

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

In the Matter of the Educator	)	DEFAULT ORDER OF
License of	)	SUSPENSION OF RIGHT TO
MATTHEW E. JOHNSON	)	APPLY AND PROBATION

On July 30, 2026, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Matthew E. Johnson (Johnson) in which the Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty. The Notice was sent via U.S. First-Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 9589 0710 5270 3980 5872 16 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 signed Certified Mail receipt was returned to the Commission on August 6, 2026. The First-Class Mail was not returned and assumed delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated July 30, 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, 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.”

Johnson did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Johnson 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 Matthew E. Johnson since June 25, 2008. Johnson held a Professional Teaching License with endorsements in Legacy Middle Level (PK-12) and Advances Mathematics (PK-12), valid from April 30, 2020, through April 29, 2025. During all relevant times, Johnson was employed by the Bend-La Pine School District (BLSD).
2. On June 29, 2023, the Commission received a School District Misconduct Report from the BLSD alleging that while Johnson was teaching at Summit High School, BLSD, he

developed an overly personal relationship with a female student that included social media exchanges, frequently spending time together in his classroom, and on several occasions spending time with the student off campus.

3. Investigation found that during the 2022-23 school year, Johnson had a sixteen (16) year-old female sophomore student enrolled in his math class at Summit High School. As the school year progressed, Johnson developed a teacher/student relationship with the female student.
4. Investigation found that from approximately November 2022 to April 2023, Johnson's relationship with the female student became more personal. Johnson and the student shared personal photos and messages, which included non-school related topics, via Instagram and Snapchat.
5. Investigation found that from approximately November 2022 to April 2023, Johnson spent time alone with the female student in his classroom having conversations which included non-school related topics. On unspecified dates during the 2022-23 school year, Johnson met with the student off campus and went on walks. On one occasion the walk was at a local dog park and on another occasion at Dillon Falls, approximately ten (10) miles from Summit High School.
6. Investigation found that on August 25, 2023, Johnson entered into a separation agreement with the BLSD.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Matthew E. Johnson's conduct as 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*), and 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*).

Johnson's conduct as described in section five (5) 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*), and 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*).

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 a Suspension of ninety (90) days upon Matthew E. Johnson's right to apply for an Oregon educator license.

Furthermore, the Commission imposes a three (3) year period of Probation upon Johnson's license to commence upon reinstatement of Johnson's license and subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to reinstatement, Johnson shall successfully complete a Commission-approved training on teacher/student boundaries and shall provide evidence of this to the Commission.
2. Hunter shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division 020.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 1 day of September, 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.