

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35

BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of the ) STIPULATION OF FACTS  
Educator License of ) AND FINAL ORDER OF  
MAURINE A. RUZEK ) PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On February 18, 2022, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received information from Oregon’s Department of Human Services (DHS) alleging that during the 2021-22 school year, Maurine A. Ruzek (Ruzek) used unnecessary physical force on students and yelled at students.

After review of the matters alleged, Ruzek and the Commission agree that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts, the imposition of a Public Reprimand of Ruzek’s license.

This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to be imposed. In entering into this stipulation, Ruzek waives the right to a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below.

By signing below, Ruzek acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the following: (i) she has been fully advised of her rights to notice and a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Public Reprimand (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the public upon request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is contingent upon and subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Ruzek nor the Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) she has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) she voluntarily, without any force or duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) she states that no promise or representation has been made to induce her to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) she has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully advised with regard to her rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below.



1 appropriate. Ruzek pushed a wheelchair into a student's leg as a warning that the  
2 student needed to move their legs. Ruzek gave unwanted hugs to students. Ruzek  
3 used her hands with enough force to make student's turn their heads. Ruzek  
4 pushed students.

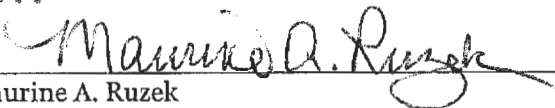
5

6 6. Investigation found that during the 2021-22 school year, Ruzek invaded a  
7 student's space and yelled at the student. Ruzek frequently yelled at students to  
get their attention, or to correct them, and to get other peoples' attention.

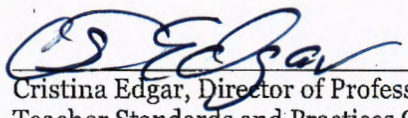
**SIGN  
HERE**

10 7. On March 3, 2022, Ruzek was placed on administrative leave. On March 30,  
11 2022, Ruzek was given a Letter of Reprimand from the CSD.

13 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

15   
16 Maurine A. Ruzek

7/30/2024  
Date

18   
19  
20 Cristina Edgar, Director of Professional Practices  
21 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

8/5/2024  
Date

23

24

#### CONCLUSION OF LAW

25

26 The conduct described in section five (5) above constitutes gross neglect of duty  
27 in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-  
28 020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0020(2)(d) (*Skill in the*  
29 *supervision of students*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and*  
30 *reasonable rules and regulations*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(d) (*Unreasonable*  
31 *physical force against students, fellow employees, or visitors to the school, except as*  
*permitted under ORS 339.250*).

32

33 The conduct described in section six (6) above constitutes gross neglect of duty in  
34 violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-  
35 020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0020(2)(d) (*Skill in the*  
36 *supervision of students*), and OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in communicating with*  
*administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons*).

1 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS  
2 342.175.

3  
4

**ORDER**

5 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and  
6 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand upon Maurine A.  
7 Ruzek's Oregon educator license.

8  
9

Issued and dated this 21 day of August 2024.

10

11

**TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION  
STATE OF OREGON**

12

13

14

15

16

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Goff, Interim Executive Director