

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
RUSSELL W. SANDERS)	RIGHT TO APPLY

On March 7, 2025, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Russell W. Sanders (Sanders) 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 0408 4722 53 to Sander’s 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 confirmed delivered by a signed USPS certified mail receipt on March 17, 2025. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated March 7, 2025, and signed by Melissa Goff, Interim 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 yet to hear from Sanders or his attorney. The Commission, therefore, finds Sanders 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 Sanders since October 28, 1985. Sanders most recently held a Professional Teaching License with endorsements in Special Education Generalist (PK-12), Reading Intervention (PK-12), Integrated Science (PK-12) and Foundational Mathematics (PK-12). The license was issued on July 23, 2018, and

expired on October 25, 2023. During all relevant times, Sanders was a retired teacher with the Nestucca Valley School District (NVSD).

2. On August 14, 2023, the Commission received a School District Misconduct Report from NVSD alleging professional misconduct on the part of Sanders a retired educator with the NVSD. (Retired from the NVSD in 2021.) The report alleged that Sanders had been arrested in Tillamook County on or about August 10, 2023, for Sex Abuse 1 (Incest).
3. Investigation by TSPC determined the following:
 - Sanders was taken into custody on charges of Sex Abuse 1 (Incest) on or about August 10, 2023.
 - The criminal charges originated in El Paso County, Colorado.
 - The victim was identified as one of Sander's family members, a juvenile male, (child A), who lived in Colorado.
 - The sexual abuse of child A occurred multiple times in both Colorado and in Oregon from 2022-2023 when Sanders would visit child A, or when child A would visit Sanders.
 - The sexual abuse involved Sanders touching and masturbating child A's penis and touching and rubbing his buttocks when Sanders was alone with child A.
 - During the abuse, Sanders told child A to keep their activities secret otherwise they wouldn't be able to see one another anymore.
 - On November 12, 2024, via a plea agreement, Sanders was convicted of Child Sexual Assault by the El Paso County District Court in Colorado.
 - Sanders was sentenced to two (2) years to life and per the plea agreement no criminal charges would be filed in the State of Oregon.
 - Additionally, as part of Sander's sentence, it was ordered that if Sanders were ever paroled from custody, Sanders would serve a term of 10 years parole and would be required to register as a sex offender.
4. The Colorado charge of "Child Sexual Assault" is the substantial equivalent of Sex

Abuse 1 (ORS 163.427) in the State of Oregon, which is a mandatory license revocation crime under ORS 342.143. “Under ORS 342.175(3) and OAR 584, Division 020, 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 or convicted of attempt to commit such crimes as defined in 161.405.”

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)(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), and OAR 548-020-0040(4)(f) (Any sexual conduct with a student).

The conduct described above in section four (4) 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(1) (Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment), and OAR 548-020-0040(4)(f) (Any sexual conduct with a student), and OAR 584-20-0040(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 or convicted or attempted to commit such crimes as defined in ORS 161.405. Evaluation of substantially equivalent crimes or attempt to commit crimes will be based on Oregon laws in effect at the time of the conviction, regardless of the jurisdiction in which the conviction occurred.)

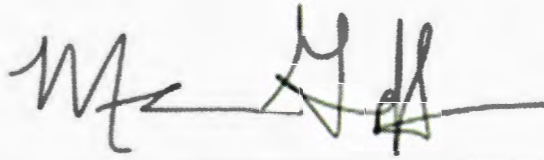
The Commission’s authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.

FINAL ORDER

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

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 19 day of May, 2025.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Goff', written over a horizontal line.

By: _____
Melissa Goff, Interim 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