

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

EDUCATOR DERRICK DEWAYNE COOK

MAY 14, 2026

PLSB CASE NO. 25-293

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on May 14, 2026, the Arkansas State Board of Education reviewed the findings of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Hearing Subcommittee (Hearing Subcommittee) for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Educator Derrick Cook ("Educator Cook"). Based upon the evidence presented to the Board, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

- a. On December 3, 2025, Educator Cook and his attorney appeared for his evidentiary hearing before the Hearing Subcommittee.
- b. After a review of the evidence, the Hearing Subcommittee found, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that Educator Cook violated Standards 1 and 2 of the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators, and recommended a Permanent Revocation of License.
- c. Educator Cook rejected the recommendation and asked the Board to review the case.
- d. On May 14, 2026, Educator Cook and his attorney appeared before the Board.
- e. The educator's attorney and the PLSB presented oral arguments to the Board.
- f. Upon consideration of the evidence presented at the meeting, Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-17-401, 6-17-422, 6-17-428 and 25-15-201 et seq., and the Arkansas

Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas

Educators, the Board made the following findings, conclusions and determinations by a preponderance of the evidence.

g. The Board found:

- The educator is a veteran educator with 34 years of experience and with experience as a principal.
- Video footage showed physical contact occurred between the educator and S1.
- Video footage showed the educator striking S1 with a yardstick multiple times.
- Video footage showed the educator throwing S1 to the ground by grabbing his hoodie.
- The educator acknowledged that his actions were wrong and expressed remorse.
- The educator initially had a DHS true finding, but that was overturned upon appeal.
- The educator reportedly maintained a positive relationship following the incident.
- Witnesses described S1 as having a history of behavioral challenges.
- S1 did not sustain injuries in the encounter.
- The incident happened in front of other students.
- The duration of the incident was approximately three minutes.

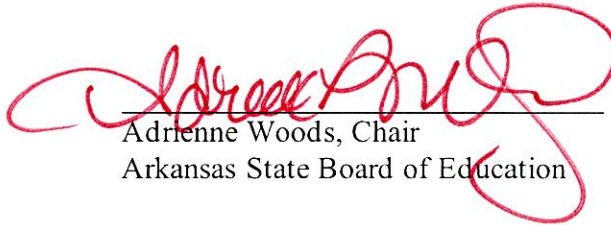
h. Educator Cook violated Standards 1 and 2.

i. The Board imposed the following sanction:

- Probation of License for 3 yrs.
- Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:
 - Completion of an anger management course (as evidenced by completion certificate).
 - IAB21012 Creating a Culture That Connects: (1.5 Credit Hours)
 - ERC23007: Code of Ethics Part Four: Professional Responsibilities (1 Credit Hour)

- ERC 23010: Code of Ethics Part Seven: An Educator's Influence (1 Credit Hour)
 - Create a written explanation of how you will apply each training to your professional practice. The response should include specifics related to your classroom or administrative duties as well as sufficient detail from the training to show mastery of the content. Use of AI in the response is not allowed and will result in rejection of the submission. Due to the PLSB for approval within 90 days of the PLSB Order;
 - Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- j. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Cook's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Adrienne Woods, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education