
Licenses: Formal Reprimand, Denial, Suspension, Revocation and Restoration

The Background:

Formal Reprimand Denial, Suspension or Revocation:

Pursuant to State Board of Education Rule 0520-02-03-.09:

The State Board of Education shall automatically revoke the license of a licensed teacher or administrator without the right to a hearing upon receiving verification of the identity of the teacher or administrator together with a certified copy of a criminal record showing that the teacher or school administrator has been convicted of any felony or offense listed at T.C.A. §§ 40-35-501(i)(2), 39-17-417, a sexual offense or a violent sexual offense as defined in 40-39-202, any offense in title 39, chapter 13, 39-14-301 and 39-14-302, 39-14-401 and 39-14-404, 39-15-401 and 39-15-402, 39-17-1320, or any other offense in title 39, chapter 17, part 13 (including conviction on a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, conviction for the same or similar offense in any jurisdiction, or conviction for the solicitation of, attempt to commit, conspiracy, or acting as an accessory to such offenses).

Also, the State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, reprimand formally or refuse to issue or renew a license for the following reasons:

1. Conviction of a felony,
2. Conviction of possession of narcotics,
3. Being on school premises or at a school-related activity involving students while documented as being under the influence of, possessing or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs,
4. Falsification or alteration of a license or documentation required for licensure,
5. Denial, suspension or revocation of a license or certificate in another jurisdiction for reasons which would justify denial, suspension or revocation under this rule, or
6. Other good cause. Other good cause shall be construed to include noncompliance with security guidelines for TCAP or successor tests pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-607, default on a student loan pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-5-108(d)(2) or failure to report under part (e).

For purposes of this part (b), "conviction" includes conviction on a plea of guilty, a plea of nolo contendere or an order granting pre-trial or judicial diversion.

A person whose license has been denied, suspended or revoked may not serve as a volunteer or be employed, directly or indirectly, as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher or in any other position during the period of the denial, suspension or revocation.

Reinstatement:

Pursuant to State Board of Education Rule 0520-02-03-.09(3):

A person whose license has been denied, suspended or revoked under parts (1) or (2) may apply to the Board to have the license issued or restored upon application showing that the cause for denial, suspension or revocation no longer exists and that the person has complied with any terms imposed in the order of denial or revocation. In the case of a felony conviction, before an application will be considered, the person must also show that any sentence imposed, including any pre-trial diversion or probationary period has been completed. Application for such issuance or restoration shall be made to the Office of Teacher Licensing and shall be voted on at a regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education. Nothing in this section is intended to guarantee restoration of a license.

The Recommendations:

Board action is required. Counsel to the Board recommends approval of the attached orders imposing the actions noted below.

- A. Leslie Acree, Revocation
- B. Item Removed at Meeting
- C. Gregory Doty, Denial of Application
- D. Chris Fain, Formal Reprimand
- E. Marcos Flores, Revocation
- F. Eric Good, Revocation
- G. Angel Goodman, Revocation
- H. Debra Sellars, Suspension, Concurrent
- I. Thomas Tjornehoj, Formal Reprimand
- J. Willie Whisman, Revocation

**Leslie Acree
Revocation**

The Background:

Facts: In April, the Respondent resigned her teaching position after allegations that she purchased and provided alcohol to a minor and was romantically involved with the same minor.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to revoke her teaching license based upon these findings, and of her right to a hearing. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-03-.09(2)(f).

The Board staff review committee recommends revocation of Respondent's teaching license.

ITEM REMOVED AT MEETING

The Background:

The Recommendation:

Gregory Doty
Denial of Application

The Background:

Allegation: In March, 2014, the state of Illinois revoked Respondent's educator license. Respondent failed to disclose pending action on his application for a Tennessee teaching license.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to deny issuance of a teaching license based upon these findings, and of his right to a hearing. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for denial of a license pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-03-.09(2)(f).

The Board staff review committee recommends denial of issuance of Respondent's teaching license.

**Chris Fain
Formal Reprimand**

The Background:

Allegation: In October of 2014, Respondent resigned following a suspension from Hawkins County Schools for neglect of duty and insubordination. Respondent had left schools grounds during the day without signing out and left students under the supervision of a parent rather than a licensed substitute teacher.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to issue a letter of formal reprimand based upon these findings, and of his right to a hearing. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-03-.09(2)(f).

The Board staff review committee recommends issuance of a letter of formal reprimand.

**Marcos Flores
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Flores pled guilty to seven (7) felonies, including sexual activity involving a minor, solicitation to commit especially aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor, and sexual exploitation of a minor by electronic means.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to revoke his teaching license based upon these findings. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for revocation of his license pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-03-.09(2). Respondent's action would qualify him for automatic revocation under the new rules, but he was notified of this action prior to the adoption of the new rules.

The Board staff review committee recommends revocation Respondent's teaching license.

**Eric Good
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: In June 2015, Respondent's Kentucky educator's license was revoked, retroactively to June 2012. Respondent also resigned from Clarksville Montgomery County schools prior to termination proceedings.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to revoke his license based upon these findings, and of his right to a hearing. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-03-.09(2).

The Board staff review committee recommends revocation of Respondent's teaching license.

**Angel Goodman
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Respondent has been indicted in Alabama for using falsified credentials in order to practice as a psychologist. Charges include theft by deception for Medicaid payments for services rendered.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to revoke her license based upon these findings, and of her right to a hearing. The certified letter was returned unclaimed. The U.S. Postal Service notation that a properly addressed certified letter is "unclaimed" is sufficient evidence of the addressee's refusal to accept service and is sufficient legal notice to the addressee. By refusing delivery of the certified mail, Respondent has waived the right to a hearing.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-03-.09(2).

The Board staff review committee recommends revocation of Respondent's teaching license.

**Debra Sellars
Suspension, Concurrent**

The Background:

Allegation: In 2015, the state of Georgia suspended Respondent's teaching license for fifty (50) days retroactively. The suspension was a result of dishonestly during an investigation of another teacher.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to suspend her license based upon these findings, and of her right to a hearing. The certified letter was returned unclaimed. The U.S. Postal Service notation that a properly addressed certified letter is "unclaimed" is sufficient evidence of the addressee's refusal to accept service and is sufficient legal notice to the addressee. By refusing delivery of the certified mail, Respondent has waived the right to a hearing.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-03-.09(2)(f).

The Board staff review committee recommends suspension of Respondent's teaching license for a time concurrent to her suspension in Georgia.

**Thomas Tjornehoj
Formal Reprimand**

The Background:

Allegation: In November of 2014, Respondent resigned following a suspension from Williamson County Schools for conduct unbecoming a teacher. Respondent was being investigated for throwing the shoe of a student who had asked for assistance tying the shoe.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to issue a letter of formal reprimand based upon these findings, and of his right to a hearing. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-03-.09(2)(f).

The Board staff review committee recommends issuance of a letter of formal reprimand.

**Willie Whisman
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: In 2014, Respondent was convicted of sexual battery and placed on the Tennessee sexual offender registry.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to revoke his license based upon these findings, and of his right to a hearing. The certified letter was returned unclaimed. The U.S. Postal Service notation that a properly addressed certified letter is "unclaimed" is sufficient evidence of the addressee's refusal to accept service and is sufficient legal notice to the addressee. By refusing delivery of the certified mail, Respondent has waived the right to a hearing.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-03-.09(2)(a).

The Board staff review committee recommends revocation of Respondent's teaching license.