

**THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
CAREN D. COPELAND  
MARCH 8, 2018**

**PLSB CASE NOS. 17-237 &  
18-008**

**FINDING OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER**

At its regular meeting on March 8, 2018, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) accepted the recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee (Ethics Subcommittee) for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Caren D. Copeland (Educator Copeland). Based upon Educator Copeland's acceptance of the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

**I. Findings of Fact**

- a. The Arkansas Department of Education issued Educator Copeland a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2016, valid until December 31, 2020.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Copeland violated the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators (Code of Ethics) promulgated pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-422 and 6-17-428.
- c. On June 5, 2017 (Case No. 17-237), and on July 10, 2017 (Case No. 18-008) the Ethics Subcommittee authorized investigations into the allegation that Educator Copeland violated Standard 2: An educator maintains competence regarding his or

- her professional practice, inclusive of skills, knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities relating to his or her organizational position; Standard 6: An educator keeps in confidence secure standardized test materials and results and maintains integrity regarding test administration procedures; and Standard 7: An educator maintains the confidentiality of information about students and colleagues obtained in the course of the educator's professional services that is protected under state law or regulations, federal law or regulations, or the written policies of the educator's school district, unless disclosure serves a professional purpose as allowed or required by law or regulations.
- d. On July 14, 2017, Educator Copeland was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate the allegation.
- e. On January 5, 2018, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that Educator Copeland violated Standards 2, 6 and 7 when she:
- Left her class unattended while administering the MSAA test;
  - Did not secure test administrator directions; and
  - Left special education student files in an unsecured location.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board take the following actions:
- Issue a written warning;
  - Require Educator Copeland to complete training through ADE Office of Student Assessment (to be completed within 90 days of the State Board's final order); and
  - Educator Copeland will pay all associated costs.
- g. On January 8, 2018, Educator Copeland was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.
- h. Educator Copeland did not request an evidentiary hearing within the allotted timeframe, thereby waiving her right to any further notice, hearing, and any other

rights she might have under the Administrative Procedure Act including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.

## II. Conclusions of Law

- a. Upon consideration of the evidence presented at the meeting, Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-17-401, 6-17-422, 6-17-428 and 25-15-201 et seq., and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators, the Board adopts the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendations, and enacts the sanctions accordingly. The Board admonishes Educator Copeland for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Copeland is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics may result in more severe discipline, including permanent revocation of her license.
- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Copeland's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



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Dr. Jay Barth, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education