



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)
CERTIFICATE OF)

ZACHARY WENDT)
Certificate No. 537734F)

OPP No. D23-02-009

FINAL ORDER
OF REVOCATION

After receiving and investigating a report from the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC), the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through his undersigned designee, institutes this proceeding and finds that ZACHARY WENDT (“Educator”) lacks the good moral character and/or personal fitness required of educators as listed in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-86-013 and -014, and does hereby REVOKE the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate No. 537734F based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On February 6, 2017, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 537734F. The Educator’s certificate, a Residency Teacher, First Issue, has no expiration date.
2. On February 3, 2023, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”) received notice through NASDTEC that the Educator had surrendered his Wisconsin education certificate.
3. From approximately February 1, 2021, to approximately March 1, 2021, the Educator, while serving as a music teacher in the Wheatland School District, was employed as a music instructor at a Burlington, Wisconsin area music store.

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4. During the period the Educator was employed at the music store, he began a sexual relationship with a 16-year-old female co-worker. During the relationship, the Educator, among other actions, engaged in sexual contact and sexual intercourse with the 16-year-old female, provided alcohol to her, and possessed images of her engaged in actions depicting sexually explicit conduct.

5. On December 9, 2021, the Educator was charged in Racine County Circuit Court with the Wisconsin criminal charges of Sexual Intercourse with a Child 16 or older by an actor 19 or older (2 counts), Sexual Assault of a Child by a Person who Works with or Volunteers with Children (2 counts), Possession of Child Pornography, and Exposing genitals/pubic area/intimate parts to a child.

6. On February 9, 2022, the Educator surrendered his Wisconsin education certificate.

7. On May 2, 2023, the Educator was found guilty, by plea, of Sexual Assault of a Child by a Person Who Works with or Volunteers with Children. The Educator was sentenced to five (5) years incarceration and, among other conditions, required to register as a sex offender upon release.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Revised Code of Washington (“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 WAC further implement OSPI’s authority.

2. OSPI has jurisdiction over the Educator and the subject matter of this action.

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3. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-013 and WAC 181-86-014, there is clear and convincing evidence the Educator lacks the good moral character and/or personal fitness necessary to serve as a certificated employee in schools in the state of Washington, including the character and personal fitness to have contact with, to teach, and to perform supervision of children.

4. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-075, a revocation is appropriate discipline when (2) the superintendent of public instruction has determined that the education practitioner has not committed a felony crime under WAC 181-86-013 (1) or (2) but the superintendent of public instruction has determined the education practitioner has committed an act of unprofessional conduct or lacks good moral character or personal fitness and revocation is appropriate.

5. 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.

6. 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, WAC 181-86-013 and WAC 181-86-014, the Educator's education certificate should be revoked for lack of good moral character and personal fitness.

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III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate No. 537734F of ZACHARY WENDT is **REVOKED**.

DATED this 14th day of May, 2025.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington


Darryl E. Colman
Chief Legal and Civil Rights Officer