



State Board of Education

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Commissioner of Education

May 28, 2024

CERTIFIED MAIL

Ms. Jessica Norton


RE: Finding of Probable Cause
Case No.: 234-1338
DOE No.: 6003011889

Dear Ms. Norton:

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1012.795 and 1012.796, Florida Statutes, I find probable cause exists to justify sanctions against your Florida educator certificate. Penalties levied against you may include reprimand, fine, probation, restriction of the scope of practice, suspension not to exceed five years, revocation not to exceed ten years or the permanent revocation of your Educator Certificate.

An Administrative Complaint and Election of Rights (appeal) form are enclosed. Please complete and sign the enclosed Election of Rights form and return the fully executed form to the Office of Professional Practices Services, 325 West Gaines Street, 224E, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, contact the Office of Professional Practices Services at (850) 245-0438.

Please govern yourself accordingly.

Sincerely,


Manny Diaz, Jr.

ENCLOSURES

cc: Kaitlin Robinson

**STATE OF FLORIDA
EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION**

**MANNY DIAZ, JR., as
Commissioner of Education,**

Petitioner,

vs.

CASE NO. 234-1338

JESSICA NORTON,

Respondent.

_____ /

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

Petitioner, Manny Diaz, Jr., as Commissioner of Education, files this Administrative Complaint against JESSICA NORTON. The Petitioner seeks the appropriate disciplinary sanction of the Respondent's educator's certificate pursuant to sections 1012.315, 1012.795, and 1012.796, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to Rule 6A-10.081, Florida Administrative Code, Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida, said sanctions specifically set forth in sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes.

The Petitioner alleges:

JURISDICTION

1. The Respondent holds Florida Educator's Certificate 6003011889, covering the area of Athletic Coaching, which is valid through June 30, 2024.
2. At all times pertinent hereto, the Respondent was employed as an Athletic Coach at Monarch High School in the Broward County School District.

MATERIAL ALLEGATIONS

3. During the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 school years, Respondent facilitated the placement of her child, whose gender was identified at birth as male, on girls' high school sport teams including soccer and volleyball thereby resulting in a school violation of §1006.205 F.S. Respondent fraudulently completed required forms for enrollment in school and participation in school sports in that Respondent claimed on the forms that her child's gender as identified at birth, was female. Further, while Respondent's child was in the second grade at Winston Park Elementary School, Respondent inappropriately requested and pressured Mary Williams, an Information Management Technician (IMT) with Respondent's child's school, to change

Respondent's child's gender in the school data base without required documentation from male to female.

The Petitioner charges:

STATUTE VIOLATIONS

COUNT 1: The Respondent is in violation of section 1012.795(1)(j), Florida Statutes, in that Respondent has violated the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession prescribed by State Board of Education rules.

RULE VIOLATIONS


COUNT 2: The allegations of misconduct set forth herein are in violation of Rule 6A-10.081(2)(b)2, Florida Administrative Code, in that Respondent has intentionally distorted or misrepresented facts concerning an educational matter in direct or indirect public expression.

COUNT 3: The allegations of misconduct set forth herein are in violation of Rule 6A-10.081(2)(c)1, Florida Administrative Code, in that Respondent has failed to maintain honesty in all professional dealings.

(SIGNATURE ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

WHEREFORE, based on the reasons set forth herein and in accordance with the Explanation of Rights and Election of Rights forms attached to and made a part of this Administrative Complaint, Petitioner respectfully recommends that the Education Practices Commission impose an appropriate sanction against the Respondent's educator's certificate pursuant to the authority provided in sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes. The sanctions imposed by the Education Practices Commission may include, but are not limited to, any one or a combination of the following: issuing the Respondent a written reprimand; placing the Respondent on probation for any period of time; restricting the Respondent's authorized scope of practice; assessing the Respondent an administrative fine; directing the Respondent to enroll in the Recovery Network Program; suspending the Respondent's educator's certificate for a period of time not to exceed five years; revoking the Respondent's educator's certificate for a period of time up to 10 years or permanently; determining the Respondent to be ineligible for certification; or barring the Respondent from reapplying for an educator's certificate for a period of time up to 10 years or permanently.

EXECUTED on this 28th day of May, 2024.



MANNY DIAZ, JR., as
Commissioner of Education
State of Florida