

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

Matthew Paul Fisher,

Respondent

Case No. 22335

STIPULATION

BACKGROUND

The Professional Standards Commission received an allegation of unethical conduct concerning Matthew Paul Fisher. Following an investigation, the Executive Committee of the Professional Standards Commission reviewed the information before it and determined that probable cause exists for initiating an administrative action against Matthew Paul Fisher's certificate. The Executive Committee has recommended the following Stipulation.

STIPULATION

1. This is an agreement (Stipulation) between Matthew Paul Fisher (Mr. Fisher) and the Executive Committee of the Professional Standards Commission (the Commission).
2. If Mr. Fisher wishes to agree to this Stipulation, he must sign and return this stipulation and any attachments to the Commission by 5:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) on August 30, 2024, unless he has been granted an extension.
3. After Mr. Fisher and the Executive Committee agree to and sign this Stipulation, the Stipulation must be approved by the Commission, and the Commission must enter the attached consent order before this Stipulation resolves the matter.
4. A signed copy of this Stipulation may be submitted via mail or fax to:

Professional Standards Commission

650 W. State St. 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 83720

Boise, ID 83720-0027
Fax: (208) 334-2228 (Attn: Professional Standards Commission)

A. STIPULATED FACTS AND LAW

5. The Commission regulates educator certification in Idaho.
6. Mr. Fisher holds the following certificate and endorsement issued under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Education:
 - a. Standard Instructional Certificate endorsed All Subjects (K-8), effective June 7, 2022, through August 31, 2025.
7. On information and belief, Mr. Fisher voluntarily entered into a settlement agreement and agreed to permanently surrender his teacher certificate in Iowa.
8. Upon information and belief, Mr. Fisher's Iowa license surrender was based upon allegations that he sent inappropriate emails to students that were personal in nature and exceeded the acceptable boundaries of teacher-student communications.
9. The Executive Committee determined that probable cause exists for initiating an administrative action against Mr. Fisher for violating the following laws and rules governing educator certification:
 - a. Mr. Fisher's conduct or course of conduct described in paragraphs 7-8 willfully violated a principle of the code of ethics that was adopted by the Idaho State Board of education. Idaho Code § 33-1208(1) ("Willful violation of any professional code or standard of ethics or conduct, adopted by the state board of education."). Specifically, Mr. Fisher violated Code of Ethics Principle II Idaho Admin Code r. 08.02.02.076.03 ("A professional educator maintains a professional relationship with all students both inside and outside the physical and virtual classroom.").

10. Mr. Fisher admits that he violated the laws and rules cited in paragraph 9 and acknowledges that there is sufficient evidence to support a finding of a violation of the laws and rules cited in paragraph 9.

B. STIPULATED DISCIPLINE

11. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, the following discipline will be imposed by the Commission on Mr. Fisher's certificate:

- a. That Mr. Fisher's certificate be revoked.
- b. Any costs associated with Mr. Fisher's compliance with the terms of this Stipulation are his responsibility.

12. During the pendency of this Stipulation Mr. Fisher will comply with all laws and rules governing educator certification in Idaho.

C. PRESENTATION OF THIS STIPULATION

13. Once Mr. Fisher signs this Stipulation and timely returns it to the Commission, and the Executive Committee signs this Stipulation, the Deputy Attorney General assigned to the Commission will present this Stipulation to the Commission at the Commission's next business meeting.

14. The Commission may accept, reject, or modify the Stipulation.

15. If the Commission modifies this Stipulation, it must receive Mr. Fisher's approval on any modification before the Stipulation is effective.

D. WAIVER OF RIGHTS

16. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, Mr. Fisher knowingly: intelligently, and voluntarily waives the following rights:

- a. the right to a hearing;

- b. the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses;
- c. the right to present evidence or to call witnesses, or to testify at a hearing;

17. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, the Commission may impose discipline upon Mr. Fisher's certificate without further process.

18. By signing this Stipulation, Mr. Fisher agrees to waive any requirement for a hearing under Idaho Code § 33-1209(3) to be conducted within 90 days of a request for a hearing. This waiver applies to any hearing request made before the Commission ultimately rejects this Stipulation (if it does) or before Mr. Fisher ultimately rejects a modified stipulation (if Mr. Fisher does). If the Commission ultimately rejects this Stipulation or if Mr. Fisher ultimately rejects a modified stipulation, and Mr. Fisher has requested a hearing, the 90-day hearing timeframe will begin from the ultimate rejection.

E. GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

19. This Stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties, and Mr. Fisher is not relying on any other agreement or representation, whether verbal or written.

20. This Stipulation, if approved by the Commission, or modified and approved, resolves a contested case. If approved, the Stipulation, consent order, and any attachment are public records. And if approved, the Commission may make available through its or the State Department of Education's website a copy of the Stipulation, consent order, and any attachment: and may report any discipline to the national clearinghouse for teacher certification.


21. Mr. Fisher agrees that he has read this Stipulation, has had the opportunity to discuss it with legal counsel, if he so chose, and understands that by signing below, he will be agreeing to the terms of this Stipulation.

SIGNATURES

Respondent

The Respondent, Matthew Paul Fisher, agrees to this Stipulation.

DATED this 22 day of AUGUST, 2024.



Matthew Paul Fisher
Respondent

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee recommends that the Commission enter an Order based upon this Stipulation.

DATED this 20th day of September, 2024.

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE


Angela Gillman, Member

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

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Respondent

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CONSENT ORDER

The Professional Standards Commission orders that the Stipulation, entered between Matthew Paul Fisher and the Executive Committee, is adopted as the informal disposition of this case, as permitted under Idaho Code § 67-5241. It will be effective on the 20th day of September, 2024. The discipline listed in the Stipulation is imposed on Matthew Paul Fisher's certificates under Idaho Code §§ 33-1208 and 33-1209. This is a final agency order, and Matthew Paul Fisher has waived the right of judicial review.

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION



Karen Pyron, Member

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 25th day of September, 2024, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:

Matthew Paul Fisher



- U.S. Mail
- Hand Delivery
- Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
- Overnight Mail
- Facsimile:
- Email:

*Attorney for the
Chief Certification Officer*
Kyle D. Grigsby
Deputy Attorney General
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0010

- U.S. Mail
- Hand Delivery
- Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
- Overnight Mail
- Facsimile: (208) 854-8073
- Email: kyle.grigsby@ag.idaho.gov
laura.kauffmann@ag.idaho.gov

Annette Schwab
Coordinator
Idaho Department of Education