

July 17, 1998

Mr. Matthew Salamandra
1052 Revere Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08629

RE: IN THE MATTER OF
THE APPLICATION FOR
LICENSURE OF
MATTHEW SALAMANDRA

Dear Mr. Salamandra:

At its meeting of June 18, 1998, the State Board of Examiners reviewed your application for a County Substitute License. Its review included the information you and the Office of Criminal History Review provided concerning your November, 1995 conviction on charges of obtaining and selling a controlled dangerous substance and possession of marijuana. The Board also was made aware that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq., on March 17, 1998 the Office of Criminal History Review disqualified you from employment in any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education as a result of your criminal history. The State Board of Examiners was informed that you did not file an appeal of that disqualification.

Upon careful consideration of your record, the State Board of Examiners voted to block issuance of a County Substitute License to you based on your disqualification. The issue before the State Board of Examiners in this matter was to determine whether your disqualification, which was predicated on drug offenses, represents just cause to block your application for licensure pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:11-3.6(a) 1.

In enacting the Criminal History Review statute, N.J.S.A. 6-7.1 et seq. in 1986, the Legislature sought to protect public school pupils from contact with individuals whom it deemed to be a danger to them. In 1989 the Legislature specifically amended the statute to include all

convictions concerning controlled dangerous substances as disqualifying offenses. See, N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1b. This amendment was a clear recognition on the part of the Legislature that individuals with such drug convictions should not be permitted to be in contact with school-aged children. The consistent and long-standing policy of this State is to eliminate the use of illegal drugs. See, In the Matter of the Tenure Hearing of David Earl Humphreys, 1978 S.L.D. 689. To that end, the State and the schools herein have engaged in extensive educational efforts to warn the citizenry of the perils of illicit drugs. See, In the Matter of the Certificate of Barbara Corwick, OAL Dkt. No. EDE 3562-87, State Board of Examiners decision (March 24, 1988). Those who violate this deep-rooted policy, whether by the use of drugs or their manufacture and distribution, endanger the public welfare. They cannot be entrusted with the responsibility of caring for school aged pupils.

Accordingly, the State Board of Examiners determined that your disqualification from service in the public schools of this State because of a conviction for a drug offense provided just cause to preclude your obtaining licensure. The State Board of Examiners thus ordered on June 18, 1998 that your application for a County Substitute license be blocked.

Appeal of this decision is made to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6:24.

Sincerely yours,

Ida B. Graham, Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing: July 17, 1998
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