

#239-14

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OF :  
THE TEACHING CERTIFICATE OF : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
ANGELA NORWARD, STATE- OPERATED :  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF : DECISION  
CAMDEN, CAMDEN COUNTY. :

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SYNOPSIS

In February 2014, the Commissioner of Education issued an Order to Show Cause, served upon respondent by the petitioner, requiring her to show cause why an order should not be entered suspending her teaching certificate for unprofessional conduct pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:26-10* for resigning her position on inadequate notice. The respondent failed to answer the order. Respondent was duly advised that, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.5(e)*, failure to respond would cause each allegation raised by the Board to be deemed admitted, and might result in summary decision by the Commissioner.

There being no response to the order to show cause, the Commissioner concluded that the allegations – which respondent has chosen not to deny – may be deemed admitted, and justify suspension of respondent’s certification. Accordingly, summary decision was granted to petitioner, and respondent’s certificate was suspended for a period of one year from the date of the filing of this decision – a copy of which has been forwarded to the State Board of Examiners for the purpose of effectuating this order.

This synopsis is not part of the Commissioner’s decision. It has been prepared for the convenience of the reader. It has been neither reviewed nor approved by the Commissioner.
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June 6, 2014

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OF :  
THE TEACHING CERTIFICATE OF : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
ANGELA NORWARD, STATE- OPERATED :  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF : DECISION  
CAMDEN, CAMDEN COUNTY. :

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For Petitioner, Brown & Connery

Respondent: No appearance by or on behalf of Angela Norward

This matter was opened before the Commissioner of Education on February 12, 2014, by way of an Order to Show Cause served by petitioner, State Operated School District of Camden, upon respondent, Angela Norward, requiring respondent to show cause why an order should not be entered suspending her teaching certificate, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:26-10*, for resigning without providing the amount of notice required by her contract with respondent, and for failing to provide the 60 days notice required by law. By notice dated February 14, 2014, the Bureau of Controversies and Disputes (the Bureau) acknowledged receipt of proof of service upon respondent of the order to show cause.

On March 13, 2014, the Bureau sent respondent a final notice – via regular and certified mail – directing respondent to file an answer within ten days. The final notice advised that, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.5(e)*, failure to respond would cause each allegation in petitioner’s papers to be deemed admitted, and might result in summary decision by the Commissioner. The notice sent by regular mail was not returned, and no answer to the order to show cause has been filed as of this date.

As stated above, the final notice to respondent clearly advised that if an answer was not filed within ten days of receipt of same, each allegation in the papers supporting the

order to show cause would be deemed to have been admitted and the Commissioner might decide the matter on a summary basis. The Commissioner now concludes that the allegations, which respondent has chosen not to deny, may be deemed admitted pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.5(e)*, and are sufficient to justify an order suspending respondent's teaching certificate.

Accordingly, summary decision is hereby granted to petitioner, and respondent's teaching certificates are suspended for a period of one year from the filing date of this decision, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:26-10*.<sup>1</sup> A copy of this decision shall be forwarded to the State Board of Examiners for implementation of the suspension.

ACTING COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: June 6, 2014

Date of Mailing: June 6, 2014

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<sup>1</sup> This decision may be appealed to the Superior Court, Appellate Division, pursuant to *P.L. 2008, c. 36 (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9.1)*.