
Antoinette Adams
Denial with Professional Development Stipulation

The Background:

Prior History: N/A

Facts: Ms. Adams has been teaching under a permit since the 2021-2022 academic year. On or about February 27, 2023, Ms. Adams engaged in a verbal altercation with another teacher while in or near the presence of students. On November 8, 2023, Ms. Adams applied for a Tennessee educator license.

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)(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)(9)(i) states, “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 disciplinary action within the range of a formal reprimand up to and including revocation.”

T.C.A. 49-5-1003(b)(8) provides that an educator shall, “Make reasonable effort to protect the emotional well-being of the student...”

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)(2) provides that educators shall conduct themselves in a manner that preserves the dignity and integrity of the education profession.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board’s intent to **deny** Respondent’s educator license with a **stipulation that she complete professional development in anger management before reapplying**, based upon these findings. Respondent was also provided Board policy with respect to requesting permission to speak on behalf of his Tennessee educator license application. Respondent received said notice.

Board Action Consistency Considerations:

July 2022 – Board approved the denial of an application for licensure due to the educator failing to complete the terms of her probation in another state, including professional coursework, before applying for licensure in Tennessee.

The Recommendation:

Board counsel recommends the Board deny Respondent's application for a Tennessee educator license until she has completed professional development in anger management, based upon the facts and applicable rules noted above.