

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

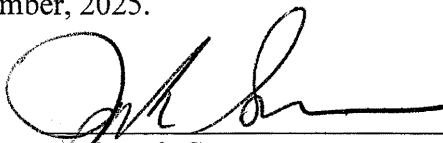
In re: Certification of)
KALI LAMP) DSE 2025-15
) ORDER SUSPENDING
) EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Education by SDCL §§ 13-43-28.1, 13-42-9, and 13-42-15, following the receipt of a Complaint seeking suspension of a certificate from the South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission, and after review of the entire file herein, and further providing an opportunity for all parties to submit additional evidence pursuant to SDCL § 13-43-28.1, the Secretary enters the following ORDER:

1. The Secretary affirms and adopts the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission (“Commission”). These Findings and Conclusions, attached as Exhibit A, are hereby incorporated into this Order by this reference as if set forth in full.
2. The Commission found clear and convincing evidence Lamp violated the following provision of the South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers—ARSD 24:08:03:02(8).
3. Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the teaching certificate of Kali Lamp, Certificate #73272, issued on January 11, 2021, is hereby **suspended for a period of three (3) years.**
4. The Order and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law are a public record pursuant to SDCL § 13-42-17.1.
5. Notification of this revocation is to be placed on the NASDTEC registry and be placed in Lamp’s permanent certification file within the South Dakota Department of Education.

This constitutes final agency action and may be appealed to circuit court.

Dated this the 10th of December, 2025.



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

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
) SS
 COUNTY OF HUGHES)

SOUTH DAKOTA PROFESSIONAL
 TEACHERS PRACTICES AND
 STANDARDS COMMISSION

SUMMER SCHULTZ, Superintendent,
 Brookings School District,

Complainant,

vs.

KALI LAMP,

Respondent.

PTPSC 2024-10

FINDINGS OF FACT,
 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW,
 AND ORDER

This matter came on for a hearing pursuant to the provisions of SDCL § 13-43-28 before the South Dakota Professional Teachers and Standards Commission. A private hearing was held on July 1, 2025, in the Library Commons, MacKay Building, 800 Governors Drive, Pierre, South Dakota.

The following members of the South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission ("Commission") were present at the hearing: Chairperson Joy Robbins, Caitlyn Graf, Alesha Limbo, and Christine Saltsman. Kendra Mulder-Mews, counsel for the Commission, and Hailey Spaid, Executive Secretary for the Commission, were also present. Complainant, Summer Schultz, Superintendent of Brookings School District ("Schultz") was personally present with attorney Tyler J. Coverdale. Respondent, Kali Lamp was personally present with attorney Brooke Quinlivan. LouAnn Jensen, SDEA Representative, was also present.

Based upon the evidence presented at the hearing and the documents contained in the official file, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent, Kali Lamp ("Lamp"), is the holder of a valid South Dakota Teacher's Certificate, number 73272. She was issued this certificate on January 11, 2021, and it is set to expire on July 1, 2026.
2. On or about September 3, 2024, Summer Schultz ("Schultz"), Superintendent, Brookings School District ("Schultz"), filed a Complaint against Lamp.
3. The Complaint alleged that Lamp violated the following section(s) of the Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers, which provides that in fulfilling their obligation to the public, educators shall act as follows:

- a. ARSD 24:08:03:02(7) Engage in no act that results in a conviction;

