

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

In the Matter of the)	DEFAULT ORDER OF DENIAL OF
Educator License of:)	APPLICATION AND REVOCATION
BRIAN S. HARTENSTEIN)	OF RIGHT TO APPLY FOR AN
)	EDUCATOR LICENSE

On March 2, 2026, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Denial of Reinstatement and Opportunity for Hearing to Brian S. Hartenstein (Hartenstein). The Notice was sent via U.S. First-Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 9589 0710 5270 2978 6282 07 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 signed on March 10, 2026, and then returned to the Commission. The regular First-Class mail was not returned to the Commission and assumed delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated March 2, 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.”

Hartenstein did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Hartenstein 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. On September 28, 2025, Hartenstein applied to the Commission for reinstatement of his Oregon educator license. Hertenstein’s request for reinstatement came before the Commission at the February 2026 meeting. The history of Hartenstein’s past case and facts that supported the Commission’s actions, include the following:

- a) The Commission had licensed Hartenstein since July 7, 2004. Hartenstein held an Initial I Teaching License, with an endorsement in Multiple Subjects - Middle Level; Language Arts- Middle Level; and Language Arts – High School, valid from November 11, 2007, through November 11, 2010. During all relevant times, Hartenstein was employed by the Beaverton School District (BSD).

- b) In January 2009, the Commission received information from the Beaverton School District which reported that after a district investigation, the district believed Hartenstein may have violated teacher/student boundaries during the 2008-2009 school year at Sunset High School. The report contained allegations that Hartenstein met with a seventeen (17) year-old female student, off campus, on three occasions and that Hartenstein composed a letter that contained sexually graphic language intended for the student but was found by his spouse before he could give it to the student. Hartenstein's spouse shared the letter with the district.

The Commission's investigation found the meetings between Hartenstein and the student occurred in the evening, at a park, and that on at least one occasion, Hartenstein transported the student to and from the park in his personal automobile. The investigation found that the meetings in the park and other in-person interactions between Hartenstein and the student included conversations about the student's personal life and her relationship with her boyfriend. In Hartenstein's 2009 Commission interview, he admitted to the meetings and that there was a letter but claimed the mature themes and coarse language in the letter were misrepresented as sexually graphic.

- c) On December 1, 2009, Hartenstein's investigation came before the Commission. The Commission recommended revoking Hartenstein's Oregon educator license. The Commission provided Hartenstein with a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.

- d) On July 10, 2010, Hartenstein signed a stipulation of facts and final order or revocation of his Oregon educator license. The order was adopted by the Commission on August 9, 2010, and established that Hartenstein's conduct constituted 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)(A) and (D) (*expressing professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life; and honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*).
 - e) On September 28, 2025, the Commission received Hartenstein's application for reinstatement of licensure. Accompanying Hartenstein's application was a written statement by Hartenstein and evidence of the completion of a Commission-approved teacher/student boundaries course.
2. On February 6, 2026, the Commission considered Hartenstein's application, investigative report, Hartenstein's supporting documents, and his appearance before the Commission to justify his case for reinstatement of his licensure. The Commission denied Hartenstein's application for reinstatement because it did not establish that Hartenstein possessed good moral character, trustworthiness, or physical and mental health to hold an educator's license.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Brian S. Hartenstein's conduct as described above is grounds for denial of his application under ORS 342.143(2). The Commission denies Hartenstein's reinstatement application for the following reasons:

- a) Hartenstein failed to provide evidence to ensure that similar conduct would not reoccur;
- b) Hartenstein provided certificates and letters from various education-related sources indicating his skills and accomplishments. This material was insufficient because it lacked information of the providers having the independent background information on Hartenstein's behavior and revocation with the Commission;

- c) The nature of the conduct that led to Hartenstein's revocation is basis to deny reinstatement because the conduct is inconsistent with the character and traits the Commission expects of licensed educators;
- d) Hartenstein's reinstatement application failed to establish to the Commission that he should be reinstated to hold an educator license.

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

FINAL ORDER

The Commission hereby denies Brian S. Hartenstein's application for reinstatement of his Oregon Educator license. Furthermore, the Commission revokes Hartenstein's right to apply for an Oregon Educator license.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 5 day of May, 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.