

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

In the Matter of the Educator	)	DEFAULT ORDER OF
License of	)	PUBLIC REPRIMAND
MATHISEN, RICHARD J.	)	AND PROBATION

On July 1, 2026, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Richard J. Mathisen (Mathisen) 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 3980 5867 52 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 returned to the Commission marked as “unclaimed, unable to forward” on August 6, 2026. On August 7, 2026, TSPC staff contacted Mathisen by email and asked for an updated address so the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing could be resent to him. On August 13, 2026, Mathisen responded to TSPC via email, and refused to provide any updated contact information. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated December 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.”

As of the writing of this order, Mathisen has not contacted TSPC nor provided updated contact information. The Commission, therefore, finds Mathisen 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 Mathisen since May 13, 2013. Mathisen held an Emergency Teaching License, with an endorsement in Chemistry (PK-12), which was valid from October 23, 2024 to June 30, 2025. During all relevant times, Mathisen was employed by the Brookings-Harbor School District (BHSD).

2. On November 12, 2024, the Commission received a School District Misconduct Report from the BHSD. The report alleges that Richard J. Mathisen, a teacher at the BHSD, resigned his position with the district with immediate effect on November 9, 2024. This action was a violation of the district's sixty (60) day notice requirement which was documented in Mathisen's contract with BHSD.
3. Investigation determined the following:
 - Mathisen worked for the BHSD in the capacity of Chemistry Teacher during the 2024-2025 school year.
 - Mathisen officially started work for the BHSD on August 20, 2024.
 - Mathisen signed his BHSD Probationary Teacher Contract on August 28, 2024.
 - Article 6 of the contract states:
 - *"6. This contract is binding unless the teacher gives sixty (60) days written notice of termination to the district superintendent. Failure of the teacher to give sixty (60) days written notice of termination to the district superintendent subjects said teacher to possible loss of certification as set forth under ORS 342.553(1). It is further understood and agreed that payment of the salary stated in this contract and the obligation of the school district thereunder is subject to the availability of funds."*
 - Mathisen resigned his position with the BHSD on November 9, 2024. The resignation was made with immediate effect which did not provide the contractually obligated 60-days notice as required.
 - Mathisen interviewed with TSPC investigative staff on May 7, 2026.
 - During Mathisen's interview he fully acknowledged violating the 60-day notice policy.
 - Mathisen stated that he resigned because he did not appreciate how he was treated by BHSD administration and indicated that working for the BHSD was "not a good match."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The conduct described 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).

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

FINAL ORDER

The Commission hereby issues a public reprimand and two (2) years of probation upon Mathisen's Oregon educator license. The period of probation will become effective on the date of adoption of this default order. The period of probation is subject to the following conditions:

1. Mathisen shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division 020.

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.