

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

In the Matter of the)	DEFAULT ORDER OF
Educator License of)	REVOCATION OF
DENNIS J. DRURY)	LICENSURE

On May 16, 2025, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Dennis J. Drury (Drury) 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 2307 8986 53 to Drury'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 sent Certified mail was returned to the Commission on June 13, 2025, as unclaimed and the Notice sent First Class mail was not returned and assumed delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated May 16, 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 date of this Default Order, Drury has not contacted the Commission to request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Drury 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 Drury since September 19, 2022. Drury holds a Preliminary Teaching License, with an endorsement in Elementary – Multiple Subjects (PK-12), valid from September 19, 2022, through January 9, 2026. Drury was employed by the Three Rivers School District (TRSD) during the 2022-23 school year.
2. On December 28, 2023, the Commission received information from Oregon's Department of Human Services (DHS) which contained an allegation that could constitute gross neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, the allegation was that while Drury was employed as

a mathematics teacher during the 2022-23 school year at Lorna Byrne Middle School, TRSD, Drury had inappropriate communications with a minor-aged student.

3. Investigation found that during the 2022-23 school year, Drury began to develop a professional teacher/student relationship with a twelve (12) year-old male student. As the school year progressed, Drury began to favor this student. Using the direct message feature on an online chess gaming platform, and in person conversations at school, Drury began to foster a closer, personal relationship with the student. During the 2022-23 school year, Drury and the student spent multiple recesses sitting together on a bench discussing various topics.
4. Investigation found that Drury and the student began exchanging frontal hugs in class each school day. In January 2023, Drury was observed hugging the student by school staff. Drury was cautioned for being too friendly with students. During the 2022-23 school year, Drury direct messaged on the chess platform with many students, but more often with the male student than other students. Many of these direct messages were personal in nature. Drury purchased a “goodbye” gift for the student for the end of the school year. During Drury’s district interview, Drury admitted the student was his favorite student and Drury had a strong connection with the student.
5. Investigation found that on December 21, 2023, local law enforcement received information alleging Drury sent inappropriate messages to the student. Law enforcement identified direct messages regularly sent by Drury to the student from April 2023 to December 2023. Many of the messages were not school related, were personal in nature, and many were sent after Drury was no longer employed by the TRSD and seeking to continue communicating with the student. In one exchange, Drury shared there was a complaint about Drury sexually molesting a student under his desk at school and that the male student knew Drury had never molested him.
6. Investigation found on January 11, 2024, law enforcement served Drury a search warrant at his residence in California and located nine (9) photos of nude boys, approximately ten (10) to twelve (12) years-old, some with erections. Law enforcement arrested Drury for possession of child pornography. On February 14, 2024, the District Attorney’s office for the County of Del Norte, California, filed one (1) felony count against Drury for Possession of Child or Youth Pornography. On September 6, 2024, Drury plead no contest to one (1) misdemeanor count of Possession of Child or Youth Pornography. Drury’s sentence included that he registers as a sex

offender for ten (10) years, a summary probation of one (1) year, a fine. Drury was not required to serve any jail time.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Drury'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 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*).

Drury'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)(f) (*Any sexual conduct with a student*) as defined by OAR 580-020-0005(8); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates, OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), and 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*).

Drury's criminal conviction as described in section six (6) above, constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 670.280(2) and ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*); and OAR 584-020-0040(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*), including ORS 163.687 *Encouraging Child Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree*.

This conduct also constitutes gross unfitness in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(c); OAR 584-020-0040(5)(c) (*Conviction of violating any federal, state, or local law. A conviction includes any final judgment of conviction by a court whether as the result of guilty plea, no contest plea or any other means*); OAR 584-020-0040(5)(d) (*Commission of an act listed in OAR 584-020-0040(1)*); and OAR 584-020-0040(5)(e) (*Admission of or engaging in acts constituting criminal conduct, even in the absence of a conviction*).

Pursuant to ORS 342.175(3) and OAR 584-020-0040(1) the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission must revoke Drury's license and/or his right to apply for a license based on his conviction of any of the crimes listed in ORS 342.143(3)(a), or the substantial equivalent of any of those crimes, or convicted of attempt to commit such crimes as defined in ORS 161.405

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 listed in OAR 584-020-0040(1), 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.

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

FINAL ORDER

The Commission hereby revokes Dennis J. Drury's Oregon teaching license.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 7 day of July, 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