

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
COUNTY OF HUGHES)
DIVISION OF THE SECRETARY
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT. OF EDUCATION

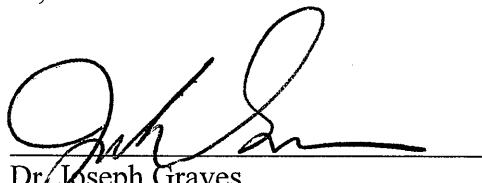
In re: Certification Application of)
SANJAY THAKUR)
DSE 2025-09
ORDER DENYING
EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE

In accordance with and pursuant to the authority granted to the Secretary by SDCL § 13-42-4, 13-42-9, and ARSD article 24:18, and after review of the record herein, the Secretary issues the following Order:

1. The Secretary accepts the allegations of the Notice of Intent to Deny Educator Certificate as true and enters the attached Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.
2. The application of Sanjay Thakur for an educator certificate is DENIED.
3. Sanjay Thakur is permanently prohibited from reapplication for an educator certificate in the State of South Dakota.
4. The Order and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law are a public record pursuant to SDCL § 13-42-17.1 and ARSD 24:18:04:05.
5. Notification of this denial is to be placed on the NASDTEC registry and be placed in applicant's permanent certification file within the South Dakota Department of Education.

This constitutes final agency action and may be appealed to circuit court pursuant to ARSD 24:18:02:06.

Dated this the 5th of November, 2025.



Dr. Joseph Graves
Secretary
South Dakota Department of Education
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

COUNTY OF HUGHES

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DIVISION OF THE SECRETARY

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT. OF EDUCATION

**In re: Certification Application of
SANJAY THAKUR**

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**DSE 2025-09
FINDINGS OF FACT AND
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Sanjay Thakur filed an application for an Educator Renewal Application which was activated on May 11, 2025. After a review of the entire file, the Secretary enters the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about September 11, 2025, the South Dakota Department of Education Office of Educator Certification (hereinafter "Department") served a Notice of Intent to Deny Educator Certificate on Sanjay Thakur (hereinafter "Thakur") via certified mail, first-class mail, and email.
2. The Notice of Intent informed Thakur that if he failed to request a hearing within 30 days after service of the notice, the allegations of the Notice would be accepted as true by the Secretary.
3. The Department received no request for hearing from Thakur within the 30-day period.
4. Thakur was informed that the allegations of the Notice would be accepted as true.
5. Thakur answered "No" to all questions of the Conduct Review portion of the Educator Renewal Application
6. On or about February 18, 2022, Thakur's credentials in California for teaching were revoked.
7. Thakur did not contest the allegations brought against him before the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for the State of California. The allegations included several violations of California Code of Regulation categorized as unprofessional conduct, immoral conduct, evident unfitness for service, and acts of moral turpitude.
8. Thakur's conduct included sexually harassing student(s) and a co-worker. One student did file an

emergency protective order against Thakur, which was granted.

9. Thakur had received several warning letters regarding his conducted by his employing school district in California. The district placed Thakur on administrative leave while investigating allegations. Thakur and the district reached a settlement agreement that included the district accepting Thakur' s resignation.
10. On or about November 28, 2018, Thakur was charged with child molesting.
11. Thakur did not disclose his revocation from California.
12. Thakur did not disclose his criminal charge of child molesting.
13. Thakur did not disclose his resignation agreement with the California school district to avoid termination or discipline.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

14. Grounds for the denial or non-renewal of an educator certificate are provided in SDCL § 13-42.
15. The Secretary of the Department of Education has the power and authority to refuse to issue or renew a certificate. SDCL § 13-42-9.
16. ARSD 24:18:03:02. Revocation or suspension in another jurisdiction. If the certificate of an applicant in another jurisdiction has been revoked or suspended by that jurisdiction, the order of revocation or suspension is prima facie evidence that the applicant does not meet the requirements for certification in this state.
17. Thakur's credentialing being revoked in California is prima facie evidence that Thakur does not meet the requirements for certification in South Dakota.
18. Thakur's conduct in California constitutes acts of moral turpitude to support the Department's intent to deny.
19. Thakur's failure to disclose the information constitutes incompetency and acts of moral turpitude

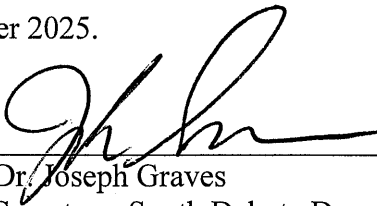
to support the Department's intent to deny.

20. Any Conclusion of Law more properly designated as a Finding of Fact is hereby so designated.

21. Thakur's application should be denied pursuant to SDCL § 13-42-9.

22. Thakur should be permanently prohibited from reapplication for an educator certificate in the State of South Dakota.

Dated this the 5th of November 2025.



Dr. Joseph Graves
Secretary, South Dakota Department of Education