

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
JENNIFER WILSON
JULY 8, 2021**

PLSB CASE NO. 21-056

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on July 8, 2021, 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 Jennifer Wilson (Educator Wilson). Based upon Educator Wilson's acceptance of the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure 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 Wilson a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2019, valid until December 31, 2023.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Wilson violated the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators promulgated pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § § 6-17-422 and 6-17-428.
- c. On January 8, 2021, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Wilson violated *Standard 2: an educator maintains competence regarding his or her professional practice, inclusive of professional and ethical behavior, skills, knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities relating to his or her organizational position; 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. Educator Wilson was notified on January 8, 2021, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on April 2, 2021, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standards 2 and 7 in that Educator Wilson:
 - Exhibited an inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior
 - Failed to follow district/state/federal laws or policies
 - Released student information without an educational purpose.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
 1. Probations of license for 6 months;
 2. Assess a \$150 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order);
 3. Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:
 - a) ERC19048: Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB): The Code of Ethics Training Video (2018) Credit Hours 1;
 - b) ERC20010 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Credit Hours: .5;
 4. Require Educator to prepare written reflection for each training to explain how the training will impact her interactions in the classroom as well as

follow the code of ethics: (due within 90 days of the State Board Order);

and

5. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- g. On April 2, 2021, Educator Wilson, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by secure server and regular mail. Educator Wilson accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation thereby waiving her right to any further notice, hearing, or any other rights she may have under the Administrative Procedure Act, including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.
- h. At today's meeting, the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and supporting documentation were presented to the Board as part of its consent agenda.

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 Wilson for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Wilson is cautioned that her non-payment of the assessed fine of \$150 may result in the suspension of her license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. Educator Wilson is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics or failure to pay the fine within ninety (90) days from the date of this order may result in more severe discipline including permanent revocation of her license.

- d. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Wilson's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Ouida Newton, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education