
Aubrey Hollingsworth
Suspension, One (1) Year with Professional Development

The Background:

Prior History: N/A

Facts: Ms. Hollingsworth is alleged to have engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a student. Specifically, Ms. Hollingsworth and the student exchanged an excessive volume of text messages, among other allegations. Ms. Hollingsworth resigned in November of 2024.

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)(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, “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)(6)(i) 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)(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.”

TCA 49-5-1003(b)(14) provides that educators shall “Ensure interactions with the student take place in transparent and appropriate settings.”

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 **suspend** Respondent’s educator license based upon these findings. Respondent received said notice and agreed to the one-year suspension of Respondent’s license with professional development.

Board Action Consistency Considerations:

August 2023 – Board approved a six (6) month suspension of an educator’s license for engaging in inappropriate conversations about his personal life and sharing inappropriate information with the student.

February 2024- The Board approved an eighteen (18) month suspension of an educator’s license for engaging in inappropriate communication with students on topics outside the scope of his professional responsibilities.

The Recommendation:

Board counsel recommends the Board approve the signed Consent Order submitted by the Respondent for the suspension of Respondent’s license with professional development based upon the facts and applicable rules noted above.