

**Loralee Becraft
Formal Reprimand**

The Background:

Prior History: N/A

Facts: Ms. Becraft was reported for allowing TCAP testing protocol violations while employed as a principal with Clarksville Montgomery County Schools (CMCS).

Ms. Becraft was reprimanded by CMCS and removed from her position as principal.

Applicable Law

/Rule: 0520-02-03-.09(1)(c) defines “Formal Reprimand” as a less harsh licensing action than the suspension, revocation, or denial of a license, which admonishes an educator for certain conduct under this rule. An educator who has been reprimanded by the State Board of Education (“State Board”) under this Rule shall receive a letter from the State Board, which shall become part of the educator’s state record and may become part of the educator’s local record, indicating that the inappropriate conduct is discouraged and shall be subject to further disciplinary action if repeated.

0520-02-03-.09(1)(i) defines “noncompliance with security guidelines for state-mandated test, TCAP or successor test” as “any person found to have not followed security guidelines for administration of a state-mandated test, the TCAP or a successor test, including but not limited to, making or distributing unauthorized photos or copies of the test, altering a grade or answer sheet of student responses or answers, providing copies or photos of answers or test questions to students or others, and otherwise compromising the integrity of the testing process (which includes, but is not limited to, providing unauthorized assistance to students during administration of testing).”

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)(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(3)(j) 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(3)(g) provides the Board may revoke, suspend, or formally reprimand an educator's license for noncompliance with security guidelines for state-mandated tests, and/or TCAP or successor tests.

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(5)(i) provides that "an individual holding an educator's license who is found to have been noncompliant with security guidelines for a state-mandated test, TCAP, or successor test shall be subject to a disciplinary action within a range of a letter of formal reprimand up to and including revocation."

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(9)(i) provides, "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)(19) provides that an educator shall maintain a professional approach with the student at all times.

T.C.A § 49-5-1004(c)(1) provides that an educator shall administer state-mandated assessments fairly and ethically.

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

T.C.A. § 49-1-607 provides A person found to have violated security guidelines for administration of the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) test, or a successor test, including making or distributing unauthorized copies of the test, altering a grade or answer sheet, providing copies of answers or test questions, or otherwise compromising the integrity of the testing process must be placed on immediate suspension, and such actions constitute grounds for dismissal, including dismissal of tenured employees. Such actions are grounds for revocation of state licensure.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to **formally reprimand** Respondent's educator license based upon these findings. Respondent received said notice and agreed to the formal reprimand of Respondent's license.

Board Action Consistency Considerations:

n/a

The Recommendation:

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