
License Formal Reprimand Denial, Suspension, Revocation and Restoration

The Background:

Formal Reprimand Denial, Suspension or Revocation:

Pursuant to State Board of Education Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b):

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 0520-2-4-.01(9)(c):

A person whose license has been denied, suspended or revoked under parts (a) or (b) 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 Recommendation:

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

- A. Cooley, Aimee- Revocation, concurrent
- B. Droese, Michael D.- Revocation
- C. Elia, Essam- Denial
- D. Frost, Sarah Jo- Suspension, one (1) year, with contingency
- E. Holmes, Steve- Revocation
- F. Jernigan, LaVar- Revocation
- G. Long, Terry- Revocation, concurrent
- H. This item was vacated
- I. Robb, Amariah- Suspension, three (3) years, with contingency
- J. Scudder, William Howard- Suspension, one (1) year, with contingency
- K. Williams, James Ray- Revocation
- L. Wooster, Nicholas- Revocation, concurrent

**Aimee Cooley
Revocation, concurrent**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Cooley voluntarily surrendered her Georgia teaching license after using a coworker's stolen credit card.

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. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(5).

The Board staff review committee recommends revocation of Respondent's teaching license concurrent with the GA revocation.

**Michael D. Dorese
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: On November 20, 2013, Mr. Dorese pled guilty to three counts of delivery of a controlled substance, a class C felony.

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 or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(1).

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

**Essam Elia
Denial**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Elia's Florida teaching license was suspended for using an object to look under the skirt of another teacher while in the presence of students.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to deny his license based upon these findings, and of his right to a hearing. Respondent received notice and requested a hearing, but later rescinded that request.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(5).

The Board staff review committee recommends denial of Respondent's teaching license concurrent with the Florida suspension.

Sarah Jo Frost
Suspension, one (1) year, with contingency

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Frost resigned from Hamilton County Schools for possessing and consuming alcohol while on school premises.

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. Respondent received notice but did not request a hearing.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(3).

The Board staff review committee recommends suspension of Respondent's license for one (1) year with reinstatement contingent upon proof of rehabilitation or evaluation by a health care provider and completion of any recommended steps.

**Steve Holmes
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Holmes unlawfully acted as a surrogate to take the PRAXIS examination on behalf of other individuals.

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 or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

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

**LaVar Jeringan
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: On September 9, 2013, Mr. Jernigan pled guilty to Sexual Exploitation of a Minor in the Criminal Court of Lawrence County.

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 or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(1).

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

Terry Long
Revocation, concurrent

The Background:

Allegation: In June 2013, The Kentucky Child Protective Services substantiated allegations of child abuse against Mr. Long, resulting in the surrender of his Kentucky teaching license.

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 or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(5).

The Board staff review committee recommends revocation of Respondent's teaching license concurrent with the KY revocation.

**Tennessee State Board of Education
April 11, 2014**

**Agenda
Teacher Licensure Actions: VI. H.**

This item was vacated.

Amariah Robb
Suspension, Three (3) Years, With Contingency

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Robb resigned from Wilson City Schools after sending inappropriate communications to students.

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 or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends suspension of Respondent's license for three (3) years with reinstatement contingent upon proof of successful completion of educator boundary training.

William Howard Scudder
Suspension, one (1) year, with contingency

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Scudder resigned from Clarksville Montgomery County Schools for being under the influence of alcohol while on school premises.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to suspend 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 suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(3).

The Board staff review committee recommends suspension of Respondent's license for one (1) year with reinstatement contingent upon proof of rehabilitation or evaluation by a health care provider and completion of any recommended steps.

**James Ray Williams
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: On January 14, 2014, Mr. Williams pled guilty to Solicitation of a Minor to Observe Sexual Conduct, a class D felony.

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 or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(1).

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

**Nicholas Wooster
Revocation, concurrent**

The Background:

Allegation: In September 2013, Mr. Wooster surrendered his Arkansas teaching license after being convicted of Sexual Indecency with a Child.

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 or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(5).

The Board staff review committee recommends revocation of Respondent's teaching license concurrent with the AR revocation.