- b. ARSD 24:08:03:02(8) Exemplify high moral standards by not engaging in or becoming a party to such activities as fraud, embezzlement, theft, deceit, moral turpitude, gross immorality, sexual contact with students, illegal drugs, or use of misleading or false statements.
4. Lamp filed a Response to the Complaint on or about September 20, 2024.
5. A due and proper Notice of Hearing was served upon the parties setting a hearing for December 18, 2024.
6. Lamp filed a Motion to Continue the December 18, 2024, hearing requesting a delay past the finalization of the underlying criminal proceedings. The Motion was granted.
7. An Amended Notice of Hearing was served upon the parties setting a hearing for May 6, 2025.
8. Lamp filed a second motion to continue restating her request to delay past the finalization of underlying criminal proceeding. The Motion was granted.
9. A due and proper Notice of Hearing was served on the parties setting this hearing for July 1, 2025.
10. A private hearing was held on July 1, 2025.
11. Lamp was employed with the Brookings School District for ten years. From 2016-2024 Lamp taught first-grade at Dakota Prairie Elementary.
12. Sarah Wiebersick ("Wiebersick") is the principal at Dakota Prairie Elementary School and was Lamp's direct supervisor. She testified before the Commission.
13. The year prior to the alleged actions before the Commission, Lamp met with Wiebersick to discuss ways Lamp could improve her instructional practices, they continued to meet monthly.
14. At the end of the year Wiebersick believed Lamp had failed to make the changes that were necessary to ensure the instructional success for the students.
15. Lamp was informed in April of 2024 that her contract would not be renewed.
16. Lamp has a pending lawsuit against Brookings School District as a result of that nonrenewal.
17. On May 15, 2024, Lamp's father was admitted into the ICU in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
18. The Brookings School District's last day of school was May 17, 2024.

19. Wiebersick's last interaction with Lamp was when Lamp came to sign her SLO to end the school year on May 18, 2024. At which time, Lamp informed her she would be moving out of her classroom that coming Saturday.
20. Wiebersick took a video of Lamp's classroom following that conversation.
21. Wiebersick testified that she took the video because she was worried something was going to happen because of the way things had been going between Lamp and herself.
22. Brookings School District did not have an inventory or checkout procedure at this time. Lamp indicated that there was an inventory process the first three years she worked at Dakota Prairie Elementary, but not since 2018.
23. Lamp testified that historically teachers would put items they no longer wanted in the teacher's lounge and other teachers would take them if they wanted. She further testified that if they no longer wanted furniture, they would put that in the hallway for others to take.
24. Lamp testified before the Commission that with everything happening in her personal life, she wanted to move out of the classroom quickly. Therefore, she began moving out of her classroom on May 22, 2024.
25. Lamp testified that some teaching assistants had started packing her room prior to this date. One of them was a relative of hers and the other a friend that also works in the district.
26. Lamp testified that there was a list of items on her door when she went to pack up her classroom, she broached Wiebersick with this information because it included items that were personally hers, for example bookshelves her dad had made.
27. On May 24, 2024, Lamp's father was placed on comfort care, and she went to spend time with him.
28. On May 25, 2024, Lamp with the assistance of at least ten other individuals, Lamp cleared out the remainder of her classroom.
29. Lamp testified that she ensured to include only items that belonged to her in the items she packed, but she was not the only one packing items.
30. Lamp shifted the blame of the missing items to these individuals testifying that she was not overseeing or directing them on what exactly to put in boxes.

31. Lamp testified that all boxes from the classroom were taken to her parents' house and stored in a bedroom there.
32. Wiebersick returned to the classroom after Lamp moved out and noticed that everything was gone. She testified that all the cabinets were empty, furniture that normally stays in a classroom was gone, and curriculum that would normally stay in the classroom was gone.
33. As a result of this walkthrough, Wiebersick began documenting the main items that she knew the school district would need to get for the incoming teacher and what typically is left in the classroom at the end of a school year.
34. The Brookings School District provides each grade level with a credit card and a budget for spending. The teachers then utilize this credit card to make purchases for their classrooms.
35. Items purchased with the grade level credit card are district property, and the District kept track of what was purchased.
36. Wiebersick went back into the District's program and determined what Lamp purchased with the credit card throughout her years with the district.
37. Wiebersick cross-referenced the items purchased by Lamp on the credit card to determine if those items were still in the classroom. She attempted not to include consumable items that would be used in a year, such as staples and erasers, on this list.
38. Items purchased on the credit card by Lamp that were missing from her classroom included, but were not limited to, a baby gate, bookbags, decodable readers, a binding machine, a hanging file holder, wireless remote, handheld vacuum, label maker, kids lab trays, reusable doodle pads, a rocking chair, magnetic curtain rod, wobble cushions, flexible seating, and a baseball area rug.
39. Items provided by the District that were missing from the classroom also included a curriculum that the school uses to teach literacy.
40. Wiebersick totaled the missing items that were not returned to the District at just under \$1,600.
41. Lamp was also involved with the PTA at Dakota Prairie, specifically, she was in charge of the book fair.
42. Items Lamp purchased with PTA funds were removed from her classroom and not returned.
43. Schultz testified before the Commission that she called Lamp on June 10, 2024.

