

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MARCH 10, 2016**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
IN RE KATHERINE NICOLE ESKRIDGE; PLSB CASE NO. 16-002**

At its regular meeting on March 10, 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 Katherine Nicole Eskridge (“Educator Eskridge”). Based upon Educator Eskridge’s consent 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 Eskridge’s license should be permanently revoked. The Board hereby states as follows:

I. Findings of Fact:

- a. The Arkansas Department of Education issued Educator Eskridge a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2014, valid until December 31, 2018.
- b. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee (“Ethics Subcommittee”) received an allegation that Educator Eskridge 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 September 4, 2015, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into the allegations that Educator Eskridge violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.
- d. On September 14, 2015, Educator Eskridge 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 Eskridge violated Standard 1 sexual abuse of a student when she:
- Had a sexual or otherwise inappropriate relationship with a student.
- f. On January 22, 2016, Educator Eskridge, through her attorney, accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation of permanent revocation of her license.
- g. Educator Eskridge has waived her right to any notice, hearing, and any other rights she 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 Eskridge's license.
- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Eskridge'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

RECEIVED 2/1/16

By: [Signature]

I, Katherine Nicole Eskridge, **ACCEPT** the recommendation for PLSB Case No. 16-002.

(Sign) Katherine Eskridge Date 1/22/16

I, Katherine Nicole Eskridge, **REJECT** the recommendation and request an evidentiary hearing:

(Sign) _____ Date _____

* I also sent an email through my lawyer ~~xxxxxxxx~~ in January with an electronic signature

* My forwarding address is: 5760 Schio Ave. Springdale, AR 72762