

## SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION	)	
CERTIFICATE OF	)	OPP No. D23-10-063
	)	
LACY REYES	)	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 540020E	)	OF MANDATORY
	)	PERMANENT REVOCATION
	)	

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Federal Way Public Schools regarding the above referenced Educator, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through his undersigned designee, institutes this proceeding and finds that LACY REYES ("Educator") has been convicted of a crime listed in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.400.322 and per RCW 28A.410.090(4) does hereby PERMANENTLY REVOKE the Educator's Washington Education Certificate No. 540020E, based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

## I. FINDINGS OF FACT

- On May 31, 2018, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No.
  540020E. The Educator's certificate will expire on June 30, 2027.
- 2. During the 2021–22 school year, the Educator was employed by the School District at Thomas Jefferson High School as a classroom teacher.

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- 3. On October 25, 2023, the Office of Professional Practices ("OPP") within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction ("OSPI") received a complaint from Dr. Dani Pfeiffer, the Superintendent of the School District, alleging that the Educator demonstrated a lack of good moral character and personal fitness pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-86-013(1), committed an act of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87-060, WAC 181-87-062, and WAC 181-87-080, and had been charged with felony offenses listed within RCW 28A.400.322.
- 4. Between February 7, 2022, and July 29, 2022, the Educator exchanged electronic messages with Student A, a 17-year-old female Thomas Jefferson High School student. Most of the contents of the messages were not related to Student A's education.
- 5. Between February 7, 2022, and July 29, 2022, the Educator and Student A exchanged electronic messages discussing and detailing sexual acts with themselves and each other.
- 6. On March 7, 2022, Student A electronically sent the Educator nude images of the herself engaged in sexually explicit acts.
- 7. On August 1, 2022, the Educator was placed on administrative leave by the School District.
- 8. On September 28, 2022, the Educator was arrested by Federal Way Police Department officers and booked into King County Jail on charges of Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes and Possession of Depiction of Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Acts.

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- 9. On September 30, 2022, an Information and Certification for Determination of Probable Cause was filed in King County Superior Court charging the Educator with Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes, RCW 9.68A.090(2), and Possession of Depictions of Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Acts 1st Degree, RCW 9.68A.070(1).
- 10. On November 1, 2023, a First Amended Information was filed in King County Superior Court charging the Educator with Assault 3rd Degree, RCW 9A.36.031(1)(f), and Possession of Depictions of Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Acts 1st Degree, RCW 9.68A.070(1).
- 11. On November 1, 2023, the Educator signed a Statement of Defendant on Plea of Guilty.
- 12. The Educator resigned her employment with the School District effective December 13, 2022.
- 13. On January 12, 2024, the Educator was found guilty, by plea, of Assault 3rd Degree, RCW 9A.36.031(1)(f) and sentenced to three (3) months confinement to be served through electronic home detention. The charge of Possession of Depictions of Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Acts 1st Degree, RCW 9.68A.070(1), was dismissed.
- 14. The Educator was offered an opportunity to respond to the allegations of misconduct by OPP on or around January 22, 2024. The Educator did not provide a response.

## II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Chapter 28A.410 RCW gives the Professional Educator Standards Board the authority to develop regulations determining eligibility for and certification of personnel employed in the common schools of the state of Washington. OSPI acts as the administrator of those statutes and regulations and has the authority to issue, reprimand, suspend, and revoke education certificates. RCW 28A.410.010; RCW 28A.410.090. Chapters 181-86 and 181-87 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) further implement OSPI's authority.

- 2. OSPI has jurisdiction over the Educator and the subject matter of this action.
- 3. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-070, there is clear and convincing evidence the Educator has pleaded guilty to or has been convicted of a crime specified in RCW 28A.410.090(4).
- 4. Pursuant to RCW 28A.410.090(4) and WAC 181-86-013(1),(2), a plea of guilty or a conviction of Assault 3rd Degree, RCW 9A.36.031(1)(f), mandates OSPI to permanently revoke the Educator's certificate.
- 5. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-170, WAC 181-86-013(4), and WAC 181-86-014, there is clear and convincing evidence the Educator has a behavioral problem that endangers the educational welfare or personal safety of students.
- 6. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-075, permanent revocation is appropriate discipline when (1) the superintendent of public instruction has determined that the education practitioner has committed a felony crime under WAC 181-86-013(2) or (2) which bars the education practitioner from any future practice as an education practitioner.
- 7. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-080, eleven factors, at a minimum, are to be considered to determine the appropriate level and range of educator discipline:
  - (1) The seriousness of the act(s) and the actual or potential harm to persons or property;
  - (2) The person's criminal history including the seriousness and amount of activity;
  - (3) The age and maturity level of participant(s) at the time of the activity;
  - (4) The proximity or remoteness of time in which the acts occurred;
  - (5) Any activity that demonstrates a disregard for health, safety or welfare;
  - (6) Any activity that demonstrates a behavioral problem;
  - (7) Any activity that demonstrates a lack of fitness;
  - (8) Any information submitted regarding discipline imposed by any governmental or private entity as a result of acts or omissions;
  - (9) Any information submitted that demonstrates aggravating or mitigating circumstances:
  - (10) Any information submitted to support character and fitness; and
  - (11) Any other relevant information submitted.

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8. Based on the foregoing facts, and considering them in light of the eleven factors enumerated in WAC 181-86-080, and in light of WAC 181-86-075, RCW 28A.410.090(4), WAC 181-87-060, WAC 181-87-062, and WAC 181-87-080, and WAC 181-86, the Educator's education certificate should be permanently revoked for demonstrating a lack of good moral character and personal fitness pursuant to WAC 181-86-013(2), committing an act of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC chapter 181-87, and committing a felony crime under RCW 28A.410.090(4) which bars the Educator from any future practice as an educator.

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## III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate No. 540020E of LACY REYES is **PERMANENTLY REVOKED.** 

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_ August \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

CHRIS REYKDAL Superintendent of Public Instruction State of Washington

Matthew A. Schultz

Chief Legal and Civil Rights Officer