



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. D25-01-003
)	
JUSTIN HINCHCLIFFE)	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 488305D)	OF MANDATORY
)	PERMANENT REVOCATION
)	

After receiving and investigating notification, per Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-86-100, regarding the above referenced educator, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through his undersigned designee, institutes this proceeding and finds that JUSTIN HINCHCLIFFE (“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. 488305D 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

- On April 17, 2012, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 488305D. The Educator’s certificate expired on June 30, 2024. The events listed within Findings 2-6 occurred while the education certificate was valid.
- During the 2022–23 school year, the Educator was employed by North Thurston Public Schools at Salish Middle School as a Science teacher.

3. On or about January 13, 2025, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”) became aware the Educator had been arrested and charged with felony crimes against a minor.
4. On November 12, 2022, the Educator responded to an online post advertising commercial sexual activity.
5. Within the messages the Educator sent and received, the Educator indicated his intent to engage in sexual activity with a thirteen (13) year old juvenile. Within the messages, the Educator discussed cost for specific sexual activity. The online entity the Educator was corresponding with was an undercover law enforcement agent.
6. On November 12, 2022, the Educator was arrested at a location arranged with the undercover law enforcement agent for the purpose of meeting the purported thirteen (13) year old juvenile for sexual activity.
7. On November 14, 2022, an Information and Affidavit regarding Probable Cause were filed in Lewis County Superior Court charging the Educator with:
 - a. Attempted Rape of a Child 2nd Degree, RCW 9A.44.076;
 - b. Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes, RCW 9.68A.090(2); and,
 - c. Attempted Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor, RCW 9.68A.100.
8. On November 15, 2022, the Educator was placed on administrative leave by the North Thurston Public Schools.
9. On May 12, 2023, the Educator was notified by Sean Dotson, then Executive Director of Human Resources for the North Thurston Public Schools, that his resignation had been accepted.
10. On July 29, 2025, an Amended Information was filed in Lewis County Superior Court amending the charges against the Educator to:
 - a. Attempted Rape of a Child 2nd Degree, RCW 9A.44.076;

- b. Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes, RCW 9.68A.090(2); and,
- c. Attempted Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor, RCW 9.68A.100.

11. On August 25, 2025, after a jury trial, the Educator was found guilty of Attempted Rape of a Child 2nd Degree, Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes, and Attempted Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor. The Educator was sentenced to: 145.5 months to Life incarceration, Restitution to be determined later, Sex Offender Registration, and other conditions.

12. On August 25, 2025, the Educator filed a Notice of Appeals to the Court of Appeals.

13. On or about February 23, 2026, OPP received a response letter from the Educator. Within the letter, among other comments, the Educator stated he maintains his innocence to the charges.

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 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 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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 181-86-075, 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 being convicted of a felony crime under RCW 28A.410.090(4).

//

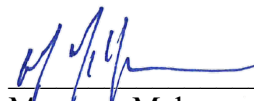
//

III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that Washington Education Certificate No. 488305D and JUSTIN HINCHCLIFFE's ability to hold a Washington Education Certificate is PERMANENTLY REVOKED.

DATED this 19th day of May, 2026.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Monique Malson
Deputy Chief Legal Officer