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**LaQuisha Hurt**  
**Denial with Stipulations**

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**The Background:**

*Prior History:* N/A

*Facts:* Ms. Hurt engaged in inappropriate physical contact with a student. One student pushed another student into Ms. Hurt. She was captured on video swatting at one of the students with a walking cane or other assistive device. Ms. Hurt and the student then engaged in an altercation and another teacher attempted to physically separate Ms. Hurt from the student. Ms. Hurt then shoved that teacher. The LEA formally reprimanded Ms. Hurt.

At the time of the incident, Ms. Hurt was teaching on a permit set to expire on June 30, 2025. On September 5, 2025, an application to reactivate her permit was submitted.

*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(3)(e) provides, “The State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, 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 ... may refuse to issue a temporary permit for ... other good cause as defined in subparagraph (1)(k) of this rule.”

0520-03-02-.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)(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.”

0520-03-02-.09(6)(a)(2) provides, “There shall be a rebuttable presumption that any individual applying for a permit who has committed an offense that would subject him or her to discipline under this Rule if the individual had a license, shall be presumed ineligible to receive a permit.”

0520-02-03-.09(6)(a)(4) provides, “If an individual teaching on a permit issued by the Commissioner is reported by a Director . . . and the misconduct, if substantiated, would warrant disciplinary action under this Rule if the individual had a license, the State Board may direct the Commissioner not to issue a subsequent permit upon expiration of the individual’s current permit pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-5-106(a).”

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)(9) provides, “An educator shall not intentionally expose the student to embarrassment or disparagement.”

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 **deny** Respondent’s educator permit application 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:**

May 2025 — The Board approved the denial of subsequent permit applications for violations of applicable state statutes and rules governing educator licensure.

**The Recommendation:**

Board counsel recommends the Board deny Respondent’s application for a Tennessee educator permit based upon the facts and applicable rule noted above and require Respondent to complete professional development in anger management and de-escalation prior to applying for a new permit.