Isaac Fields Suspension, 2 Years with Proof of Treatment

The Background:

Prior History: N/A

Facts: On August 18, 2022, Mr. Fields submitted to a reasonable suspicion alcohol test after concerns of him possibly being under the influence of intoxicants were raised with school administration. The results of Mr. Fields' alcohol breathalyzer test indicate his BAC was above the legal limit. Additionally, with the consent of Mr. Fields, a search of his vehicle on school premises revealed empty bottles of liquor. Mr. Fields resigned his position, effective August 18, 2022.

Applicable Law

/Rule: T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(5)(A)(iv) provides that the Board has the power to adopt rules and policies governing the discipline of licensed personnel for misconduct by formal reprimand or by the suspension and revocation of licenses and certificates.

T.C.A. § 49-5-1003(b)(18) provides that educators shall refrain from the use of alcohol while on school or LEA premises or during a school activity at which students are present.

T.C.A. § 49-5-1004(c)(2) provides that educators shall conduct themselves in a manner that preserves the dignity and integrity of the education profession.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(c) provides that the State Board of Education may suspend 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)(j) provides that the State Board of Education 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 this rule.

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.

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

Board Action Consistency Considerations:

February 2022 – Board approved the 2-year suspension, with proof of treatment, of an educator's license after the educator faced allegations of being under the influence of intoxicants while on school premises.

October 2021 – Board approved the 2-year suspension, with proof of treatment, of an educator's license after the educator faced allegations of being under the influence of intoxicants while on school premises.

July 2021 – Board approved the 2-year suspension, with proof of treatment, of an educator's license after the educator faced allegations of being under the influence of intoxicants while on school premises.

The Recommendation:

Board counsel recommends the Board approve the signed Consent Order submitted by Respondent for the suspension of Respondent's license based upon the facts and applicable rule noted above.