

**Ashlynn White**  
**Suspension, Six (6) Months**

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**The Background:**

*Prior History:* N/A

*Facts:* Ms. White intentionally falsified student grades by entering inaccurate scores for numerous students on assignments, quizzes, and tests including end-of-course exams. The district terminated her employment, but no criminal charges were pursued.

*Applicable Rule*

*/Law:* T.C.A § 49-5-1101 provides (a) (1) A student transcript shall not be altered by any employee of an LEA, charter school, or virtual school unless the LEA, charter school, or virtual school has a written policy governing student transcript alterations. All transcript alterations shall be made in accordance with the LEA, charter school, or virtual school policy governing student transcript alterations. (2) An LEA, charter school, or virtual school policy governing student transcript alterations must require any student transcript alteration to be supported by documentation providing an explanation of the reason for the transcript alteration and evidence that the student has earned the grade reflected in the altered transcript. (c) Any person who intentionally violates this section may be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, revocation of a professional educator license or certification issued by the DOE, and may be subject to prosecution for falsification of educational or academic records under § 39-14-136.

0520-02-03-.09(1)(k) defines 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 the nullification of an educator’s license for a predetermined term, after which the license is reinstated. Reinstatement may be subject to the completion of terms and conditions contained in the order of suspension.

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)(8) 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.

T.C.A. § 49-5-1003(b)(1) provides that an educator shall abide by all applicable federal and state laws.

T.C.A. § 49-5-1004(c) provides educators shall conduct themselves in a manner that preserves the dignity and integrity of the education profession.

*Status:* Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to **suspend** her educator license based upon these findings. Respondent received said notice.

**Board Action Consistency Considerations:**

February 2022 – Board approved a one (1) year suspension concurrent with criminal probation for an educator who was found guilty of five (5) counts of falsifying educational and academic records due to deleting courses and grades from a high school transcript.

February 2013 – Board approved the revocation of a guidance counselor's license who falsified a student's transcript.

**The Recommendation:**

The Board staff recommends that the Board approve the signed Consent Order submitted by the Respondent based upon the facts and applicable rule noted above.