

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

In the Matter of the)	DEFAULT ORDER
Educator License of)	OF REVOCATION
DARRREN F. SINKO)	

On July 25, 2025, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Darren F. Sinko (Sinko) in which the Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty and Gross Unfitness. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 9589 0710 5270 2307 8992 85 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 sent Certified Mail was returned to the Commission as unclaimed on August 20, 2025. The notice sent First-Class mail was not returned to the Commission and assumed delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated July 25, 2025, and signed by Rachel Alpert, Executive Director, stated:

“IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 60-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.”

Sinko did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Sinko 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. Darren F. Sinko has been licensed by the Commission since May 1, 1996. Sinko holds a Professional Teaching License, with endorsements in Integrated Sciences (PK-12) and Social Studies (PK-12), valid from March 31, 2023, through March 30, 2028. During all relevant times, Sinko was employed by the North Bend School District (NBSD).

2. On October 30, 2024, the Commission received a school district misconduct report from the NBSD which contained allegations that Sinko may have committed acts of gross neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, it was alleged that Sinko was involved in an

inappropriate relationship with a female middle school student at North Bend Middle School (NBMS) which began in the 2023-24 school year and continued over the summer of 2024.

On November 1, November 19, and December 26, 2024, the Commission received information from Oregon's Department of Human Services (DHS) which contained allegations that Sinko violated teacher/student boundaries with a female middle school student during the 2023-24 school year and over the summer of 2024.

3. Investigation found that during the 2023-24 school year, a female was enrolled in one of Sinko's science classes at NBMS. Sinko developed a teacher/student relationship with student and over time, this became a more personal relationship.
4. Investigation found that on unspecified dates during the 2023-24 school year and continuing over the summer of 2024, Sinko showed favoritism towards female students and especially towards a specific female. Sinko's conduct toward the female student included the following: Sinko pulled her from other classes to discuss topics that were not school related; Sinko put his arm around the student's shoulder when having personal conversations with her at school; Sinko often touched the student's hands with his hands when assisting her in class; Sinko gave the student a hug and kissed her on or near the ear during an end of the year (2023-24 school year) field day when the student was wearing only a swimsuit; Sinko offered to let the student stay at his home if she ever needed to; and Sinko told the student she was, "pretty", "nice", "sweet", and that she had a nice body. Sinko exchanged emails with the student, sending her sixty-seven (67) non-school related emails from July 22, 2024, to September 14, 2024, most in the evening and some after 10:00 pm, and then requested the student delete the email thread.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Darren F. Sinko's conduct as described in paragraph four (4) 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 584-020-0005(8) and ORS 339.370(12)(a)(B); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual*), and OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) (*Not demonstrating or expressing professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life*) and 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 revokes the Darren F. Sinko's Oregon educator license.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 5 day of September, 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.