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**David Beckman**  
**Suspension, 6 Months with Professional Development**

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**The Background:**

*Prior History:* N/A

*Facts:* Mr. Beckman admitted to, as an attempted de-escalation tactic, headbutting a non-verbal student in anticipation of the student headbutting himself or others. He admitted to doing this on two occasions and acknowledged it was not appropriate. Mr. Beckman resigned from his position and is not currently staffed in Tennessee's license database.

*Applicable Law*

*/Rule:* 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(1)(p) defines Suspension, in relevant part, as "With regard to licensure action by the State Board, suspension means the nullification of an educator's license for a predetermined term, after which the license may be reinstated. Reinstatement shall be subject to the completion of any terms and conditions contained in the order of suspension."

0520-02-03-.09(3)(e) provides, "The State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator's license ... 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)(7)(i) 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)(7)(ii) provides, “An individual holding an educator’s license who is found to have engaged in inappropriate physical contact with a student that results in harm or potential harm to the student shall be subject to a disciplinary action within the range of a suspension for not less than two (2) years up to and including permanent 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)(7) provides that 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)(9) provides that an educator shall, “Not intentionally expose the student to embarrassment or disparagement.”

T.C.A § 49-5-1003(b)(19) provides that 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 **suspend** Respondent’s educator license based upon these findings. Respondent received said notice and agreed to the suspension of Respondent’s license.

**Board Action Consistency Considerations:**

November 2025 – Board approved the six (6) month retroactive suspension of an educator’s license after improperly restraining and transporting a special needs student. CPI training was completed so no additional professional development was required.

August 2025 – Board approved the three (3) month retroactive suspension, with professional development, of an educator’s license after, on multiple occasions, inappropriately relocating a noncompliant special needs student.

February 2025 – Board approved the six (6) month retroactive suspension, with professional development, of an educator’s license for inappropriate physical contact with a student that did not result in harm, specifically for assisting in the improper restraint and transportation of a student.

November 2024 – Board approved the three (3) month retroactive suspension, with professional development, of an educator’s license after inappropriately relocating a noncompliant special needs student.

May 2024 – Board approved the three (3) month retroactive suspension, with professional development, of an educator’s license after inappropriately relocating a destructive and noncompliant special needs student.

May 2023 – Board approved the six (6) month suspension, with professional development, of an educator’s license after inappropriately relocating a student by grabbing the student’s arm and lifting the student off the ground to transport several feet.

July 2022 – Board approved the six (6) month suspension of an educator’s license for inappropriate physical contact with a student that did not result in harm, specifically for using a ruler as a tool for corporal punishment.

February 2021 – Board approved the six (6) month retroactive suspension of an educator’s license for inappropriate physical contact with a student that did not result in harm, specifically for pulling a student by the feet, ankles, and/or legs.

**The Recommendation:**

Board counsel recommends the Board approve the signed Consent Order submitted by Respondent for the six (6) month suspension of Respondent’s license, with a requirement that Respondent complete professional development, based upon the facts and applicable rule noted above.