

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

In the Matter of the)	DEFAULT ORDER OF
Educator License of)	SUSPENSION OF RIGHT TO
WILLIAM M. BANKS)	APPLY AND PROBATION

On July 16, 2025, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to William M. Banks (Banks) 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 8991 79 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 Notice letters were returned undeliverable and unable to forward. Commission staff utilized a noted personnel locator to identify an alternate address for Banks and were unable to identify an address other than the address on file with the Commission. In late May 2025, Banks sent a return receipt from a request to interview letter, sent Certified and First-class mail to the address on file with the Commission. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated July 16, 2025, 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.”

Banks did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Banks 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. Banks has been licensed by the Commission since March 25, 2017. Banks held a Preliminary Teaching License with an endorsement in English for Speakers of Other Languages (PK-12), valid from January 5, 2022, through January 4, 2025. During all relevant times, Banks was employed by the Portland School District, aka Portland Public Schools (PPS).

2. The Commission received the following reports of alleged misconduct:

- On June 14, 2024, the Commission received a report from Oregon's Department of Human Services (DHS) containing allegations that Banks made female students at James John Elementary School (JJES), PPS, uncomfortable by giving hugs without consent and unnecessary touching of their hands, arms and chest area.
- On September 27, 2024, the Commission received a report from DHS containing allegation that Banks was observed at a local shopping center with a nine (9) year old student. When the student's mother was asked about this, she said she was aware of Banks accompanying her child to the shopping center and the park.
- On October 8, 2024, the Commission received a report from DHS containing allegations that Banks made an eight (8) year old, former female student feel uncomfortable by touching the student's leg and giving the student hugs and backrubs.
- On April 23, 2024, the Commission received a school district misconduct report from PPS reporting that PPS investigated Banks for the same allegations as the previous DHS information of unnecessary touching of students.
- On April 17, 2025, the Commission received a report from DHS containing allegations that Banks made a former female student feel uncomfortable by touching the student's leg and hand during class.
- On April 18, 2025, the Commission received a report from DHS containing allegations previously made about Banks and his behavior with a former female student.
- On May 19, 2025, the Commission received a report from DHS containing allegations previously made about Banks and his behavior with another former female student.
- On June 9, 2025, the Commission received a school district misconduct report from PPS reporting that PPS investigated Banks for the same allegations as the previous DHS information of unnecessary touching of students.

3. Investigation found that during Banks' employment with PPS, he was investigated for the incidents involving the unnecessary touching of students different from the allegations above:
 - In 2018, Banks was assigned as a substitute teacher at Rigler Elementary School, PPS, where he was alleged to have caressed a first-grade student's arms and shoulders. The district found that any touching occurring between Banks and the student was not a violation of district policy.
 - In June 2023, Banks was alleged to have initiated physical contact with a JJES student who had taken another student's work and then initially fled from Banks. Banks followed the student to the playground and to prevent the student from fleeing, Banks wrapped his arms around the student's body, restrained the student's hands, and then recovered the other student's work. On July 19, 2023, the district substantiated the allegation of physical restraint and issued Banks a Letter of Expectation.
4. Investigation found that on September 26, 2023, Banks was observed standing behind a female student, who was approximately eight (8) or (9) years old, placing his arms around the student's body and then held her hand to demonstrate how to write, which caused the student's face to turn red. The student later said Banks' actions made her feel uncomfortable. In November 2023, another female student from Banks' class reported that during the 2023-24 school year, Banks had rubbed the student's back which made her feel uncomfortable. In September 2024, a yet another female student in Banks' class reported that during the 2023-24 school year, Banks touched and rubbed the student's back, held the student's hand, and Banks moved his hand near the student's breast. The student said this contact made her feel uncomfortable.
5. On April 2, 2024, PPS issued Banks a Written Reprimand which substantiated the allegations of the students.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

William M. Banks' 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)(o) as it incorporates

OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates and OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*).

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

FINAL ORDER


The Commission hereby imposes a six (6) month Suspension on William M. Banks' Right to Apply for an Oregon educator license.

Furthermore, the Commission imposes a period of two (2) years of probation upon Banks' license to commence from the date of the adoption of this order and subject to the following conditions:

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

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 12 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.