

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
GORDON, HEATHER	)	RIGHT TO APPLY

On July 1, 2026, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Heather Gordon (Gordon). The Commission charged her 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 5868 06 to Gordon's last known 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 returned as confirmed "delivered" on July 6, 2026. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated July 1, 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."

As of the writing of this Default Order, Gordon has not responded. The Commission, therefore, finds Gordon 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 Gordon since October 17, 2018. Gordon holds a Principal License, with endorsements in Principal (PK-12) which was valid from February 1, 2021 to August 17, 2024. During all relevant times, Gordon was employed by the Portland Public Schools (PPS) and the Forrest Grove School District (FGSD).
2. On January 9, 2024, the Commission received a report from the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS/OTIS) regarding Gordon, Principal of the Buckman

Elementary School (BES) in PPS. The report alleges that Gordon “sat” on top of a dysregulated 7-year old BES student, (Student X), while he was laying down in a prone position which resulted in Student X experiencing restricted breathing.

3. Investigation by PPS, OTIS and TSPC determined the following:

- Gordon worked as Principal of BES during the 2023-2024 school year.
- On or about January 5, 2024, Gordon assisted in addressing the behavior of a dysregulated student, Student X.
- While getting off a bus, Student X repeatedly grabbed another student’s backpack.
- BES staff, including Gordon, redirected Student X, who became escalated and combative upon entering the school.
- Student X kicked and hit both Gordon and another staff member.
- Witness report that Gordon “sat” on Student X in an attempt to control him. (Student X was prone on the floor, and Gordon was reportedly sitting on his back/buttocks.)
- Witnesses report that the sitting technique Gordon was using to restraint Student X was not a Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NCI) approved technique.
- Witnesses report that Student X yelled multiples times that “he couldn’t breathe, and that he couldn’t do this anymore.”
- Witnesses report that Student X yelled out “ow” (indicating pain) several times.
- Witnesses report that it appeared that the full weight of Gordon’s body was on Student X.
- Witness report that Student X appeared to be “hyperventilating” and reported that his face was “very red.”
- Gordon resigned from PPS on April 2, 2024, citing “personal reasons.”
- OTIS concluded their investigation into this matter with a finding of “Founded for Wrongful Restraint.”
- Gordon interviewed with TSPC investigative staff on January 5, 2024.
- During Gordon’s interview she denied sitting on Student X.
- During Gordon’s interview she denied being put on leave or knowing if PPS was investigating this matter.

- During Gordon’s interview she denied that her resignation from PPS had anything to do with this incident or Student X.
 - During Gordon’s TSPC interview, she reported that she never received NCI training from PPS. Gordon told investigative staff that she believed the NCI training that she had been scheduled for in 2021 had been cancelled due to COVID. Based on this, Gordon reported that she did not know what approved NCI restraints were.
 - Per official PPS training records, Gordon completed NCI training with the district on July 16, 2021. The training record indicates that Gordon passed the course.
4. On or about February 20, 2024, Gordon applied to TSPC for license renewal through eLicensing. While filling out the application, Gordon answered “no” to all the character questions, including questions 2 & 3. The questions read as follows:
- *Question 2: Are you currently the subject of inquiry, review or investigation for alleged misconduct or alleged violation of professional standards of conduct by either an employer or any profession licensure agency, or any state agency such as the Department of Education a Department of Human Services or law enforcement?*
 - *Question 3: Have you ever been investigated by an employer of any state agency for alleged physical or sexual abuse? Have you ever been placed on leave by your employer for alleged misconduct of any type?*

Per TSPC records, a Notice of Investigation letter regarding the incident that occurred with Student X was mailed both certified and non-certified to Gordon on January 15, 2024. The certified delivery confirmation card was signed by Gordon’s spouse on January 27, 2024, and returned to TSPC on January 31, 2024.

5. On August 22, 2024, TSPC received an email from the FGSD inquiring if Gordon was under investigation by TSPC. According to FGSD, Gordon answered “no” to all of the background questions on their employment application. The questions on the application which Gordon answered in the negative included:

- *“Are you currently the subject of an inquiry, review or investigation for alleged*

misconduct or alleged violation of professional standards of conduct by either an employer or licensure agency.”

- *Have you EVER been the subject of a substantiated report of child abuse or sexual conduct (involving a K-12 student or minor child)?*
- *Are you currently the subject of an ongoing investigation related to the report of suspected child abuse or sexual conduct (involving a K-12 student or minor child)?”*

Per TSPC records, a Notice of Investigation letter regarding the incident that occurred with Student X was mailed both certified and non-certified to Gordon on January 15, 2024. The certified delivery confirmation card was signed by Gordon’s spouse on January 27, 2024, and returned to TSPC on January 31, 2024.

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 584-020-0040(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).

Additionally, the conduct described in section four (4) and 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), 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(3)(a)(Maintain the dignity of the profession by respecting and obeying the law, exemplifying personal integrity and honesty).

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

FINAL ORDER

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

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 17 day of August, 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