

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

In the Matter of the Educator)	DEFAULT ORDER OF
License of)	SUSPENSION AND
STEVEN C. SIMMONS)	PROBATION

On April 30, 2025, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Steven C. Simmons (Simmons) 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 2397 8986 08 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 was confirmed as delivered on March 5, 2025. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated February 27, 2025, and signed by Melissa Goff, Intrim 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.”

As of the writing of this order, Simmons has not contacted TSPC. The Commission, therefore, finds Simmons 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 Simmons since March 15, 2011. Simmons holds a Preliminary Teaching License with endorsements in Legacy Middle Level (PK-12), Manufacturing Technology CTE (PK-12), Foundational Mathematics (PK-12), and Business: Generalist (PK-12) which was issued on November 29, 2023 and expires on November 28, 2026. During all relevant times, Simmons was employed by the Molalla School District (MSD).

2. On January 5, 2024, TSPC received a Public Complaint Form from a patron indicating that Simmons, a teacher at Molalla High School (MSH), had displayed inappropriate boundaries with students, has poor classroom management, and falls asleep in class. The report further alleged that Simmons had a list of “racist” students and openly posted his personal cell phone number on the classroom whiteboard and encouraged students to call and text him on it rather than on school email.

On January 5, 2024, TSPC received a second Public Complaint Form from a patron who was a teacher at MHS. The report alleged that Simmons had texted the teacher a message inviting her to come to his classroom for “black coffee serial killer style.” The teacher indicated when she showed up to Simmon’s classroom he offered her “high-quality cocaine” and she noted seeing at least forty (40) prescription pills scattered on Simmon’s desk.

On January 9, 2024, TSPC received a third Public Complaint Form from a patron who was also a teacher at MHS. The complaint alleges that Simmons refuse to communicate through email, doesn’t record grades, and give students assignments with weird names such as “pimps” and “cocaine.” Additionally, the complaint alleged that Simmons had a “racist student” list on his classroom whiteboard.

3. Investigation by the MSD and TSPC determined the following:

- Simmons posted his personal cell phone number on the whiteboard in his classroom and encouraged students to contact him on it rather than through his district email account. This was a violation of district policy regarding use of personal cell phones.
- A student’s name was once posted on Simmon’s classroom whiteboard. The student once questioned the Hispanic origins of Simmon’s family which sparked a classroom discussion about stereotypes and prejudice. Simmons reported that he left the name on the whiteboard because students noticed it which provided him an avenue to discuss racism and stereotypes in a positive and constructive manner.

- During Simmon’s TSPC interview, he admitted to falling asleep once in his classroom in February of 2023 before students arrived. Simmons sleeping caused him to miss a mandatory work meeting at the school.
- A review of Simmon’s grade book revealed student assignments with inappropriate names. The names were listed as follows:
 - 10/01/2021- “Big Giant Inch”
 - 11/01/2021- “How Happy is Simmons”
 - 09/27/2022- “Window Licking Lessons”
 - 04/18/2023- “Dope pimp’n build assignment”
 - 05/23/2022- “essay of crack”
 - 06/08/2023- “Bad Dad Jokes of the Day”
- Students from Simmon’s class were frequently allowed to leave his classroom unsupervised (sometimes even left the MHS campus) without a hall pass.
- On or about October 27, 2023, a student in Simmon’s class asked him for a pair of scissors and Simmons provided her a pocketknife with batteries duct taped to it instead and told her to keep it. (A student reported that the knife was taped closed and was a joke Simmons referred to as the “electric pencil sharpener.”) The student gave the knife back at the end of day, however possession of a pocketknife by a student is forbidden by MSD policy.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The 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)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment), OAR 584-020-0020(2)(d) (Skill in the supervision of students), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations), and 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

FINAL ORDER

The Commission hereby issues a thirty (30) day suspension and 3 years of probation upon Simmon's Oregon educator license. The period of probation will become effective upon licensure reinstatement. The period of probation is subject to the following conditions:

1. Simmons shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division 020.
2. Simmons shall complete both a certified Boundaries and Classroom Management Course within the first year of probation.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 5 day of August, 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.