

**Terri Hale
Suspension, 1 Year**

The Background:

Prior History: N/A

Facts: Ms. Hale was driving the bus to school with only one student on board. Ms. Hale and the student agreed that they would stop at a convenience store on the way to purchase vapes. The student gave Ms. Hale his credit card to purchase the vape for him and stated he could not do it because he is underage. The two returned to the bus where Ms. Hale smoked a vape in the presence of the student for the remainder of the ride to school. Ms. Hale admitted to administration that she provided a vape to the minor student. Ms. Hale was suspended for three (3) days and removed from bus duties. No criminal charges were pursued.

Applicable Rule

/Law: 0520-02-03-.09(1)(k) Other Good Cause - 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) Suspension – The nullification of an educator’s license for a predetermined term, after which the license may be reinstated. Reinstatement may be subject to the completion of terms and conditions contained in the order of suspension.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(i) states 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) states 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)(7) provides that an educator shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety

T.C.A. § 49-5-1003(b)(16) provides that an educator shall not furnish alcohol or unauthorized drugs to the student

T.C.A. § 49-5-1003(b)(19) provides that an educator shall maintain a professional approach with the student at all times.

T.C.A. § 49-5-1004(c)(2) provides that an educator 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:

August 2011 – Board approved the suspension of an educator's license for one (1) year concurrent with her criminal probation for contributing to the delinquency of a minor for providing alcohol to a 16-year-old former student who was at her residence.

August 2011 – Board approved the suspension of an educator's license for one (1) year concurrent with her criminal probation for contributing to the delinquency of a minor after she was found with a student after curfew.

October 2014 – Board approved the revocation of an educator's license for providing alcohol and marijuana to students at his residence.

February 2021 – Board approved the suspension of an educator's license for two (2) years after she was placed on criminal probation for marijuana possession and contributing to the delinquency of a minor by taking the runaway 17-year-old student to her home.

The Recommendation:

Board counsel recommends the Board approve the signed Consent Order for the suspension of Respondent's license for one (1) year based upon the facts and applicable rule noted above.