44. Schultz testified that the phone call was a split decision, that she knew Lamp's father passed away and she wanted to offer her condolences. In addition, she knew items had been removed, albeit not to the extent, but she simply wanted to request that items be returned.
45. Lamp told Schultz during this phone call that she did not know she had taken District items.
46. Schultz testified that several high level, expensive items were taken and not returned.
47. Lamp acknowledged that there is a possibility some District items were accidentally packed. She testified that she could not remember what items were purchased when and with what. However, she then went on to testify about several items that were missing and the history of those items in detail.
48. Lamp testified that after the phone call from Schultz, her and two other people went to her parents' house, and they spent the next day going through and sorting things.
49. While Schultz was at a convention, items were returned to the District office by Lamp's SDEA Representative. While some items were returned, like a paper shredder, several remained missing like privacy shields and a thirty-inch-tall construction paper holder.
50. As a result of Lamp's action, the District needed to change purchasing policies requiring teachers to provide more details and get additional approvals.
51. Wiebersick worked with the School Resource Officer to itemize all the items that were missing.
52. The School Resource Officer made a formal complaint, and criminal charges were filed.
53. Lamp testified that she was never provided with a list of the missing items, however she later testified that in her interview with the School Resource Officer he provided her with the list of the missing items and they went through it together.
54. Lamp was arrested.
55. Lamp was charged with felony grand theft, but the criminal case was ultimately dismissed because of trial rules in May of 2024.
56. The evidence presented to the Commission and all reasonable inferences therefrom demonstrate that Lamp violated ARSD 24:08:03:02(8).
57. The evidence presented to the Commission and all reasonable inferences therefrom demonstrate that Lamp did not violate ARSD 24:08:03:02 (7)

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Commission hereby makes the following Conclusions of Law:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

58. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL §§ 13-43-28, 13-43-28.1, SDCL CH. 1-26, and the Administrative Rules of South Dakota, Chapters 24:08:03 and 24:08:04:01.
59. The burden of proof in this matter as a contested case hearing is clear and convincing. *In Re: Setliff*, 2002 SD 58, 245 N.W.2d 601, 605.
60. The South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers provides at ARSD 24:08:03:02, that in fulfilling their obligation to the public, educators shall act as follows:
- (7) Engage in no act that results in a criminal conviction.
61. Clear and convincing evidence does not exist that Lamp violated ARSD 24:08:03:02(7).
62. The South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers provides at ARSD 24:08:03:02, that in fulfilling their obligation to the public, educators shall act as follows:
- (8) Exemplify high moral standards by not engaging in or becoming a party to such activities as fraud, embezzlement, theft, deceit, moral turpitude, gross immorality, sexual contact with students, illegal drugs, or use of misleading or false statements.
63. Clear and convincing evidence exists that Lamp violated ARSD 24:08:03:02(8).
64. Any conclusion of law improperly denoted as a finding of fact is hereby incorporated as a conclusion of law.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Commission hereby issues the following Order:

ORDER

ORDERED that this matter be referred to the Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Education for proceedings to suspend the teaching certificate of Kali Lamp for a period of three (3) years as provided for in SDCL § 13-43-28.1. It is further

ORDERED that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order be provided to the Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Education for placement on the National Association of the State of Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) clearinghouse and that it remains with the Department's permanent certification file. It is further

ORDERED that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order be sent to the parties herein. It is further

ORDERED that the Department may release the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law,
and Order to the certificate of office of any state in which Lamp holds or applies for a certificate.

Dated this 11th day of November, 2025.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS PRACTICES
AND STANDARDS COMMISSION

By: Joy Robbins
Joy Robbins, Chair