

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

In re: Certification of)
ZACHARY KADERABEK) DSE 2026-04
) ORDER REVOKING
) 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 revocation 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:

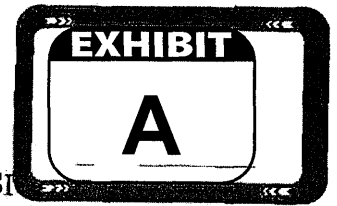
1. The Secretary affirms and adopts the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission ("Commission"). These Findings and Conclusions, attached as Exhibit A, are hereby incorporated into this Order by this reference as if set forth in full.
2. The Commission found clear and convincing evidence Kaderabek violated the following provision of the South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers—ARSD 24:08:03:01(10) and ARSD 24:08:03:02(7) and (8).
3. Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the teaching certificate of Zachary Kaderabek, Certificate #83223, issued on January 24, 2020, is hereby **permanently revoked**.
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 Kaderabek'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 19th day of February, 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

KRAIG STEINHOFF, Superintendent,
Huron School District,

Complainant,

vs.

ZACHARY KADERABEK,

Respondent.

PTPSC 2025-09

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 public hearing was held remotely via zoom on December 10, 2025, with a listening site at 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 Nichole Bowman, Kaye Wickard, Alesha Limbo, Christine Saltsman, and Caitlyn Graf. Savanna Cruz and Kendra Mulder-Mews, counsel for the Commission, and Hailey Spaid, Executive Secretary of the Commission, were also present. The Complainant, Kraig Steinhoff, appeared remotely via zoom with his counsel of record, Rodney Freeman. The Respondent, Zachary Kaderabek, failed to appear for the hearing despite proper notice.

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, Zachary Kaderabek ("Kaderabek"), is the holder of a South Dakota Teacher's Certificate Number 83223. He was issued this certificate on January 24, 2020, and it was set to expire on July 1, 2025.
2. On or about August 21, 2025 Kraig Steinhoff, Superintendent, of Huron School District ("Complainant"), filed a complaint against Kaderabek.
3. The Complaint alleged that Kaderabek violated the following section(s) of the Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers:
 - a. ARSD 24:08:03:01(10) which provides that in fulfilling their obligation to students, educators shall act as follows: not engage in or be a party to any sexual

activity with students including sexual intercourse, sexual contact, sexual photography, or illicit sexual communication;

- b. ARSD 24:08:03:02(7) which provides that in fulfilling their obligations to the public, educators shall act as follows: engage in no act that results in a conviction; and
 - c. ARSD 24:08:03:02(8) which provides that in fulfilling their obligations to the public educators shall act as follows: 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. On or about September 18, 2025, Kaderabek filed a Response with the commission.
5. In his response Kaderabek states:

“With great shame, regret, and disappointment in myself I take responsibility for my mistakes and actions that led me to harm Educators, Students, and communities around the state of South Dakota and the United States of America. I should never of been in a classroom until I had a stable mind and mental state. My unstubleness led me to make mistakes I thought I’d never do. While I agree my teaching certificate should be revoked, I do want to clear up false facts in the report. I was never charged with a total of 8 counts like Exhibit A, only 4 counts and I was convicted and serving on only 2 counts. Yes, I made mistakes, I am learning from and seeking the help needed and should of years ago. I am not a bad person, but do understand my certificate must go and never come back. I ask for a quick process and limited media as I have received threats during my sentence and my current placement isn’t the best.”
6. A due and proper Notice of Hearing was served on the parties setting a hearing for December 10, 2025.
7. A public hearing on this matter was held on December 10, 2025.
8. Kaderabek failed to appear for the Hearing, and as a result of his absence, the December 10, 2025, hearing was a default hearing.
9. Kaderabek was employed as a 6th grade ESL teacher for the Huron School District.
10. On or around November 18, 2024, Complainant received a call from the middle school principal informing him of a potential Title IX violation from Kaderabek. Complainant immediately went to the middle school principal’s office.
11. Upon arriving at the middle school principal's office, Complainant was informed of allegations that Kaderabek had been having inappropriate social media communications with minors.

12. Complainant immediately contacted Kaderabek and advised that he would be placed on paid administrative leave throughout the pendency of the investigation of his conduct.
13. The Huron Police Department requested that Complainant not initiate a Title IX investigation, as they were conducting a criminal investigation on Kaderabek.
14. Complainant advised that one of the victims appeared to be a male student that created an account and "catfished" Kaderabek by posing as a 14-year-old girl. Kaderabek sent nude photographs and other sexual comments to this student.
15. On or around November 20, 2024, Complainant met with Kaderabek and informed him that Complainant would recommend termination if the allegations ended up being true. Kaderabek advised Complainant that he wanted to keep his employment and remain on paid administrative leave.
16. On December 9, 2024, Kaderabek was charged by indictment of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor and Solicitation of a Minor.
17. Following Kaderabek's indictment, Complainant sent Kaderabek a letter advising that he would be recommending that his leave be changed from paid to unpaid leave.
18. On or around January 22, 2025, Kaderabek wrote a resignation letter, formally resigning his position effective January 24, 2025. His resignation was approved by the Board of Education on January 27, 2025.
19. Kaderabek was convicted and sentenced to four years in the penitentiary where he is currently serving time.
20. Kaderabek failed to exemplify high moral standards by engaging in acts of moral turpitude and gross immorality; he engaged in acts that resulted in a conviction; and he engaged in sexual photography and illicit sexual communication with students.
21. The evidence presented to the Commission and all reasonable inferences therefrom demonstrate that Kaderabek violated ARSD 24:08:03:01(10), ARSD 24:08:03:02(7), and ARSD 24:08:03:02(8).
22. 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 issues the following Conclusions of Law:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. The South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers provides through ARSD 24:08:03:01 that in fulfilling their obligation to the public, educators shall act as follows:

- (10) Not engage in or be a party to any sexual activity with students including sexual intercourse, sexual contact, sexual photography, or illicit sexual communication.

26. Clear and convincing evidence exists that Kaderabek violated ARSD 24:08:03:01(10).

27. The South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers provides through 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 conviction; and
- (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.

28. Clear and convincing evidence exists that Kaderabek violated ARSD 24:08:03:02(7), and 24:08:03:02(8).

29. 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 permanently revoke the teaching certificate of Zachary Kaderabek as provided for in SDCL § 13-43-28.1. It is further

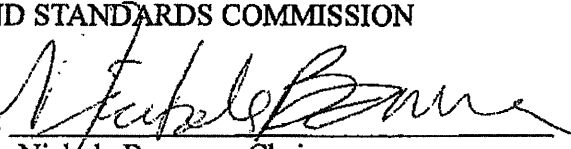
ORDERED that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order be provided to the Secretary of South Dakota Department of Education for placement on the National Association of the State of Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) clearinghouse and that it remains with the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

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

Dated this 11th day of February, 2026.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS PRACTICES
AND STANDARDS COMMISSION

By: 

Nichole Bowman, Chair