

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

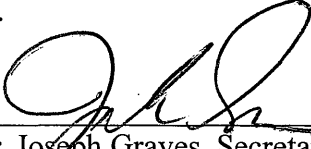
In re: Certification Application of	)	DSE 2026-05
TAWNY DAVIS	)	ORDER DENYING
	)	EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE

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 Tawny Davis for an educator certificate is DENIED.
3. Tawny Davis is prohibited from reapplication for an educator certificate in the State of South Dakota for a period of three (3) years or upon completion of an educator preparation program.
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 14th of May, 2026.



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

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
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In re: Certification Application of)
TAWNY DAVIS) DSE 2026-05
) FINDINGS OF FACT AND
) CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Tawny Davis filed an application for an Alternative Preliminary Application which was activated on January 21, 2026. 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 April 2, 2026, the South Dakota Department of Education Office of Educator Certification (hereinafter “Department”) served a Notice of Intent to Deny Educator Certificate on Tawny Davis (hereinafter “Davis”) via certified mail, first-class mail, and email.
2. The Notice of Intent informed Davis that if she 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 Davis within the 30-day period.
4. Davis answered “Yes” to both Questions 1 and 2 of the Applicant Conduct Review portion of her application and provided the response “2022 DUI”.
5. Davis answered “No” to all other Conduct Review questions.
6. Davis did not provide court documents as required by the application.
7. Davis did not disclose the following criminal history from North Dakota:
 - a. Simple Assault conviction in 2011
 - b. Possession/Consumption of Alcohol by Person Under 21 conviction in 2011
 - c. Driving while License Privilege is Suspended and Driving without Liability Insurance

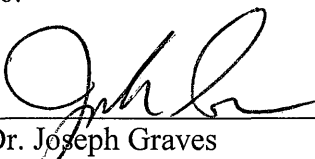
convictions in 2012

- d. Drove or In Actual Physical Control of Motor Vehicle conviction in 2016
- e. Issuing Check or Draft Without Sufficient Funds or Credit charge in 2017
- f. Driving Under Suspension/ Revocation charge in 2018

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 8. Grounds for the denial or non-renewal of an educator certificate are provided in SDCL § 13-42.
- 9. The Secretary of the Department of Education has the power and authority to refuse to issue or renew a certificate. SDCL § 13-42-9.
- 10. Davis' criminal convictions, disregard of the law, and failure to disclose constitute acts of moral turpitude to support the Department's intent to deny in violation of SDCL § 13-42-9.
- 11. Any Conclusion of Law more properly designated as a Finding of Fact is hereby so designated.
- 12. Davis' application should be denied pursuant to SDCL § 13-42-9.
- 13. Davis should be prohibited from reapplication for an educator certificate in the State of South Dakota for a period of three (3) years or upon completion of an educator preparation program.

Dated this the 14th of May, 2026.



Dr. Joseph Graves
Secretary, South Dakota Department of Education