

Elizabeth Younger
Denial with Stipulations

The Background:

Prior History: N/A

Facts: Ms. Younger was reported to be under the influence while coaching an evening basketball game at the school. Ms. Younger admitted to drinking one beer at 9.00 a.m. that morning. The LEA contacted the police who would not allow Ms. Younger to drive home. Three crushed beer cans were observed in Ms. Younger's vehicle.

At the time of the incident, Ms. Younger was teaching on a permit set to expire on June 30, 2026.

Applicable Law

/Rule: SBE Rule 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."

SBE Rule 0520-02-03-.09(3)(c) provides that the State Board may refuse to issue a temporary permit for being on school premises, school property, at a school-related activity involving students, or on official school business, while possessing, consuming, or under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs

SBE Rule 0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(3)(i) provides that "An individual holding an educator's license who is found to be in possession of, consuming, or under the influence of alcohol, or illegal substances while on school premises or property when children are present shall be subject to a disciplinary action within the range of suspension for not less than one (1) year up to and including revocation.

SBE Rule 0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(9)(i) provides that "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."

SBE Rule 0520-02-03-.09(6)(a)(2) provides 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)."

TCA 49-5-1003(b)(18) states that educators shall "Refrain from the use of alcohol while on school or LEA premises or during a school activity at which students are present."

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to **deny** Respondent's future permit applications unless she also provides proof of an evaluation for substance abuse issued by a licensed substance abuse provider based upon these findings. Respondent was also provided Board policy with respect to requesting permission to speak on behalf of her Tennessee educator license application. Respondent received said notice.

Board Action Consistency Considerations:

February 2026 — The Board approved the denial of subsequent permit applications for violations of applicable state statutes and rules governing educator licensure.

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 future applications for Respondent to obtain a Tennessee educator permit unless she also provides proof of an evaluation for substance abuse issued by a licensed substance abuse provider based upon the facts and applicable rules noted above.