positive results for Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Ms. Hobbs resigned her position with Warren County Schools, effective May 6, 2021.

Applicable Rule

/Law: 0520-02-03-.09(1)(k) defines other good cause as conduct that calls into question the fitness of an educator to hold a license including, but not limited to, violation of any provision in the Teacher Code of Ethics as contained in T.C.A. §§ 49- 5-1001, et seq.

0520-02-03-.09(1)(m) defines school premises as any real property and/or land owned, leased, managed, controlled, or under the custody of a state or local education agency, school system, or school.

0520-02-03-.09(1)(n) defines school property as any property owned, leased, managed, controlled, or under the custody of a state or local education agency, school system, or school.

0520-02-03-.09(1)(o) defines school related activity as any activity in which a student participates, including but not limited to classes, meetings, extracurricular activities, clubs, athletics, and field trips, sponsored by the school, state educational agency, or local educational agency.

0520-02-03-.09(1)(p) defines suspension as the nullification of an educator's license for a predetermined term, after which the license may be reinstated. Reinstatement may be subject to the completion of terms and conditions contained in the order of suspension.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(c) provides that the State Board of Education ("Board") may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator's license for being on school premises, school property, at a school-related activity involving students, or on official school business, while possessing, consuming, or under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(i) provides that the Board may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator's license for other good cause as defined in subparagraph (1)(k) of Board Rule 0520-02-03-.09.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(j) provides that the Board may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator's license for any offense contained in paragraphs (4) and/or (5) of Board Rule 0520-02-03-.09.

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(2)(i) provides that an individual holding an educator's license who is found to be in possession of, consuming, or under the influence of alcohol, or illegal substances while on school premises or property when children are present shall be subject to a disciplinary action within the range of suspension for not less than one (1) year up to and including revocation.

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(8) provides that an individual holding an educator's license who is found to have violated the teacher code of ethics contained in T.C.A. Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 10 shall be subject to a disciplinary action within the range of a formal reprimand up to and including revocation.

T.C.A. § 49-5-1003(b)(1) provides that an educator shall abide by all federal and state laws.

T.C.A. § 49-5-1004(b)(9) provides that an educator shall not use illegal or unauthorized drugs.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to **suspend** her educator license based upon these findings. Respondent received said notice.

Board Action Consistency Considerations:

July 2018 – The Board voted to approve the suspension of an individual's educator license for two (2) years with proof of treatment, for being on school property while under the influence of THC.

July 2020 – The Board voted to approve the suspension of an individual's educator license for two (2) years with proof of treatment, for being on school property while under the influence of THC.

The Recommendation:

The Board staff recommends that the Board approve the signed Consent Order submitted by the Respondent based upon the facts and applicable rule noted above.