



Before the Education Practices Commission of the State of Florida

RICHARD CORCORAN as the
Commissioner of Education,

Petitioner,

vs.

ENRIQUE DE LA PAZ,

Respondent.



EPC CASE No.: 21-0174-TC
Index No.: 21-303-FOI
PPS No.: 189-1481
Certificate No.: 989620

Final Order

This matter appeared before the Education Practices Commission ("Commission") at a duly-noticed public meeting, on September 22, 2021 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 Administrative Complaint seeking disciplinary action against the Respondent. A copy of the Administrative Complaint is attached to and made a part of this Final Order. Respondent was neither present nor represented by counsel.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Commission adopts as its finding of facts the facts alleged in the 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, and rules 6A-10.081(2)(a)1 and 6A-10.081(2)(a)5, Florida Administrative Code.

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 Educator's Certificate is suspended for 1 year effective upon the filing date of this Final Order.

2. Respondent is issued a letter of reprimand.

3. Respondent is assessed an administrative fine of \$750.00 to be paid during the probationary period.

4. Upon employment in any public or private position requiring a Florida educator's certificate, Respondent shall be placed on two (2) employment years of probation with the conditions that during that period, the Respondent 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. Complete the following:

1. 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 Classroom Management, which may be taken online, within the first year of probation.

5. As part of the Recovery Network Program (RNP), Respondent shall:

Submit to an Evaluation relating to the issues cited in the Administrative Complaint/Notice of Reasons as determined by the RNP and conducted by an RNP approved licensed provider and undergo any counseling or treatment as may be prescribed by said professional. If, to fulfill this requirement, educator must now engage in such counseling, have the professional submit quarterly reports to the RNP. Educator shall provide the RNP written verification form the treatment provider(s) of successful completion of the evaluation within sixty (60) days of issuance of the Final Order OR within sixty (60) days of the initial date of employment in a position requiring a Florida educator’s certificate, whichever occurs later.

If Respondent has undergone evaluation(s) and treatment and/or

counseling after the incident(s) alleged in the Administrative Complaint/Notice of Reasons, the evaluation(s) and treatment and/or counseling may be used in lieu of the evaluation(s) and treatment and/or counseling if acceptable to the RNP.

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

DONE AND ORDERED, this 14th day of October, 2021.



AADIL AMEERALLY, Presiding Officer

COPIES FURNISHED TO:

Office of Professional Practices
Services

Bureau of Educator Certification

Superintendent
Brevard County Schools
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940-6699

Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources
Brevard County Schools
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940-6699

Deborah Loucks
Senior Assistant Attorney General

Loretta Sloan, Clerk
Division of Administrative Hearings

Recovery Network Program

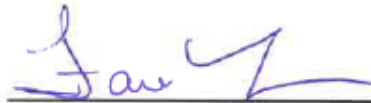
Probation

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: Enrique De La Paz, [REDACTED], Longwood, Florida 32799 by Certified U.S. Mail and by electronic mail to **Bonnie Wilmot, Esq.**, bonnie.wilmot@fldoe.org; this 14th day of October, 2021.



Faith Lenzo, Clerk
Education Practices Commission

**STATE OF FLORIDA
EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION**

**RICHARD CORCORAN, as
Commissioner of Education,**

Petitioner,

vs.

CASE NO. 189-1481

ENRIQUE DE LA PAZ,

Respondent.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

Petitioner, Richard Corcoran, as Commissioner of Education, files this Administrative Complaint against ENRIQUE DE LA PAZ. 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 989620, covering the areas of Math and Social Science, which was valid through December 31, 2020.
2. At all times pertinent hereto, the Respondent was employed as a Mathematics Teacher at Stone Magnet Middle School in the Brevard County School District.

MATERIAL ALLEGATIONS

3. During the 2018-2019 school year, Respondent failed to protect the health, safety and welfare of [REDACTED], an [REDACTED] grade female student, and/or students in his classroom, when he made disparaging comments about [REDACTED], in the presence of students, which include but are not limited to:
 - a. "I can't wait for you to leave";
 - b. "You're nothing but a distraction";
 - c. "You're taking down this class";

- d. "The majority of this class would be much better off if you were not in here";
- e. "Shut up. Shut up";
- f. "I don't want you in this class";
- g. "If you want to flunk math, drop out of high school and be a bum, I don't care about you. The rest of y'all I'm gonna help you";
- h. "This class has a bunch of snitches";
- i. Discussing being investigated and/or students being questioned; and
- j. "If you're not talking about that, then shut your mouth".

Or words to that effect.

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.

COUNT 3: The allegations of misconduct set forth herein are in violation of Rule 6A-10.081(2)(a)5, Florida Administrative Code, in that Respondent has intentionally exposed a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.

(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 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 12th day of April, 2021.



RICHARD CORCORAN, as
Commissioner of Education
State of Florida



EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION
STATE OF FLORIDA

LISA FORBESS
Executive Director
FAITH LENZO
Clerk of Court

AADIL AMEERALLY
Chairperson
KATHY WILKS
Co-Chairperson

October 14, 2021

Enrique De La Paz

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Longwood, Florida 32799

Re: Richard Corcoran vs. Enrique De La Paz
EPC No.: 21-0174-TC; DOE No.: 989620

Dear Mr. De La Paz:


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

The Commission, composed of teachers, administrators, parents, law enforcement officials, former school board members and former superintendents, believes that educators must exercise a measure of leadership beyond reproach. By your actions, you have lessened the reputation of all who practice the profession. The Commission cannot condone your actions, nor can the public who employ us.

The 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 Brevard County School Board for placement in your personnel file.

Sincerely,


Aadil Ameerally
Presiding Officer