
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. Tracy Hill-Riggs – Suspension, One (1) Year
- B. Nathan Powell – Denial of Reinstatement
- C. William Sturdivant – Formal Reprimand
- D. Felippia Turner-Kellogg – Denial of Reinstatement

**Tracy Hill-Riggs
Suspension, One (1) Year**

The Background:

Facts: In November, the Respondent resigned following allegations of inappropriate physical contact with students. The allegations were related to her duties as a teacher.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to suspend 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 suspension of Respondent's teaching license for a period of one (1) year.

Nathan Powell
Denial of Reinstatement

The Background:

Allegation: The Respondent's teaching license was revoked during an administrative hearing in 2012. The basis of the revocation was conduct underlying a criminal charge of statutory rape which was placed on judicial diversion and subsequently dismissed.

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

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for denial of the petition for reinstatement pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-03-.09(2)(f) and Rule 0520-02-03-.09(3).

The Board staff review committee recommends denial of the Respondent's petition for reinstatement.

**William Sturdivant
Formal Reprimand**

The Background:

Allegation: In December, Respondent resigned following an investigation into allegations of inappropriate physical contact with a student during class. Respondent and student involved both admit to the inappropriateness of the wrestling.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to formally reprimand 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)(f).

The Board staff review committee recommends issuing a formal reprimand to Respondent's teaching license.

**Felippia Turner-Kellogg
Denial of Reinstatement**

The Background:

Allegation: In 2012, Respondent pled guilty to federal charges relating to the PRAXIS cheating scandal of 2010. In 2013, the Board revoked Respondent's teaching license based on the above felony conviction.

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

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for denial of the petition for reinstatement pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-03-.09(2)(a) and Rule 0520-02-03-.09(3).

The Board staff review committee recommends denial of the Respondent's petition for reinstatement.