



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Chris Reykdal Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)	
CERTIFICATE OF)	OPP No. D23-01-002
)	
WILLIAM TOLLEFSON)	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 542121R)	OF MANDATORY
)	PERMANENT REVOCATION
)	

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Bellevue Christian School (School) regarding the above referenced Educator, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through his undersigned designee, institutes this proceeding and finds that WILLIAM TOLLEFSON (“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 Washington Education Certificate No. 542121R and does hereby PERMANENTLY REVOKE the Educator’s ability to apply for reinstatement based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On August 8, 2017, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 542121R. The Educator’s certificate, a Residency Teacher-First Issue, has no expiration date.
2. During the 2021–22 and 2022–23 school years, the Educator was employed by the School as a Choir teacher.

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3. On November 17, 2022, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”) received a complaint from Eric Rasmussen, Head of the School, alleging the Educator demonstrated a lack of good moral character and personal fitness pursuant to WAC 181-86-013(1) and committed an act of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87-060 and WAC 181-87-080.

4. During the 2021–22 school year, the Educator initiated an inappropriate relationship with Student A, an 11th grade female student. The relationship, at that time, consisted primarily of peer-like electronic messages.

5. During the summer months of 2022, the Educator continued the inappropriate relationship with Student A. The relationship also progressed to meeting outside of school activities and engaging in sexual interactions with Student A.

6. From the summer months of 2022 and continuing until early November 2022, the Educator engaged in sexual activities with Student A.

7. On or about November 8, 2022, Student A’s parents notified the School of inappropriate electronic messages exchanged between Student A and the Educator.

8. On November 8, 2022, the School verbally notified the Educator that his employment was terminated.

9. On or about November 14, 2022, the School contacted Clyde Hill Police Department. After initial investigation, Clyde Hill Police Department determined any potential criminal violations occurred in Mercer Island and referred the investigation to the Mercer Island Police Department.

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10. On August 21, 2023, an Information and Certification of Determination of Probable Cause were filed in King County Superior Court charging the Educator with Sexual Misconduct 1st Degree, RCW 9A.44.093, and Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes (felony), RCW 9.68A.090(2).

11. On August 16, 2024, the Educator was found guilty, by plea, of Sexual Misconduct 1st Degree, RCW 9A.44.093, and Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes (felony), RCW 9.68A.090(2). The Educator was sentenced to: twenty (20) months incarceration with twenty (20) months suspended; three (3) years community custody under the supervision of Washington Department of Corrections (DOC); sex offender treatment; sex offender registration; no contact with minors without supervision by a person aware of his crimes and DOC approval; and other conditions.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. RCW Chapter 28A.410 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).

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4. Pursuant to RCW 28A.410.090(4) and WAC 181-86-013(1), (2), a plea of guilty or a conviction of Sexual Misconduct 1st Degree, RCW 9A.44.093, and Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes (felony), RCW 9.68A.090(2) “bars the certificate holder from any future practice as an education practitioner” 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 (1) 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), 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(1) and -014, committing an act of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87-060, WAC 181-87-080, 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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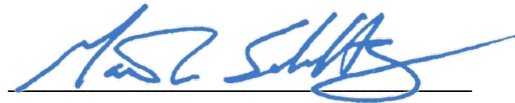
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III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that Washington Education Certificate No. 542121R WILLIAM TOLLEFSON's ability to hold a Washington Education Certificate is PERMANENTLY REVOKED.

DATED this 16th day of January, 2025.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Matthew A. Schultz
Chief Legal and Civil Rights Officer