

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF HUGHES ) SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT. OF EDUCATION

---

In re: Certification Application of )  
JAMIE KELLER ) DSE 2024-09  
 ) 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 Jamie Keller for an educator certificate is DENIED.
3. Jamie Keller is prohibited from reapplication for an educator certificate in the State of South Dakota for a period of two years and upon proof that he is a law-abiding citizen.
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 4<sup>th</sup> of December, 2024.

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

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

---

**In re: Certification Application of** ) **DSE 2024-09**  
**JAMIE KELLER** ) **FINDINGS OF FACT AND**  
 ) **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

---

Jamie Keller filed an application for an Initial Educator- Alternative Preliminary Application which was activated on June 27, 2024. After a review of the entire file, the Secretary enters the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

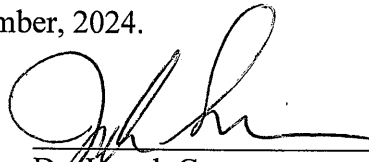
**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On or about August 26, 2024, the South Dakota Department of Education Office of Educator Certification (hereinafter “Department”) served a Notice of Intent to Deny Educator Certificate on Jamie Keller (hereinafter “Keller”) via first-class mail and email.
2. Keller requested a hearing on or about September 11, 2024.
3. The Secretary of the Department of Education appointed Robert B. Anderson to serve as an independent hearing examiner in this matter.
4. A hearing was properly noticed for November 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. (CST) at the MacKay building, in Pierre, South Dakota.
5. Keller failed to appear and was contacted by Hearing Examiner Anderson by phone. Keller confirmed that he was abandoning his appeal and forfeiting his right to appeal or further object to the denial of the certificate.
6. Keller was informed that the allegations of the Notice would be accepted as true.
7. Keller failed to disclose his complete criminal history and failed to provide court documents.
8. Keller has a lengthy criminal history including three driving while under the influence convictions, and at minimum, four other misdemeanor convictions.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

9. Grounds for the denial or non-renewal of an educator certificate are provided in SDCL § 13-42.
10. The Secretary of the Department of Education has the power and authority to refuse to issue or renew a certificate. SDCL § 13-42-9.
11. Keller's criminal history and failure to disclose constitute acts of moral turpitude and disregard of the law support the Department's intent to deny in violation of SDCL § 13-42-9.
12. Any Conclusion of Law more properly designated as a Finding of Fact is hereby so designated.
13. Keller's application should be denied pursuant to SDCL § 13-42-9.
14. Keller should be prohibited from reapplication for an educator certificate in the State of South Dakota for a period of two year and upon proof that he is a law-abiding citizen.

Dated this the 2nd of December, 2024.



Dr. Joseph Graves  
Secretary, South Dakota Department of Education