



1 2, 2020, Knowles submitted an application for renewal of his Professional  
2 Teaching License. Knowles' application was placed on hold pending resolution of  
3 this matter. During all relevant times, Knowles was employed by the David  
4 Douglas School District (DDSD).

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- 6 2. On June 10, 2021, the Commission received a report indicating Knowles may  
7 have committed acts which constitute gross neglect of duty and/or gross  
8 unfitness. Specifically, the report alleged Knowles engaged in inappropriate  
9 teacher/student boundaries with a student and the student's family.
- 10
- 11 3. In the summer of 2019, Knowles met a family while he was staying at the Oregon  
12 coast. The family consisted of two parents and four (4) minor-aged children, all  
13 under the age of eight (8), including SB, who was seven years old at the time.  
14 Later in the summer, Knowles invited the family to stay with him in Portland.  
15 The family accepted the offer and lived in a neglected travel trailer located on  
16 Knowles' property, near the rear patio of Knowles' house. In March 2020, law  
17 enforcement and the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) documented  
18 that the living conditions in the trailer were unsafe and unsanitary for the  
19 children, and that the children were poorly nourished and neglected. Knowles  
20 was a mandatory reporter and did not make a report of this situation to DHS.
- 21
- 22 4. SB almost exclusively spent nights in Knowles' residence in a guest room which  
23 included a bed and toys. On most of these occasions, SB spent the night  
24 unaccompanied. SB's sister infrequently spent the night in the guest room, and  
25 only when SB was present. No other family members slept overnight in Knowles'  
26 house or the guest room.
- 27
- 28 5. SB was enrolled in Gilbert Heights Elementary School, DDSD, for the 2019-20  
29 school year. SB had an individualized education program (IEP). In the fall of  
30 2019, district staff became concerned when Knowles became involved in SB's IEP  
31 terms, rather than SB's parents. Knowles spoke directly to SB's teacher about  
32 SB's behavior, which was outside the scope of Knowles' professional duties.  
33 Knowles' work duties were to support middle school and high school students at

1 other schools. After attending several meetings focused on SB, Knowles'  
2 supervisor directed Knowles not to participate in any additional meetings  
3 regarding SB without parental permission.

- 4  
5 6. On most school days, during the 2019-20 school year, Knowles dropped off and  
6 picked up SB from school in Knowles' personal automobile without district  
7 authorization. In December 2019, Knowles traveled to California for vacation  
8 with SB and without SB's parents. Knowles also purchased clothing and books for  
9 SB.

### 11 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

12 Edward J. Knowles' failure to report suspected child abuse as described in  
13 paragraph three (3) above constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty in violation of ORS  
14 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use*  
15 *professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and*  
16 *reasonable rules and regulations*), and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(s) (*Failing to report*  
17 *child abuse pursuant to ORS 419B.010*).

18 The conduct described in paragraphs four (4), five (5), and six (6) constitutes  
19 gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it  
20 incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons*  
21 *and respect for each individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*),  
22 OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*)  
23 and OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skills in communicating with administrators, students,*  
24 *staff, parents and other patrons*) ; OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR  
25 584-020-0035(1)(b) (*Refrain from exploiting professional relationships with any*  
26 *student for personal gain, or in support of persons or issues*), OAR 584-020-  
27 0035(1)(c)(A) (*Not demonstrating or expressing professionally inappropriate interest*  
28 *in a student's personal life*), OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult*  
29 *boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*).


30 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon  
31 ORS 342.175.

1 **FINAL ORDER**

2 The Commission hereby denies Edward J. Knowles' application and revokes  
3 Edward J. Knowles' right to apply for an Oregon educator license.

4  
5 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

6 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

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8  
9 By: 

10 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director

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15 **NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS**

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17 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW MAY  
18 BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE  
19 SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF  
20 ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.

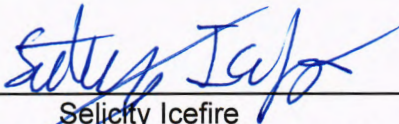
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I served the foregoing notice of final order, certified by me as such, by mailing U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail—Return Receipt Requested, addressed to:

Edward J. Knowles  
5140 SE 128<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97236

Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Selicity Icefire  
Administrative Specialist