

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

In the Matter of the) DEFAULT ORDER OF
Educator License of) REVOCATION AND REVOKE
GADSDEN, LEAH R.) RIGHT TO APPLY

On September 22, 2025, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Leah R. Gadsden (Gadsden) in which the Commission charged her with Gross Neglect of Duty. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 9589 0710 5270 2307 8995 68 to Gadsden's last known address on file with the Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes of proving a *prima facie* case. The Notice was returned as "unclaimed, unable to forward on October 14, 2025. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated August 1, 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, OR 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.”

As of the writing of this Default Order, the Commission has not heard from Gadsden or her attorney since August 12, 2025. The Commission, therefore, finds Gadsden 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.

FINDING OF FACT

1. The Commission has licensed Gadsden since August 21, 2015. Gadsden most recently held a Preliminary Teaching License with an endorsement for Art (PK-12). The license was issued on May 19, 2022 and expired on June 6, 2025. During all relevant times, Gadsden was employed by the Hermiston (HSD) and Morrow School Districts (MSD).

2. On April 4, 2023, the Commission received a School District Misconduct Report from the HSD. On May 15, 2023, the Commission received a School District Misconduct report from the MSD. The two reports alleged that Gadsden, a licensed educator, engaged in professional misconduct. The reports alleged that Gadsden engaged in sexual conduct with students from both the HSD and the MSD.
3. Investigation by TSPC, HSD, MSD and the Hermiston Police Department (HPD) determined the following:
 - On or about March 27, 2023, Gadsden's ex-boyfriend posts links to a YouTube video on the Hermiston High School (HHS) Facebook page.
 - In the video, Gadsden's ex-boyfriend alleges that she engaged in electronic communication with students that was sexual/romantic in nature.
 - On or about March 27, 2023, HSD becomes aware of the video and places Gadsden on administrative leave while the matter investigated.
 - Investigation concluded that Gadsden engaged in sexually suggestive and/or flirtatious texting with a student (student X) during the 2018-2019 school year while student X was a senior at HHS.
 - Gadsden resigned from the HSD on June 5, 2023.
4. During the above-mentioned investigation into this matter the following was also substantiated:
 - Gadsden began dating the aforementioned ex-boyfriend in 2019.
 - Around Christmas of 2021, one of Gadsden's minor-aged daughters (daughter A) disclosed to Gadsden that she was sexually abused by Gadsden's brother in 2010 or 2011.
 - In March of 2022, another of Gadsden's minor-aged daughters (daughter B) disclosed to her that Gadsden's ex-boyfriend had come into the room where she was sleeping and offered her drugs.
 - In approximately November of 2022, daughter A discloses to Gadsden that her ex-boyfriend had touched her sexually.

- Gadsden did not report any of the three disclosures listed above to law enforcement despite being a mandatory reporter.
- On March 3, 2023, daughter A disclosed that Gadsden's ex-boyfriend sexually abused her to Gadsden's ex-husband. He contacted law enforcement to report the matter.
- Daughter A and Daughter B were forensically interviewed by law enforcement, and state that they had previously disclosed the abuse to Gadsden on the dates listed above.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The conduct described above in section three (3) 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), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(b) (Refrain from exploiting professional relationships with any student for personal gain, or in support of persons or issues), OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) (Not demonstrating or expressing professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life), and OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times).

The conduct described in section four (4) above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations), and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(s) (Failing to report child abuse pursuant to ORS 419B.010).

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

FINAL ORDER

The Commission hereby revokes Gadsden's Oregon teaching license and revokes her right to apply for a license.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 20 day of January, 2026.

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