

**Madison Young-Stroope  
Voluntary Surrender**

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**The Background:**

*Prior History:* N/A

*Facts:* Ms. Young-Stroope was suspended for inappropriate physical contact and inappropriate communications with a student. Ms. Young-Stroope and the student exchanged messages via text and snapchat that included expletives and lengthy discussion of romantic relationships. She was suspended for thirty (30) days and non-renewed.

*Applicable Law*

*/Rule:* 0520-02-03-.09(1)(e) defines Inappropriate Communication (Non-Explicit) as Any communication between an educator and a student that is beyond the scope of the educator's professional responsibilities. Examples of such non-explicit inappropriate communications include, but are not limited to, those communications that discuss the educator's or student's past or current romantic relationships; those that include the use of profanities or obscene language; those that are harassing, intimidating, or bullying; those that attempt to establish an inappropriate personal relationship with a student; and those that are related to personal or confidential information regarding another school staff member or student.

0520-02-03-.09(1)(f) defines Inappropriate Physical Contact as Unlawful and/or unjustified physical contact with a student. Examples of such inappropriate physical contact include, but are not limited to, sexual contact, physical altercations, horseplay, tickling, improper use of corporal punishment, improper restraint or isolation of a student receiving special education services, and rough housing.

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)(e) provides The State Board may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator's license or may refuse to issue a temporary permit for Inappropriate physical contact with a student.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(i) provides The State Board may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator's license or may refuse to issue a temporary permit for Other good cause.

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(6) provides an individual holding an educator's license who is found to have engaged in non-explicit inappropriate communication with a student shall be subject to a disciplinary action within the range of a suspension for no less than three (3) months up to and including revocation.

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(7) provides an individual holding an educator's license who is found to have engaged in inappropriate physical contact with a student that does not result in harm or potential harm to the student shall be subject to a disciplinary action within the range of a formal reprimand up to and including suspension for two (2) years.

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(9) 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)(7) provides an educator shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety.

T.C.A § 49-5-1003(b)(8) provides an educator shall not intentionally expose the student to embarrassment or disparagement.

T.C.A § 49-5-1003(b)(11) provides an educator shall not use the educator's professional relationship with the student for private advantage.

T.C.A § 49-5-1003(b)(14) provides an educator shall ensure interactions with the student take place in transparent and appropriate settings.

T.C.A § 49-5-1003(b)(15) provides an educator shall not engage in any sexually related behavior with the student, whether verbal, written, physical, or electronic, with or without the student's consent. Sexually related behavior includes, but is not limited to, behaviors such as making sexual jokes or sexual remarks; engaging in sexual kidding, sexual teasing, or sexual innuendo; pressuring the student for dates or sexual favors; engaging in inappropriate physical touching, groping, or grabbing; kissing; rape; threatening physical harm; and committing sexual assault.

T.C.A § 49-5-1003(b)(19) provides an educator shall maintain a professional approach with the student at all times.

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

#### **Board Action Consistency Considerations:**

October 2021 – Board approved the voluntary surrender of an educator's license after the educator became emotionally involved with a student.

**The Recommendation:**

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