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John Daniels  
Suspension, One (1) Year

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**The Background:**

*Prior History:* N/A

*Facts:* Mr. Daniels admitted to having an inappropriate relationship with a student during the 2022-2023 academic year. Mr. Daniels was suspended before eventually resigning his position with Washington County Schools.

*Applicable Law*

*/Rule:* 0520-02-03-.09(1)(k) defines Other 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(3)(i) provides that the State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator's license for other good cause.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(j) provides that the State Board may revoke, suspend, or formally reprimand an educator's license for any offense listed in paragraphs (4) and (5) of the rule.

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(5)(i) provides, "An individual holding an educator's license who is found to have engaged in non-explicit inappropriate communication with a student shall be subject to a disciplinary action within the range of a suspension for no less than three (3) months up to and including revocation."

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)(14) states that educators shall "ensure interactions with the student take place in transparent and appropriate settings."

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

*Status:* Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to **suspend** Respondent's educator license based upon these findings. Respondent received said notice and agreed to the one (1) year suspension of Respondent's license.

**Board Action Consistency Considerations:**

October 2022 – Board approved the six (6) month suspension of an educator’s license for engaging in inappropriate communication that was grooming in nature.

August 2023 – Board approved the six (6) month suspension of an educator’s license for engaging in inappropriate communications with a student that was grooming in nature.

February 2024 – Board approved the eighteen (18) month suspension of an educator’s license for engaging in an inappropriate relationship with a student through inappropriate communication with the student that was sexual in nature.

February 2024 – Board approved the voluntary surrender of an educator’s license for engaging in an inappropriate relationship with a student that included inappropriate physical contact.

**The Recommendation:**

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