

**Shanea Cantrell**  
**Formal Reprimand**

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**The Background:**

*Prior History:* N/A

*Facts:* Ms. Cantrell is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade general education teacher who, in violation of the student's IEP, refused to allow a student into her classroom because she did not want to disturb the class's TCAP preparation. Ms. Cantrell is a member of the student's IEP team and acknowledged denying the student access to her classroom would violate the IEP. Ms. Cantrell was suspended for three days.

*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)(h) defines Negligence as, "Failure to exercise the care toward others that a reasonable or prudent person would exercise under the circumstances or taking action that a reasonable person would not."

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 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) 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)(3) provides that educators shall, "Provide the student with professional education services in a nondiscriminatory manner and in consonance with accepted best practices known to the educator."

T.C.A § 49-5-1003(b)(7) provides that educators 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 that educators shall, "Not intentionally expose the student to embarrassment or disparagement."

T.C.A § 49-5-1003(b)(10)(A), (B) provides that educators shall, "Not on the basis of....disability...., unfairly exclude the student from participation in any program, or deny benefits to the student."

T.C.A § 49-5-1003(b)(19) provides that educators shall, "Maintain a professional approach with the student at all times."

*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:**

May 2024 – Board approved the formal reprimand of an educator's license for submitting eight (8) falsified written notices, relating to students' Individualized Education Plans, to include termination of services notices.

**The Recommendation:**

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