

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

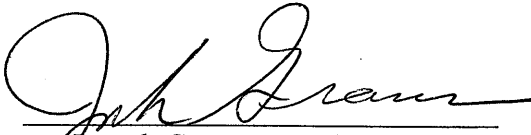
In re: Certification Application of)
JOEL JOHNSON) DSE 2024-21
) ORDER DENYING
) EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE

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 Joel Johnson for an educator certificate is DENIED.
3. Joel Johnson is permanently prohibited from reapplication for an educator certificate in the State of South Dakota.
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 20th of March, 2025.



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

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In re: Certification Application of)	DSE 2024-21
JOEL JOHNSON)	FINDINGS OF FACT AND
)	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Joel Johnson filed an application for an Initial Educator- Alternative Preliminary Application which was activated on November 10, 2024. After a review of the entire file, the Secretary enters the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

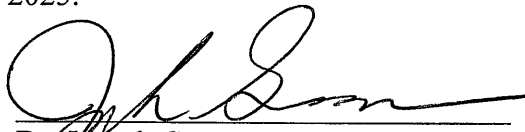
1. On or about January 10, 2025, the South Dakota Department of Education Office of Educator Certification (hereinafter "Department") served a Notice of Intent to Deny Educator Certificate on Joel Johnson (hereinafter "Johnson") via USPS first-class mail, certified mail, and email.
2. The certified mail was returned as unclaimed. The first-class mail was not returned to the Department. A second email was sent to Johnson.
3. The Notice of Intent informed Johnson that if he 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.
4. The Department received no request for hearing from Johnson within the 30-day period.
5. Johnson disclosed several charges and convictions on his application. However, he failed to disclose his complete criminal history and failed to provide court documents. Johnson's criminal history appear to involve drug or alcohol substance abuse.
6. Johnson has not completed an educator preparation program. Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in human services.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

7. Grounds for the denial or non-renewal of an educator certificate are provided in SDCL § 13-42.

8. The Secretary of the Department of Education has the power and authority to refuse to issue or renew a certificate. SDCL § 13-42-9.
9. Johnson's patterned 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.
10. Any Conclusion of Law more properly designated as a Finding of Fact is hereby so designated.
11. Johnson's application should be denied pursuant to SDCL § 13-42-9.
12. Johnson should be permanently prohibited from reapplication for an educator certificate in the State of South Dakota.

Dated this the 20th of March, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Graves", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Joseph Graves
Secretary, South Dakota Department of Education