



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. D20-01-008

WILLIAM MARSH)
Certificate No. 429641D)

FINAL ORDER
OF MANDATORY
PERMANENT REVOCATION

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Evergreen Public Schools (“School District”) 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 WILLIAM MARSH (“Educator”) has been convicted of a crime listed in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.410.322 and per RCW 28A.410.090(4) does hereby PERMANENTLY REVOKE the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate No. 429641D, based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On September 1, 2005, the Educator, was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 429641D. The Educator’s certificate will expire on June 30, 2031.

2. During the 2013–2014 school year, the Educator was employed by the School District at Covington Middle School as a teacher.

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3. On January 17, 2020, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”) received a complaint from Mike Merlino, the Superintendent of the School District, alleging that the Educator may have demonstrated a lack of good moral character and personal fitness pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-86-013(1) and was under investigation by law enforcement for a sex offense.
4. From June 2013 through June 2015, the Educator had sexual contact with his minor aged stepdaughter.
5. During his employment with the School District, the Educator received disciplinary action for conduct with students, including, but not limited to:
 - a. On February 5, 2019, the Educator received a Letter of Directive from Tilly Meyer, Covington Middle School Principal, for actions and comments to female students.
 - b. On August 26, 2019, the Educator was issued a Letter of Reprimand by Tracy Thompson, School District Human Resources Director, for grabbing a child by the backpack and placing the child against a wall.
6. On December 28, 2019, the Clark County Sheriff’s Office initiated an investigation into allegations that the Educator had sexually abused his minor aged stepdaughter from 2013 through 2015.
7. On January 14, 2020, the Educator, while on preapproved medical leave, was instructed to remain off School District property and not attend any District activities.
8. On February 7, 2020, the Educator was placed on administrative leave.
9. On June 19, 2020, the Educator signed an Agreement with the School District. In the Agreement, the Educator remained on administrative leave until the effective date of his resignation of December 31, 2020.

10. On October 14, 2020, an Information was filed in Clark County Superior Court charging the Educator with three counts of Child Molestation 1st Degree, RCW 9A.44.083, and 3 counts of Incest 2nd Degree, RCW 9A.64.020.

11. On September 29, 2021, an Amended Information was filed in Clark County Superior Court charging the Educator with two counts of Child Molestation 1st Degree. The additional count of Child Molestation 1st Degree and all counts of Incest 2nd Degree were removed. On the same day, a Statement of Defendant on Plea of Guilty was filed.

12. On November 22, 2021, a Judgment and Sentence was filed in Clark County Superior Court, finding the Educator guilty of two counts of Child Molestation 1st Degree. The Educator was sentenced, under a Sex Offender Sentencing Alternative, to:

- a. Indeterminate sentencing, under RCW 9.94A.507;
- b. A minimum confinement of 89 months and maximum confinement of life with the sentence suspended;
- c. As a condition of the suspended sentence, 12 months confinement was imposed;
- d. Community Custody conditions supervised by the Department of Corrections (DOC);
and,
- e. Lifetime No Contact Order with the victim of the offenses including coming within 1000 feet of the victim's home/residence, workplace, school, or her person.

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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. 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 RCW 28A.410.090(4) and WAC 181-86-013(1), (2), a plea of guilty or a conviction of Child Molestation 1st Degree "*bars the certificate holder from any future practice as an education practitioner*" and mandates that OSPI permanently revoke the Educator's certificate.

5. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-170, WAC 181-86-013(2), 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.

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WILLIAM MARSH

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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 committing a felony crime under RCW 28A.410.090(4) which bars the Educator from any future practice as an educator.

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III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate No. 429641D of WILLIAM MARSH is **PERMANENTLY REVOKED**.

DATED this 8th day of March, 2022.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

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