
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. Allen, Jeremy – Formal Reprimand
- B. Bell, Kendall - Revocation
- C. Berkowitz, Brian - Revocation
- D. Bivens, LaTorrence – Revocation
- E. Bowles, Laketa – Denial
- F. Bragg, Marcus – Revocation
- G. Buckhalter, Bernadette – Formal Reprimand
- H. Burke, Ryan – Revocation
- I. Cortez, Dixie – Suspension, concurrent
- J. Dodd, April – Suspension, one (1) year, retroactive
- K. Dyer, Bethany – Revocation
- L. Evans, Alex – Revocation, concurrent
- M. Farris, Sandra – Formal Reprimand
- N. Finley, Daryl – Revocation, concurrent
- O. Griffin, Erica – Denial
- P. Hawkins, Gary – Revocation
- Q. Henrie, Darren - Revocation
- R. Hopkins, Edward – Formal Reprimand
- S. Hunt, Natalie – Suspension, one (1) year, with contingency
- T. Ledford, Sandra – Revocation
- U. Matthews, Gregory – Formal Reprimand, with contingency
- V. Miles, Kerrie – Suspension, three (3) years
- W. Rohr, Richard Brandon – Suspension, two (2) years, with contingency
- X. Williams, Hilary – Suspension, Concurrent
- Y. Williams, Mary Ann – Revocation

**Jeremy Allen
Formal Reprimand**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Allen, an employee of Hamilton County Schools, was reported for breaching end-of-course test security when he left students unsupervised in the classroom during administration of the exam.

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 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends formally reprimanding Respondent.

**Kendall Bell
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Bell pled guilty to two counts of statutory rape in Madison County Circuit Court.

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 0520-02-04-.01(9)(b)(1).

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

**Brian Berkowitz
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Berkowitz surrendered his teaching license in Florida for non-sex related acts or crimes committed against 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, through counsel, consented to the voluntary and permanent surrender of his Tennessee teaching license based upon the conduct which led to the revocation in Florida. Respondent's Florida teaching license is presently revoked.

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 revocation in Florida.

**LaTorrence Bivens
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Bivens admitted to having a sexual relationship with a student.

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 0520-02-04-.01(9)(b)(6).

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

**Laketa Bowles
Denial**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Bowles' license was suspended in Georgia for breach of testing security during the 2013 Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT).

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to deny her request for licensure 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 denial pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-04-.01(9)(b)(5).

The Board staff review committee recommends denial of Respondent's request for a teaching license.

**Marcus Bragg
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Bragg resigned after engaging in sexual contact with a student. On July 12, 2013, Mr. Bragg was convicted of sexual contact with a minor by an authority figure in the Criminal Court for Montgomery 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)(6).

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

**Bernadette Buckhalter
Formal Reprimand**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Buckhalter was reported for breaching TCAP testing security when she assisted students during the administration of the exam.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to issue a formal reprimand 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 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends formally reprimanding Respondent.

**Ryan Morgan Burke
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Burke was terminated by Weakley County Schools after being charged with two counts of Purchasing Alcoholic Beverages for a Minor and two counts of Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor in the General Sessions Court of Weakley County, Tennessee.

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 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.

**Dixie Cortez
Suspension, Concurrent**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Cortez's teaching license was suspended in Florida for misconduct relating to physical abuse of students and other non-sex related acts committed against a child.

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

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

April Dodd
Suspension, one (1) year, retroactive

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Dodd was convicted of theft under \$500 in General Sessions Court of Carroll County, Tennessee.

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 revocation or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-04-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends retroactive suspension of Respondent's teaching license for one (1) year.

**Bethany Dyer
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Dyer pled guilty to aggravated statutory rape in the Criminal Court of Gibson County, Tennessee.

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)(1).

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

Alex Evans
Revocation, Concurrent

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Evans' surrendered his Montana teaching license for non-sex related acts or crimes committed against 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 license concurrent with the Montana revocation.

**Sandra Farris
Formal Reprimand**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Farris was reported for breaching end-of-course testing security when she left students unsupervised in the classroom during the administration of the exam.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to formally reprimand 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, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

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

Daryl Finley
Revocation, concurrent

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Finley's surrendered his West Virginia teaching license for violence related conviction(s) and non-sex related acts or crimes committed against 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 West Virginia revocation.

**Erica Griffin
Denial, Concurrent**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Griffin surrendered her Georgia teaching license, following a December 2010 arrest for possession of cocaine and marijuana, and allegations of an inappropriate relationship with a student.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to deny her request for licensure 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 denial pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-04-.01(9)(b)(5).

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

**Gary Hawkins
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Hawkins was convicted of child abuse in the Criminal Court for Coffee County, Tennessee.

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)(6).

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

**Darren Henrie
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Henrie was convicted of three (3) counts of sexual battery in the Criminal Court for Williamson County, Tennessee. As a condition to the judgment, the Court ordered Respondent to surrender his teaching license.

Status: Respondent, through counsel, consented to the voluntary and permanent surrender of his Tennessee teaching license.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation or suspension pursuant to Board Rule 0520-02-04-.01(9)(b)(1).

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

**Edward Hopkins
Formal Reprimand**

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Hopkins was reported for breaching TCAP testing security when he provided assistance to students during the administration of the exam.

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 knowingly and voluntarily waived his right to a hearing and consented to a formal reprimand of his license.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

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

**Natalie Hunt
Suspension, one (1) year, with contingency**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Hunt was terminated from Hardin County Schools, following conviction of possession of drug paraphernalia on campus.

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

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

**Sandra Ledford
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Ledford resigned from Unicoi County Schools after admitting that she breached TCAP testing security by using the Test Directions to review with students the day before the administration of the exam.

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 0520-02-04-.01(9)(b)(6).

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

Gregory Matthews
Formal Reprimand, with contingency

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Matthews resigned from Shelby County Schools after he was allegedly caught on video sitting on a student, while choking him.

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, through counsel, agreed to a formal reprimand of his Tennessee teaching license, with the requirement that he complete behavior intervention training within one (1) year from the effective date of the Agreed Order.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends formal reprimand of Respondent's teaching license with the requirement that he complete behavior intervention training within one (1) year from the effective date of the Agreed Order.

**Kerrie Miles
Suspension, three (3) years**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Miles resigned following charges relating to the misappropriation of school funds. She was subsequently convicted of theft under \$500 in the Circuit Court for Cannon County, Tennessee.

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 knowingly and voluntarily waived her right to a hearing and consented to a suspension of her Tennessee teaching license.

The Recommendation:

Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for license revocation, suspension, or formal reprimand pursuant to Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b)(6).

The Board staff review committee recommends suspension of Respondent's teaching license for three (3) years.

Richard Rohr
Suspension, two (2) years, with contingency

The Background:

Allegation: Mr. Rohr resigned after engaging in inappropriate communications with a student.

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

The Board staff review committee recommends suspension of Respondent's teaching license for two (2) years, with reinstatement contingent upon successful completion of educator boundary training.

Hilary Williams
Suspension, Concurrent

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Williams' Ohio teaching license was suspended for a theft-related conviction.

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.

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 suspension of Respondent's teaching license concurrent with the suspension of her Ohio license.

**Mary Ann Williams
Revocation**

The Background:

Allegation: Ms. Williams pled guilty to two (2) counts of child abuse in the Criminal Court for Lewis County, Tennessee.

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)(6).

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