

BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of the	)	DEFAULT ORDER
Educator License of	)	OF REVOCATION
ERIK D. EKSTROM	)	

On August 22, 2025, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Erik D. Ekstrom (Ekstrom) in which the Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty and Gross Unfitness. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 9589 0710 5270 2307 8995 06 to the address found in Offender Search feature on the Oregon Department of Corrections website. The Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes of proving a prima facie case. The return receipt for the Notice sent Certified Mail was returned to the Commission signed on August 28, 2025. The regular First-Class mail was not returned to the Commission and assumed delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated August 22, 2025, and signed by Rachel Alpert, Executive Director, stated:

“IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 21-DAY PERIOD, YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING SHALL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED UNLESS YOUR FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR REASONABLE CONTROL. IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING, WITHDRAW YOUR REQUEST FOR HEARING, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT A HEARING, OR NOTIFY THE COMMISSION THAT YOU WILL NOT APPEAR AT HEARING, THE COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER DISCIPLINE.”

Ekstrom did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Ekstrom to be in default and enters the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and final order, based on the files and records of the Commission concerning this matter.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Commission has licensed Erik D. Ekstrom since June 7, 2021. Ekstrom held a Preliminary Teaching License, with an endorsement in Music (PK-12), valid from June 7, 2021, through August 17, 2024. Ekstrom was employed by the Bend-LaPine School District for parts of the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years.
2. On September 16, 2022, the Commission identified a media story involving Ekstrom’s arrest which included allegations that could constitute gross neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, the allegations were that Ekstrom was in possession of explicit images of children and then arrested by local law enforcement for encouraging child sexual abuse.

3. Investigation found that law enforcement identified an internet protocol address to an internet device associated with Ekstrom. The device was used to upload child sex abuse material. Further law enforcement investigation determined that from December 2021 through June 2022, Ekstrom solicited and exchanged sexually explicit and pornographic images of himself and multiple juveniles via social media. On September 15, 2022, Ekstrom was arrested for two (2) felony counts of Encouraging Child Sexual Abuse in the First Degree.
4. Investigation found that on September 16, 2022, the District Attorney's office for Deschutes County filed multiple charges of child sexual abuse and related crimes against Ekstrom. On April 4, 2025, Ekstrom accepted a plea agreement and plead guilty to two (2) felony counts of Encouraging Child Sex Abuse in the First Degree, two (2) felony counts of Encouraging Child Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree, one (1) felony count of Using a Child in a Display of Sexually Explicit Conduct, and one (1) felony count a Luring a Minor. On May 14, 2025, Ekstrom was sentenced to 240-months incarceration, required to register as a sex offender, and given post-prison supervision.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Erik D. Ekstrom's criminal conviction as described in section four (4) above, constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(3), and OAR 584-020-0040(1) (*The Commission will deny, revoke or deny the right to apply for a license or charter school registration to any applicant or educator who, has been convicted of any of the crimes listed in ORS 342.143, or the substantial equivalent of any of those crimes if convicted in another jurisdiction*), including ORS 163.687 Encouraging Child Sexual Abuse in the First Degree).

This conduct also constitutes gross unfitness in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(c); OAR 584-020-0040(5)(c) (*Conviction of violating any federal, state, or local law. A conviction includes any final judgment of conviction by a court whether as the result of guilty plea, no contest plea or any other means*); OAR 584-020-0040(5)(d) (*Commission of an act listed in OAR 584-020-0040(1)*); and OAR 584-020-0040(5)(e) (*Admission of or engaging in acts constituting criminal conduct, even in the absence of a conviction*).

Pursuant to ORS 342.175(3) and OAR 584-020-0040(1) the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission must revoke Ekstrom's license and/or his right to apply for a license based on his conviction of any of the crimes listed in ORS 342.143(3)(a), or the substantial equivalent of any of those crimes, or convicted of attempt to commit such crimes as defined in ORS 161.405.

Ekstrom's conduct underlying his conviction, conduct described in section three (3) above

constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f) (*Any sexual conduct with a student*) as defined by OAR 584-020-0005(8) and ORS 339.370(12)(a); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*).

Additionally, Ekstrom's criminal conviction and conduct related to his conviction constitute "gross unfitness" in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(c); OAR 584-020-0040(3)(c) and (d) as defined by OAR 584-020-0040 (5) (*Gross unfitness is any conduct which renders an educator unqualified to perform his or her professional responsibilities*).

The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.

### FINAL ORDER

The Commission hereby revokes Erik D. Ekstrom's Oregon educator license and his right to apply for an Oregon educator license.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 29 day of September, 2025.

### TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION



By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel Alpert, Executive Director

### NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW MAY BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.