

Brittany Tipton
Suspension, Two (2) Years with Proof of Treatment

The Background:

Prior History: N/A

Facts: On April 25, 2023, Ms. Tipton tested positive for alcohol during a reasonable suspicion alcohol and drug screening, after being reported for suspicious behavior to school administration. Ms. Tipton later admitted to consuming alcohol prior to starting the school day and resigned from Rutherford County Schools.

Applicable Law

/Rule: 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(3)(c) provides that the State Board of Education 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 State Board of Education 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 this rule.

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(3)(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)(9) 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)(18) provides an educator shall refrain from the use of alcohol while on school or LEA premises or during a school activity at which students are present.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to **suspend** Respondent's educator license based upon these findings with proof of treatment. Respondent received said notice and agreed to the suspension of Respondent's license with proof of treatment.

Board Action Consistency Considerations:

February 2023 – Board approved the two-year suspension of an educator's license, with proof of treatment, for being under the influence of alcohol on school property.

February 2022 – Board approved the two-year suspension of an educator's license, with proof of treatment, for being under the influence of alcohol on school property.

October 2021 – Board approved the two-year suspension of an educator's license, with proof of treatment, for being under the influence of alcohol on school property.

July 2021 – Board approved the two-year suspension of an educator's license, with proof of treatment, for being under the influence of alcohol on school property.

The Recommendation:

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