

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 14, 2016**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
IN RE STEVEN R. INGLE; PLSB CASE NO. 16-042**

At its regular meeting on April 14, 2016, the Arkansas State Board of Education (“Board”) accepted the recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee (“Ethics Subcommittee”) for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Steven R. Ingle (“Educator Ingle”). Based upon Educator Ingle’s failure to respond to the Ethics Subcommittee’s recommendation and the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-101 et seq., the Board finds that the Educator Ingle’s license should be permanently revoked. The Board hereby states as follows:

I. Findings of Fact:

- a. The Arkansas Department of Education issued Educator Ingle a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2012, valid until December 31, 2016.
- b. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee (“Ethics Subcommittee”) received an allegation that Educator Ingle violated the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators (“Code of Ethics”) promulgated pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-422 and 6-17-428.
- c. On November 4, 2015, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into the allegations that Educator Ingle violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.
- d. On November 6, 2015, Educator Ingle was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee’s authorization to investigate the allegation.

e. On January 8, 2016, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found reasonable belief that Educator Ingle violated Standard 1 when he:

- Inappropriately communicated with a student via text messages about drugs; and
- Inappropriately communicated with a student in a sexually explicit text message.

The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board permanently revoke Educator Ingle's license. Additionally, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that Educator Ingle committed Standard 1 sexual abuse of a student as defined by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-428(p).

- f. On January 12, 2016, Educator Ingle was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.
- g. Educator Ingle did not respond within the required thirty (30) day period, thereby waiving his right to any notice, hearing, and any other rights he might be entitled to under the Administrative Procedure Act including those set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 212.

II. Conclusion of Law:

- a. The Administrative Procedure Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-208 (b), provides for the resolution of this matter by consent order.
- b. The Board voted unanimously to permanently revoke Educator Ingle's license. The Board unanimously found that Educator Ingle committed Standard 1 sexual abuse of a student as defined by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-428(p).

- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Ingle's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Toyce Newton, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education