

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**November 12, 2015**

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER  
RE: KERRI EUGENIA WILLIAMS; LICENSE WAIVER REQUEST

At its meeting on November 12, 2015, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) heard Kerri Eugenia Williams' request for a waiver of a disqualifying offense for teacher licensing under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. Based upon the testimony and evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

1. Findings of Fact:
  - a. Kerri Eugenia Williams (Educator Williams) holds an Arkansas standard teaching license issued on January 1, 2014, and valid through December 31, 2018. On December 19, 2014, Educator Williams applied to add a licensure content area by reciprocity to her standard teaching license.
  - b. On August 20, 2014, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission revoked Educator Williams' teaching license based on a criminal conviction, as reported in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Clearinghouse. On October 8, 2015, Georgia also denied Educator Williams' request to waive the three-year waiting period for reinstatement.
  - c. The Department informed Educator Williams by certified mail that the Department would seek revocation of her Arkansas license for failing to establish or maintain the necessary requirements and standards set forth in Arkansas law or State Board rules and regulations for teacher licensure under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. Educator

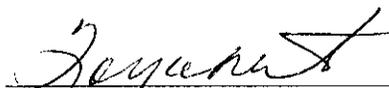
Williams was also informed of her right to a hearing before the State Board to request a waiver.

- d. Educator Williams requested a waiver and was present at the hearing.
- e. Based on evidence presented to the Department by Educator Williams, the Department recommended that the Board grant a waiver to Educator Williams, and place Educator Williams' license on probation until Educator Williams provides evidence satisfactory to the Department that the Georgia Professional Standards Commission has reinstated her Georgia license.
- f. In addition to the Department's recommendation, the Board considered:
  - i. The educator's age at the time of the offense;
  - ii. The circumstances surrounding the offense;
  - iii. The length of time since the offense;
  - iv. The educator's subsequent work history;
  - v. The educator's employment and character references; and
  - vi. Other evidence demonstrating that the applicant does not pose a threat to the health or safety of school children or school personnel.
- g. A motion was made to grant Educator Williams' request for a waiver and allow the Department to issue an appropriate license if all other eligibility requirements have been established. Any license issued will be placed on probation until Educator Williams provides evidence satisfactory to the Department that the Georgia Professional Standards Commission has reinstated her Georgia license.
- h. The Board's vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

2. Conclusions of Law:

- a. The State Board of Education may consider certain enumerated offenses as a disqualification for licensing. See Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-410(c), 6-17-410(d)(A)(5) and 6-17-411. This includes offenses which have been expunged, sealed, and pardoned by the governor.
- b. Upon consideration of the evidence presented at the meeting and pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-17-410 and 25-15-201 et seq., the Arkansas State Board of Education waives Kerri Eugenia Williams' disqualifying offense for the purposes of licensing. If Educator Williams otherwise meets all other requirements for licensing, the Department may issue her a license. Any license issued will be placed on probation until Educator Williams provides evidence satisfactory to the Department that the Georgia Professional Standards Commission has reinstated her Georgia license.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Toyce Newton, Chair  
State Board of Education