



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. D23-11-070

WILLIAM HEELAN)
Certificate No. 399469F)

FINAL ORDER OF
SUSPENSION

After receiving and investigating a notification from the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) regarding the above referenced educator, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through his undersigned designee, institutes this proceeding and finds that WILLIAM HEELAN (“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. 399469F for not less than twenty-four (24) months with conditions enumerated below, based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On July 10, 2002, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 399469F. The Educator’s certificate, a substitute teacher credential, has no expiration date.
2. On or about September 20, 2023, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”) received notification through the NASDTEC Clearinghouse that the Educator had surrendered his Nebraska education certificate.
3. During the 2016–17 and 2017–18 school years, the Educator was employed by the Skokomish Tribe working as a tutor at Shelton High School.

4. On February 23, 2017, the Educator used physical force in an attempt to remove a student from the Indian Education Room. After the Educator made contact with the student, the student grabbed the Educator by the throat and pushed him. The Educator removed his glasses and began to move towards that student until a second student intervened with the Educator.
5. On March 3, 2017, the Educator was issued a written warning and placed on 60-day probation by the Skokomish Tribe.
6. On February 17, 2018, while working in a concession area at Shelton High School, the Educator made repeated physical contact with a female student by touching her shoulders, back, and lower back. The Educator also repeatedly told the student what a “good girl” she was.
7. On November 14, 2018, at Shelton High School, the Educator struck a student on the head and directed hard profanity towards the student.
8. On November 14, 2018, the Educator directed hard profanity towards another student.
9. On November 21, 2018, the Shelton School District sent the Skokomish Tribe a letter stating that due to his behaviors towards students on November 14, 2018, the Educator’s services were no longer desired in the Shelton School District.
10. The Educator was hired to serve as a math teacher at Pope John XXIII Central Catholic High School in Elgin, Nebraska during the 2022–23 school year.
11. During the 2022–23 school year, the Educator made multiple inappropriate sexual themed comments to students.
12. On February 10, 2023, the Nebraska Education Commissioner’s Office filed a complaint from Lisa Schmumacher, Pope John XXIII Central Catholic High School Principal & Administrator, alleging professional misconduct by the Educator.
13. On or about July 24, 2023, the Educator voluntarily surrendered his Nebraska education credentials.

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, displaying a pattern of multiple incidents of inappropriate interactions with students.
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. 399469F of WILLIAM HEELAN is **SUSPENDED**. The Educator may not request reinstatement of his education certificate for at least twenty-four (24) months from the effective date of this ORDER.

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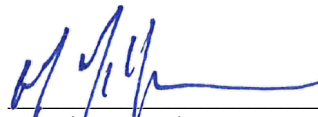
WILLIAM HEELAN
FINAL ORDER OF SUSPENSION

REINSTATEMENT of William Heelan's education certificate shall require:

- (1) In addition to any mandatory continuing education, the Educator must successfully complete a MAINTAINING BOUNDARIES course, preapproved by OSPI. The Educator will provide OSPI proof of completion of the course prior to requesting reinstatement;
- (2) The Educator must successfully complete a CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT course, preapproved by OSPI. The Educator will provide proof of completion of the course prior to requesting reinstatement
- (3) The Educator must submit a new application, including Character and Fitness Supplement, provided by OPP;
- (4) The Educator must complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check through both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Washington State Patrol;
- (5) 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
- (6) The Educator shall assume all costs of complying with the requirements of this Order.

DATED this 23rd day of July, 2026.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Monique Malson
Deputy Chief Legal Officer