

**Stephanie Beaumont
Suspension, 6 Months**

The Background:

Prior History: N/A

Facts: Over the course of five (5) months, Ms. Beaumont engaged in unprofessional and negligent behavior with students on two (2) occasions. Notably, on one occasion, she made derogatory remarks to a student while physically redirecting the student and, on another occasion, exhibited diminished cognitive ability to care for students after failing a reasonable suspicion drug test for an unspecified substance.

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)(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. Examples of such negligence include, but are not limited to, situations that expose students to mental or physical harm or the potential for mental or physical harm such as leaving dangerous items in the classroom or in areas easily accessible to students and leaving students unattended."

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 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. With regard to employment action taken by a public or non-public school or school district, suspension means the temporary removal of an educator from his or her regular duties with or without pay. Suspension also includes the placement of an educator on administrative leave pending investigation into allegations of misconduct."

0520-02-03-.09(3)(c) provides, "The State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator's license 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."

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(3)(j) provides, "The State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator's license for . . . Any offense contained in paragraphs (4) and/or (5) of this Rule."

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(3)(i) provides, "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."

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(4)(i) provides, "An individual holding an educator's license who is found to be negligent in his or her commission of duties as an educator in such a manner that does not result in harm to a child, but presented the potential for physical or mental harm, shall be subject to a disciplinary action within the range of a letter of formal reprimand up to and including a two (2) year suspension."

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."

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 a formal reprimand for making derogatory remarks to a student while intervening during a student-on-student altercation.

November 2025 – Board approved a one-year suspension of an educator's license, with proof of treatment or evaluation, for failing a reasonable suspicion drug test for alcohol.

August 2025 – Board approved a formal reprimand for making threatening or derogatory remarks to a student in a joking manner.

May 2025 – Board approved a one-year retroactive suspension of an educator’s license, with proof of evaluation, for improper use of medication and alcohol prior to coming to school.

The Recommendation:

Board counsel recommends the Board approve the signed Consent Order submitted by the Respondent for the six (6) month suspension of Respondent’s license based upon the facts and applicable rule noted above.