1 2 3	BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF OREGON
4 5 6 7	In the Matter of the Educator) DEFAULT ORDER OF License of) SUSPENSION AND PROBATION MATTHEW CONLON)
8 9	On March 29, 2021 the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission)
10	issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Matthew Conlon (Conlon) in which the
11	Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty. The Notice was sent via U.S. First
12	Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7019 2970 0000 4903 9086 to the address on file
13	with the Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes
14	of proving a prima facie case. The Certified Mail receipt was returned to the Commission as
15	"Unclaimed." The first-class mail was not returned to the Commission and assumed
16	delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated March 29, 2021, and signed by
17	Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director, stated:
18	"IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 21-DAY
19	PERIOD, YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING SHALL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED
20	UNLESS YOUR FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR
21 22	REASONABLE CONTROL. IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING, WITHDRAW YOUR REQUEST FOR HEARING, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT A HEARING, OR
23	NOTIFY THE COMMISSION THAT YOU WILL NOT APPEAR AT HEARING, THE
24	COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE
25	THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER
26	DISCIPLINE."
27 28	Colon did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Colon to be in default
29	and enters the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and final order, based on the
30	files and records of the Commission concerning this matter.
31	mes and records of the commission concerning this matter.
32	FINDINGS OF FACT
33	FINDINGS OF FACT
	The Commission has licensed Conlan since Nevember 2, 2019. Conlan held a
34	1. The Commission has licensed Conlon since November 9, 2018. Conlon held a
35	Reciprocal Teaching License, with an endorsement in Elementary-Multiple Subjects
36	(PK-12), valid from November 9, 2018 through November 9, 2019. During all
37	relevant times, Conlon was employed by ESS Substitute Hiring Services and worked
38	in the Centennial School District (CSD) as a substitute teacher.

2. On April 9, 2019, the Commission received a report from the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) indicating Conlon had grabbed the hood of a sixth grade student, CG, at Patrick Lynch Elementary School on April 5, 2019. The student reported that Conlon grabbed the hood of his sweatshirt and "yanked" him back into class as he was attempting to leave the classroom. CG reported this action caused his sweatshirt to push up against his throat and "choked him a little bit." The incident was reported to the Portland Police Bureau, however no criminal charges were pursued.

3. Investigation determined that on April 5, 2019, Conlon grabbed student CG by the hood of his sweatshirt as he was attempting to leave your classroom. Additionally, it was concluded that Conlon had made several disparaging remarks to students. The investigation cited student witnesses as the reason the allegations were substantiated. ESS reportedly terminated Conlon's employment. TSPC confirmed that this matter had been referred to the Portland Police Bureau, however no criminal charges were pursued.

On November 18, 2020, a telephone interview was conducted with a TSPC investigator. During the call, Conlon admitted to inadvertently grabbing CG's hood. Conlon reported that CG was running towards a closed door and a group of students with a lowered shoulder, when he attempted to prevent injury to CG and the other students by reaching out for CG's torso. Conlon reported that while doing so, his hand got caught in CG's hood. Conlon reported during his interview that he was never interviewed by the district or ESS in regards to this matter, and found out later, through a co-worker that he had been found to have used "inappropriate force" against CG, and had been terminated from ESS. Conlon reported to TSPC that he wished he had taken more personal risk by standing in front of CG to prevent him from hitting students and the door, rather than reaching out to stop him. Conlon reported that he was "one hundred percent sure" CG was going to get hurt. Conlon reported that in his mind, this was a "student safety issue."

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PROVISIONS OF ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.