



Before the Education Practices Commission of the State of Florida



PAM STEWART as the
Commissioner of Education,

Petitioner,

vs.

MATTHEW J RICHARDSON,

Respondent.

EPC CASE N^o: 18-0192-TC

Index N^o: 19-121-FOI

PPS N^o: 167-3019

Certificate No.: 1261262

Final Order

This matter appeared before the Education Practices Commission (“Commission”) at a duly-noticed public meeting on March 1, 2019 in Altamonte Springs, Florida, for a hearing not involving disputed issues of material fact pursuant to Respondent’s Election of Rights requesting a hearing pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57(2), Florida Statutes. Petitioner has filed an Amended Administrative Complaint seeking disciplinary action against the Respondent. A copy of the Amended Administrative Complaint is attached to and made a part of this Final Order. Respondent was present.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Therefore, the Commission adopts as its finding of facts the facts alleged in the

Amended Administrative Complaint.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes the Respondent has violated Section 1012.795(1)(j), Florida Statutes.

The Commission is empowered by Sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes, to impose a penalty against the Respondent.

Therefore, it is ORDERED that:


1. Respondent is hereby issued a letter of reprimand.
2. Respondent is assessed an administrative fine of \$750.00 to be paid within two (2) years of the probationary period.
3. Upon employment in any public or private position requiring a Florida educator's certificate, Respondent shall be placed on 2 employment years of probation with the conditions that during that period, he shall:
 - A. Immediately notify the investigative office in the Department of Education upon employment or termination of employment in the state in any public or private position requiring a Florida educator's certificate.
 - B. Have Respondent's immediate supervisor submit annual performance reports to the investigative office in the Department of Education.
 - C. Pay to the Commission during the first 6 months of each probation year the administrative costs (\$150) of monitoring probation assessed to the educator.
 - D. Violate no law and shall fully comply with all district school board policies, school rules, and State Board of Education rules.
 - E. Satisfactorily perform all assigned duties in a competent, professional manner.

F. Bear all costs of complying with the terms of a final order entered by the Commission.

G. Provide a certified college transcript to verify successful (a grade of "pass" or a letter grade no lower than a "B") completion of 3 hours of college level course-work in the area of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Accommodations, which may be taken online, within two years of probation.

This order shall become effective upon filing with the Clerk of the Commission.

DONE AND ORDERED, this 15th day of March, 2019.



CRISTINA BASSO, Presiding Officer

COPIES FURNISHED TO:

Office of Professional Practices
Services

Bureau of Educator Certification

Superintendent
Osceola County Schools
817 Bill Beck Blvd.
Kissimmee, FL 34744-4495

Director of Personnel
Osceola County Schools
817 Bill Beck Blvd.
Kissimmee, FL 34744-4495

Lawrence Harris
Senior Assistant Attorney General

Claudia Llado, Clerk
Division of Administrative Hearings

Probation

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

A PARTY WHO IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS FINAL ORDER IS ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW PURSUANT TO SECTION 120.68, FLORIDA STATUTES. REVIEW PROCEEDINGS ARE GOVERNED BY THE FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE. SUCH PROCEEDINGS ARE COMMENCED BY FILING ONE COPY OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL WITH THE EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION AND A SECOND COPY, ACCOMPANIED BY FILING FEES PRESCRIBED BY LAW, WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST DISTRICT, OR WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL IN THE APPELLATE DISTRICT WHERE THE PARTY RESIDES. THE NOTICE OF APPEAL MUST BE FILED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF RENDITION OF THIS ORDER.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing Order was mailed to: Matthew J Richardson, [REDACTED], Orlando, FL 32809 by Certified U.S. Mail and by electronic mail to Bonnie Wilmot, Deputy General Counsel, Suite 1232, Turlington Building, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399 and Ron weaver, Esq., Post Office Box 770088, Ocala, FL 34477-0088 this 15th day of March, 2019.



Lisa Forbess, Clerk
Education Practices Commission

**STATE OF FLORIDA
EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION**

**PAM STEWART, as
Commissioner of Education,**

Petitioner,

vs.

CASE NO. 167-3019

MATTHEW RICHARDSON,

Respondent.

_____ /

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

Petitioner, Pam Stewart, as Commissioner of Education, files this Amended Administrative Complaint against MATTHEW RICHARDSON. The Petitioner seeks the appropriate disciplinary sanction of the Respondent's educator's certificate pursuant to sections 1012.315, 1012.795, and 1012.796, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to Rule 6A-10.081, Florida Administrative Code, Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida, said sanctions specifically set forth in sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes.

