



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. D25-01-010
)	
MARK BAER)	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 550325E)	OF SUSPENSION
)	

After receiving and investigating a report from the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) regarding the above referenced educator, and based upon the facts available as of the date of this Proposed Order, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through his undersigned designee, institutes this proceeding and finds, as described below, that MARK BAER (“Educator”) engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct to include Washington Administrative Code (“WAC”) 181-87-060, and does hereby SUSPEND the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate No. 550325E for not less than twelve (12) months with conditions enumerated below, based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On August 21, 2019, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 550325E. The Educator’s certificate, a Residency Teacher-First Issue, has no expiration date.
2. During the 2022–23 school year, the Educator was employed in Idaho by the Plummer-Worley School District (“PWS”) at Lakeside Junior High School as a history teacher.
3. On December 16, 2024, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”) received a report from the National Association of

State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) regarding the above referenced educator, stating that the Educator’s Idaho education certificate had been suspended.

4. During the 2022–23 school year, the Educator used his PWSD-issued computer equipment and internet resources to access and view images of a sexual nature.

5. In February 2023, the Benewah County Sheriff’s Office was contacted by PWSD and asked to perform a search of the Educator’s school computer equipment after a student reported seeing an internet tab with the site name of “OnlyFans”. PWSD personnel informed the Sheriff’s Office that district IT personnel had found multiple searches conducted by the Educator for “pornographic material”.

6. Benewah County Sheriff’s Office conducted a forensic examination of the Educator’s PWSD computer equipment to ascertain if there were images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. No such images were located. The examination did locate a “large amount of pornographic material”.

7. On December 13, 2023, the Idaho Professional Standards Commission issued a Final Order; suspending the Educator’s Idaho education certificate for a period of two (2) years with reinstatement conditions.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Chapter 28A.410 Revised Code of Washington (“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 WAC further implement OSPI’s authority.

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

3. The Educator committed acts of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87-060 for use of school district computer equipment to access and view images of a sexual nature.

4. There is clear and convincing evidence that the Educator committed acts of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-86-170.

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. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-070, a suspension is appropriate discipline when:

(1)(b) The education practitioner has committed an act of unprofessional conduct or lacks good moral character but the superintendent of public instruction has determined that a suspension as applied to the particular education practitioner will probably deter subsequent unprofessional or other conduct which evidences lack of good moral character or personal fitness by such education practitioner, and believes the interest of the state in protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of students, colleagues, and other affected persons is adequately served by a suspension. Such order may contain a requirement that the education practitioner fulfill certain conditions before requesting

reinstatement of the suspended certificate, and certain conditions after the reinstatement of the suspended certificate.

(1)(c) The education practitioner lacks personal fitness but the superintendent of public instruction has determined the deficiency is correctable through remedial action and believes the interest of the state in protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of students, colleagues, and other affected persons is adequately served by a suspension which states the education practitioner fulfill certain conditions before requesting reinstatement of the suspended certificate, and certain conditions after the reinstatement of the suspended certificate.

7. 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 181-86-070, WAC 181-87-060 the Educator's education certificate should be suspended for unprofessional conduct and/or a behavioral problem which endangers the educational welfare or personal safety of students, teachers, or other colleagues within the educational setting.

III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate No. 550325E of MARK BAER is **SUSPENDED**. The Educator may not request reinstatement of his education certificate for at least twelve (12) months from the effective date of this ORDER.

//

//

//

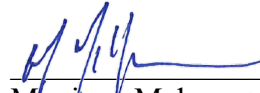
//

REINSTATEMENT of Mark Baer's education certificate shall require:

- (1) The Educator must submit a new application, including Character and Fitness Supplement, provided by OPP;
- (2) The Educator must complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check through both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Washington State Patrol;
- (3) The Educator's fingerprint background check must return with no criminal convictions, occurring after the date of issuance of a Final Order of Suspension, that are listed in WAC 181-86-013, RCW 28A.410.090, or any felony convictions; AND
- (4) The Educator shall assume all costs of complying with the requirements of this Order.

DATED this 23rd day of April, 2026.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Monique Malson
Deputy Chief Legal Officer