

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
SEAN M. CEASE)	PROBATION

On April 30, 2025, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Sean M. Cease (Cease) 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 8985 92 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 May 8, 2025. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated April 30, 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, 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, Cease has not contacted TSPC. The Commission, therefore, finds Cease 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 Cease since April 6, 2006. Cease holds a Professional Teaching License with endorsements in Health (PK-12) and Physical Education (PK-12), which was issued on September 11, 2022, and expires on September 10, 2027. During all relevant times, Cease was employed by the Corbett School District (CSD).

2. On August 1, 2024, TSPC received a School District Misconduct report from the CSD. The report alleged that Cease, a physical education teacher and football coach at Corbet High School (CHS) used foul language towards students, pinched and shoved students, and raised his voice at them in an inappropriate manner.
3. Investigation by the CSD and TSPC determined the following:
 - Cease lifted and pulled the desk of three students to get them to stop talking in class.
 - Cease pulled the strings of four student's hoodies tight to tighten the hood around their face and then tied the strings behind their heads.
 - Cease pinched the back of students' arms when they were off task, or not doing what they were supposed to be doing.
 - Cease "playfully" pulled on the ear of a student in his class.
 - Cease asked a student to walk on his back, and when the student refused, Cease asked a football player to do it.
 - On or about April 18, 2024, four student witnesses reported that Cease threw a curl bar to the ground during weightlifting class because they were not doing an activity correctly. The entire class was then made to run stairs due to not doing what was written on the whiteboard.
 - On or about April 23, 2024, two student witnesses reported that Cease told student X to "shut your ass up" before sending him out of the gym during PE class.
 - On a different occasion, a student witness reported that Cease yelled "get the fuck out of my class" towards student Y.

- Recorded video footage of a hallway interaction between Cease and Student Y documents Cease pointing his finger in student Y's face and yelling "when I tell you to not say nothing, shut your mouth, and don't talk back anymore. Go change."

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 342.175.

FINAL ORDER

The Commission hereby issues a thirty (30) day suspension and two (2) years of probation upon Cease'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. Cease shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division 020.
2. Cease shall complete a certified Classroom Management Course within the first year of probation.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 6 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.