

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

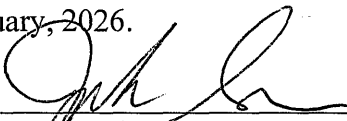
In re: Certification of)
GRANT LOLLEY) DSE 2026-02
) ORDER SUSPENDING
) EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE

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 Lolley violated the following provision of the South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers—ARSD 24:08:03:02(8) and ARSD 24:08:03:03(9).
3. Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the teaching certificate of Grant Lolley, Certificate #77909, issued on August 11, 2020, 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 Lolley'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 26th day of January, 2026.



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

KATHRYN BLAHA, Director,
Accreditation and Certification,
S.D. Dept. of Education,

Complainant,

vs.

GRANT LOLLEY,

Respondent.

PTPSC 2025-02

FINDINGS OF FACT,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW,
AND ORDER

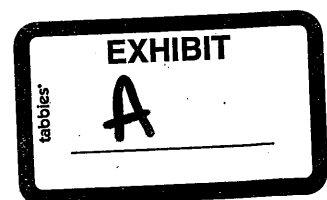
This matter came on for hearing pursuant to the provisions of SDCL 13-43-28 before the South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission. A private hearing was held on June 30, 2025, in the Library Commons, MacKay Building, 800 Governors Drive, Pierre, South Dakota.

The following members of the South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission ("Commission") were present at the hearing: Chairperson, Joy Robbins, Nichole Bowman, Caitlyn Graf, and Christine Saltsman were present. Kendra Mulder-Mews counsel for the Commission and Hailey Spaid, Executive Secretary for the Commission, were also present. The Complainant, Kathryn Blaha, was personally present with her counsel of record, Amanda LaCroix and Brayden Beaner. The Respondent, Grant Lolley was personally present, appearing *pro se*.

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, Grant Lolley ("Lolley"), is the holder of a valid South Dakota Teacher's Certificate number 77909. He was issued this certificate on August 11, 2020, and it expired on July 1, 2025.
2. On or about March 11, 2025, Kathryn Blaha, Director of Accreditation and Certification for the Department of Education filed a complaint against Lolley.
3. The Complaint alleged that Lolley 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 (8) exemplify high moral standards by not engaging in or becoming a party to such activities as fraud, embezzlement, deceit, moral turpitude, gross immorality, illegal drugs or use of misleading or false statements.
4. The Complaint also alleged that Lolley violated the Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers which provides that in fulfilling their obligation to the Profession, educators shall act as follows:
 - a. ARSD 24:08:03:03(9) not knowingly misrepresent their professional qualifications.
5. The Complaint was properly served upon Lolley on March 11, 2025
6. Lolley failed to respond to the Complaint.
7. A due and proper Notice of Hearing was served upon the parties setting this hearing for June 30, 2025.
8. A private hearing was held on June 30, 2025.
9. Lolley filed a Renewal Application for a teaching certificate from the South Dakota Department of Education ("Department") which was activated on May 13, 2020.
10. As part of the renewal application, Lolley completed the Applicant Conduct Review Statement and answered "no" to Question 5, which asks:
 - a. "Have you ever had any credential, certificate or license authorizing school teaching or educational service suspended, revoked, voided, cancelled, denied, rescinded, rejected for cause and/or otherwise taken away in South Dakota or in any other state, commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States or elsewhere?"
11. As part the of the renewal application, Lolley completed the Applicant Conduct Review Statement and answered "no" to Question 9, which asks:
 - a. "Is there any information not disclosed by your answers concerning your background, history, experience, education or activities which may have some bearing on your character, moral fitness or eligibility to teach or hold an administrative position in South Dakota and which should be placed at the disposal or brought to the attention of the South Dakota Department of Education?"
12. An investigation into Lolley's application revealed a National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) record of a certificate suspension from the State of Iowa.

13. Lolley also failed to disclose that his coaching license was suspended indefinitely by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners on May 20, 2015, due to the Iowa Department of Revenue issuing a certificate of noncompliance.
14. The Department conducted a phone interview with Lolley on June 26, 2020. He informed the Department that he was aware of the suspension from Iowa due to unpaid state income tax. He admitted he had not been actively working to resolve this matter over the past four years and further admitted that it had not been resolved.
15. On July 14, 2020, Lolley agreed that his failure to disclose his suspension by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners and his failure to address those matters in Iowa were a violation of the South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics.
16. Lolley and the Department of Education entered into a Settlement Agreement.
17. The Department of Education considered Lolley's South Dakota Educator Certificate conditional as it was issued pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.
18. Lolley completed an application for employment with the Douglas School District on June 6, 2022.
19. Lolley was hired as the social science teacher for the Douglas School District for the 2022-2023 school year.
20. In October of 2024, the Douglas School District contacted the Department because they had only recently become aware of his disciplinary history.
21. Lolley failed to disclose his disciplinary matters from South Dakota and Iowa to the Douglas School District despite the application for employment specifically asking about license revocation and suspensions.
22. On the application for employment, Lolley also listed that he is endorsed in geography despite not having that accreditation.
23. The Department made contact with Lolley's former employer, Bison School District.
24. Lolley did not disclose his suspension in Iowa nor his Settlement Agreement with the Department to the Bison School District.
25. Lolley admitted at the hearing before the Commission that he had not followed the letter of the Settlement Agreement but felt that he met the intent and purposes, and the activities that were put forth in the agreement.
26. Lolley admitted at the hearing that he did not supply an annual report to the Department despite that being a requirement of the Settlement Agreement.

27. Lolley has exhibited a pattern of behavior wherein he routinely fails to disclose his past disciplinary actions.
28. Lolley was not endorsed to teach geography and falsified his application.
29. The evidence presented to the Commission and all reasonable inferences therefrom demonstrate that Lolley violated ARSD 24:08:03:02 (8).
30. The evidence presented to the Commission and all reasonable inferences therefrom demonstrate that Lolley violated ARSD 24:08:03:03(9).
31. Any findings of fact improperly denoted as a conclusion of law is hereby incorporated as a finding of fact.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

32. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL §§ 13-43-28, 13-43-28.1, SDCL Ch. 1-16, and the Administrative Rules of South Dakota, Chapters 24:08:03 and 24:08:04:01.
33. 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.
34. 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, deceit, moral turpitude, gross immorality, illegal drugs or use of misleading or false statements.
35. Clear and convincing evidence exists that Lolley violated ARSD 24:08:03:02(8).
36. The South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers provides at ARSD 24:08:03:03, that in fulfilling their obligation to the professional, educators shall act as follows:
 - (9) not knowingly misrepresent their professional qualifications.
37. Clear and convincing evidence exists that Lolley violated ARSD 24:08:03:03(9).
38. Any conclusions 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 Grant Lolley 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 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 office of any state in which Lolley holds or applies for a certificate.

Dated this 21st day of January, 2026.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS PRACTICES
AND STANDARDS COMMISSION

BY: _____

Joy Robbins, Chair