



# 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

ALEXANDER LACEY  
Certificate No. 567552E

OPP No. D21-10-029

AGREED ORDER  
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 Agreed Order, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through his undersigned designee, does hereby stipulate, by and between, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Office of Professional Practices and ALEXANDER LACEY (“Educator”) that Alexander Lacey engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct to include WAC 181-87-050 and that the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate No. 567552E shall be SUSPENDED for not less than three (3) months with conditions enumerated below, based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

## I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On March 27, 2020, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 567552E. The Educator’s certificate will expire on June 30, 2028 .
2. During the 2017–2018 and 2018–2019 school years, the Educator was employed by the Vista Unified School District (California) at Rancho Buena Vista High School as a school psychologist.

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3. On October 10, 2021, 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) alleging that the Educator committed an act of unprofessional conduct in the State of California; which lead to a revocation of his California education credentials.

4. In the latter half of the 2017–2018 school year, the Educator was asked to check on and talk with Student A, a 12<sup>th</sup> grade female student, who had recently been hospitalized for a suicide attempt.

5. From that point until Student A graduated high school on June 7, 2018, the Educator had numerous interactions with Student A including, but not limited to:

- a. Offered a pass to leave study hall class in order to study in his office;
- b. Brought her food;
- c. Waited outside her classrooms to talk with her;
- d. Asked her to create a “bucket list” of the qualities she was looking for in a male partner;

6. The Educator initiated a sexual relationship with Student A in the summer months of 2018 after she had graduated. Student A was 18 years of age at the time. The relationship lasted until February 2019.

7. Student A reported her relationship with the Educator to Vista Unified School District on June 22, 2019.

8. The Educator was placed on administrative leave on June 25, 2019 while Vista Unified School District investigated the Educator’s relationship with Student A.

9. On an unknown date, the Educator was interviewed by Vista Unified School District personnel as part of the investigation.

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10. On September 11, 2019, the Educator signed a Resignation Agreement with Vista Unified School District. Within the agreement is a paragraph stating that the School District was required by law to report a change in employment status and the reason why to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). Per the agreement, the Educator resigned his employment effective December 9, 2019.

11. On January 6, 2020, the Vista Unified School District sent CTCC a letter notifying CCTC that the Educator had resigned his employment following a District investigation into allegations of misconduct with a female student prior to and after the student's graduation.

12. On January 6, 2020, Vista Unified School District sent the Educator a letter notifying him that a letter had been sent to CTCC and provide the Educator with a copy of said letter. Educator had moved in December 2019 and states that did not receive the letter.

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13. On February 25, 2020, the Educator completed and submitted an application for employment with the Toppenish School District. Within the employment application, the Educator:

- a. Falsely listed his date of separation from the Vista Unified School District as July 31, 2019;
- b. Falsely listed the reason for leaving employment with Vista Unified School District as “Other job opportunities with flexibility of pursuing studies in computer science/coding”;
- c. Falsely answered NO to the question of “Have you ever had any license or certificate of any kind revoked, suspended or reprimanded, or have you ever been sanctioned by, or is any charge or complaint now pending against you before any licensing, certification or other regulatory agency, or body, public or private?”;
- d. Falsely answered NO to the question of “Have you ever resigned or otherwise separated from employment (inclusive of regular or extracurricular positions) in order to avoid discharge or non-renewal?”;
- e. Falsely answered NO to the question of “Are you now being investigated for any alleged misconduct or other alleged grounds for discipline by any licensing, certification, or other regulatory body or by your current or any previous employer?”.
- f. The Educator states that did not know that he was being investigated at this time because he moved and did not receive a copy of the notice that he was being investigated.

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14. On February 27, 2020, the Educator submitted an application for a Washington State education certificate to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). In the Character & Fitness Supplement, a required part of the OPSI application for certification, the Educator:

- a. Falsely answered NO to the question of “Are you currently or have you ever been the subject of any certificate or licensing investigation or inquiry by any certification or licensing agency for allegations of misconduct?”;
- b. Falsely answered NO to the question of “Have you ever resigned or otherwise left employment (e.g. settlement agreement) while allegations of misconduct were pending?”; and,
- c. Falsely answered NO to the question of “Are you currently or have you ever been the subject of investigation or inquiry by an employer because of an allegation of misconduct?”
- d. Educator states that he did not know that he was being investigated at this time because he moved and did not receive a copy of the notice that he was being investigated.

15. The Educator began employment with the Toppenish School District April 20, 2020.

16. On December 28, 2020, CTCC sent the Educator a letter advising that the CTCC Committee of Credentials found cause to revoke his California education credentials and the Educator could request a hearing to contest the revocation or ask the Committee to reconsider their decision.

17. On April 23, 2021, CTCC sent the Educator a letter advising that his California education credentials were revoked effective May 23, 2021.

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18. On June 6, 2022, the Educator participated in an interview with OPP. During the interview, the Educator, among other comments and responses, stated:

- a. On the Toppenish School District application, he intentionally answered NO to the question of resigning in lieu of discipline and not listing the resignation agreement as his reason for leaving Vista Unified School District because he did not know at the time that he was being investigated and thought he was being truthful;;
- b. Stated that he did not receive the January 6, 2020, letter from the Vista Unified School District that they were conducting an investigation into his behaviors with Student A;
- c. Stated that he never received notification, prior to submission of the Toppenish School District and OSPI applications, that Vista Unified School District was sending notice to CTCC; and,
- d. Stated that he never received notification, prior to submission of the Toppenish School District and OSPI applications, that CTCC was initiating and conducting an investigation into his actions with Student A.

19. The Educator admits that he intentionally falsified information related to his previous employment with Vista Unified School District and an open investigation with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing on his OSPI certification application and his Toppenish School District employment application.

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## **II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Chapter 28A.410 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 Washington Administrative Code (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 RCW 28A.410.090(6) and WAC 181-87-055.

4. There is a 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.

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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 RCW 28A.41.090(6), WAC 181-86-070, WAC 181-87-050, the Educator's education certificate should be suspended for unprofessional conduct.

### III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered and agreed that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 567552E of ALEXANDER LACEY is **SUSPENDED**. The Educator may not request reinstatement of his education certificate for at least three (3) months from the effective date of this ORDER.

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**REINSTATEMENT** of Alexander Lacey'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 Investigations 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.

**WAIVER OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

*The Educator is aware that RCW 28A.410.090(3) and WAC 181-86-140 afford him/her the right to appeal a denial or discipline order issued by OSPI. Acknowledging this, the Educator knowingly and voluntarily waives his/her right to appeal by entering into this Agreed Order of Suspension.*

DATED this 23rd day of June, 2023

CHRIS REYKDAL  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington

Signed: Matthew A. Schultz  
Chief Legal and Civil Rights Officer

Stipulated to and approved  
For entry:

Signed: Alexander Lacey, Respondent

Signed: Kevan Montoya, Attorney for Respondent  
WSBA # 19212

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