

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

In the Matter of the)	DEFAULT ORDER OF
Educator License of)	SUSPENSION
MARCUS W. LOWRY)	

On February 23, 2026, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Marcus W. Lowry (Lowry) in which the Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty and/or Gross Unfitness. The Notice was sent via U.S. First-Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 9589 0710 5270 2978 6280 47 to the address on file with the Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes of proving a prima facie case. The Certified Mail return receipt was signed and dated by Lowry on February 27, 2026. The First-Class mail was not returned to the Commission and assumed delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated February 23, 2026, 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.”

Lowry did not request a hearing. Therefore, the Commission finds Lowry 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 Lowry since July 14, 2021. Lowry holds a Preliminary Teaching License, with an endorsement in Integrated Science (PK-12), valid from October 27, 2022, through June 25, 2026. During all relevant times, Lowry was employed by the South Umpqua School District (SUSD).
2. On May 9, 2023, the Commission received a school misconduct report from SUSD indicating Lowry may have committed acts which constitute gross neglect of duty

and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, the report alleged that on one occasion Lowry failed to follow the curriculum and then failed to supervise his class while at a stream adjacent to the school. On another occasion, Lowry failed to follow the curriculum by releasing his class onto school grounds and then failed to supervise them.

3. Investigation found that on April 28, 2023, Lowry took his Canyonville Middle School science class to the stream adjacent to the school. Lowry had not provided notice to parents or obtained their permission, Lowry had not checked the area for potential hazards, and Lowry only notified the school that day and said the class would be looking for specimens relevant to life science. While at the stream, Lowry sat on the bank while some of the students waded into the stream, some splashed water on each other, and some attempted to swim in the stream. No specimens were obtained from the outing. Later in the day, a student requested to go home because their clothes were wet from the stream and another student suffered minor injuries to their feet from walking barefooted at the stream and when walking back to the classroom.
4. Investigation found that on April 28, 2023, Lowry allowed his Canyonville Middle School science class to participate in physical education activities with an elementary school class. There was no science curriculum related to this activity. While Lowry's class was on the playground, Lowry was observed sitting in a lawn chair and not supervising the students.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Marcus W. Lowry's conduct as described in section three (3) and 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 584-020-0015(2)(e) (*Skill in the selection and use of teaching techniques conducive to student learning*), OAR 584-020-0020(2)(d) (*Skill in the supervision of students*), and OAR 584-020-0025(2)(a) (*Establishing and maintaining classroom management that is conducive to learning*).


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

FINAL ORDER

The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes upon Marcus W. Lowry's Oregon educator license, a Suspension of sixty (60) days.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 20 day of March, 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.