The Petitioner alleges:

JURISDICTION

1. The Respondent holds Florida Educator's Certificate 1261262, covering the area of Exceptional Student Education (ESE), which was valid through June 30, 2017.
2. At all times pertinent hereto, the Respondent was employed as an ESE Teacher at Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana in the Osceola County School District.

MATERIAL ALLEGATIONS

3. The Florida Standards Assessments Spring 2017 Paper-Based Test Administration Manual states, among other things, as follows: Test Security Policies and Procedures - Florida State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.042, FAC, was developed to meet the requirements of the Test Security Statute, s. 1008.24, F.S., and applies to anyone involved in the administration of a statewide assessment. The Rule prohibits activities that may threaten the integrity of the test. . . . Please remember that inappropriate actions by school or district personnel can result in student or classroom invalidations, loss of teaching certification, and/or involvement of law enforcement. Examples of prohibited activities include the following:

- (a) Reading or viewing the passages or test items before, during, or after testing; and
- (b) Explaining or reading passages or test items for students

4. On or about February 15, 2017, Respondent signed a Test Administrator Prohibited Activities Agreement and a Test Administration and Security Agreement thereby agreeing to refrain from specific conduct and abide by security measures when administering statewide assessments including but not limited to the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). In signing these agreements, Respondent pledged, among other things, not to engage in the following activities when administering statewide assessments:

- (a) Reading or viewing the passages or test items; and
- (b) Explaining or reading test passages or items for students

5. On or about February 28, 2017, Respondent administered the writing portion of the FSA to a group of sixth and seventh grade ESE and 504 students. During the test administration, Respondent violated the prohibitions in the FSA test administration manual and the aforementioned agreements by reading student responses on the test and reading the writing prompt to students.

The Petitioner charges:

STATUTE VIOLATIONS

COUNT 1: The Respondent is in violation of section 1012.795(1)(j), Florida Statutes, in that Respondent has violated the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession prescribed by State Board of Education rules.

RULE VIOLATIONS


COUNT 2: The allegations of misconduct set forth herein are in violation of Rule 6A-10.081(2)(a)1, Florida Administrative Code, in that Respondent has failed to make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental health and/or physical health and/or safety.

(SIGNATURE ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

WHEREFORE, based on the reasons set forth herein and in accordance with the Explanation of Rights and Election of Rights forms attached to and made a part of this Amended Administrative Complaint, Petitioner respectfully recommends that the Education Practices Commission impose an appropriate sanction against the Respondent's educator's certificate pursuant to the authority provided in sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes. The sanctions imposed by the Education Practices Commission may include, but are not limited to, any one or a combination of the following: issuing the Respondent a written reprimand; placing the Respondent on probation for any period of time; restricting the Respondent's authorized scope of practice; assessing the Respondent an administrative fine; directing the Respondent to enroll in the Recovery Network Program; suspending the Respondent's educator's certificate for a period of time not to exceed five years; revoking the Respondent's educator's certificate for a period of time up to 10 years or permanently; determining the Respondent to be ineligible for certification; or barring the Respondent from reapplying for an educator's certificate for a period of time up to 10 years or permanently.

EXECUTED on this 14th day of November, 2018.

PAM STEWART, as
Commissioner of Education
State of Florida


BONNIE WILMOT
Deputy General Counsel
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325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400
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EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION
STATE OF FLORIDA

GRETCHEN KELLEY BRANTLEY

Executive Director

LAWRENCE HARRIS

Legal Counsel

LISA FORBESS

Clerk of Court

CHRISTIE GOLD

Chairperson

NICHOLAS PIETKIEWICZ

Co-Chairperson

March 15, 2019

Matthew Richardson



Orlando, Florida 32809

Re: Pam Stewart vs. Matthew Richardson

EPC No.: 18-0192-TC; DOE No.: 1261262

Dear Mr. Richardson:

As you know, the teacher panel of the Education Practices Commission reviewed the matter pending against you. The panel concluded that you violated the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession prescribed by the State Board of Education rules and hereby reprimands you for the conduct alleged in the Administrative Complaint which is incorporated herein.

This panel, which includes fellow educators, believes that, as a teacher, you are required to exercise a measure of leadership beyond reproach. By your actions, you have lessened the reputation of all who practice our profession and have diminished your position as an educational leader. The profession cannot condone your actions, nor can the public who employ us.

The Education Practices Commission sincerely hopes it is your intention never to violate any professional obligation in fulfilling your responsibilities as an educator. To violate the standards of the profession will surely result in further action.

This letter of reprimand is being placed in your state certification file, and a copy is being sent to the Osceola County School Board for placement in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cristina Basso".

Cristina Basso
Presiding Officer