

**BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of  
the Application of  
Lea Davenport

PPC No. 22-PPC-01

**FINAL ORDER**

NOW, on this 14th day of June 2022, the above-captioned matter comes for consideration by the Kansas State Board of Education (Board). Appearing for the Board are Chairman, Jim Porter and members, Betty Arnold, Jean Clifford, Michelle Dombrosky, Melanie Haas, Deena Horst, Ben Jones, Jim McNiece, Ann Mah and Janet Waugh.

WHEREUPON the Professional Practices Commission (Commission) considered the matter on April 29, 2022. Lea Davenport appeared not. The Kansas State Department of Education appeared through its attorney, General Counsel, R. Scott Gordon. After reviewing the evidence, the Commission voted 6 – 0, to recommend the Board deny Lea Davenport’s application for a professional teaching license.

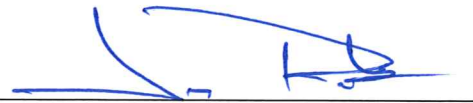
WHEREUPON the Board reviewed the Commission’s Initial Order and after considering the presentation by Jennifer Holt, Commission Chair, who was available to answer the Board’s questions and being otherwise duly advised in the premises, the Board adopted the Commission’s findings of fact and conclusions of law by a vote of 10 – 0.

All findings set forth in the Commission’s Initial Order attached hereto are incorporated by reference and made a part of this Final Order as though fully set forth at length herein.

IT IS THEREFORE CONCLUDED by the Kansas State Board of Education that Lea Davenport’s application for a professional teaching license is denied.

This Final Order is made and entered this 14th day of June 2022.

Kansas State Board of Education

  
BY: Jim Porter, Chairman  
Signed June 16, 2022

## NOTICE TO LICENSEE/APPLICANT

This is a Final Order and is effective upon service.

To request reconsideration of this order, you must file a Petition for Reconsideration with the Secretary to the State Board of Education, at the address below, within 15 days after service of this Final Order. The Petition must state the specific grounds upon which relief is requested.

To request a stay of effectiveness of this order, you must file a Petition for Stay with the Secretary to the State Board of Education at the address below. A petition can be filed until the time which a petition for judicial review would no longer be timely.

To seek judicial review of a Final Order, you must file a petition in the District Court as authorized by K.S.A. 77-601, *et seq.* within 30 days following the service of the Final Order. Filing a Petition for Reconsideration is not a prerequisite for seeking judicial review. A copy of any Petition for Judicial Review must be served upon the Secretary to the State Board of Education at the address below.

Makayla Auldridge  
Secretary, Kansas State Board of Education  
Landon State Office Building  
900 SW Jackson Ave. Suite 600N  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

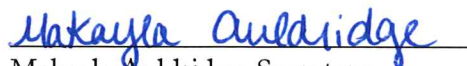
## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 16 day of June 2022, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Lea Davenport  
315 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Mound City, Kansas 66056

And via interoffice mail to:

R. Scott Gordon  
Kansas State Department of Education  
900 SW Jackson Street, Ste. 102  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

  
Makayla Auldridge, Secretary  
Kansas State Board of Education

**BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION**

In the Matter of  
the Application of  
Lea Davenport

PPC No. 22-PPC-01

**INITIAL ORDER**

The above-captioned case comes on for hearing before the Professional Practices Commissioner (“Commission”) of the Kansas State Board of Education (State Board) upon the Complaint filed by the Kansas State Department of Education (“KSDE”) seeking denial of Lea Davenport’s [Applicant] application for a professional teaching license.

The hearing on this matter was held on April 29, 2022. The KSDE appeared by and through its attorney, General Counsel, R. Scott Gordon. Applicant did not appear.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Applicant held a license issued by the Kansas State Board of Education from 1992 to May 22, 2020. On October 12, 2021, the Applicant applied to renew her license.
2. On or about December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Applicant committed the crime of battery on a young child enrolled at USD 344. The Applicant was working for USD 344 as a teacher at the time of the battery.
3. The Complaint was mailed to Applicant’s last known address by standard and by certified mail. Applicant did not submit either a request for hearing or an Answer.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

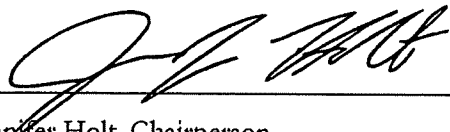
1. The Kansas State Board of Education (State Board) is responsible for the general supervision of Kansas education, including the certification and licensure of teachers. Kan. Const., Art. VI and K.S.A. 72-255.
2. The State Board may revoke a license for misconduct or other just cause such as the commission of any act that injures the health or welfare of a minor through physical abuse. K.A.R. 91-22-1a(a),(7). The State Board may deny the application for a license for the same reason.
3. One of the obvious goals of education is to “instill respect for the law.” Hainline v. Bond, 250 Kan. 217 (1992). An educator is a role model. Hainline at 224.
4. Teaching and school administration are professions with all the similar rights, responsibilities and privileges accorded other legally recognized professions. K.S.A. 72-2308.

5. The Applicant's conduct is inconsistent with the commonly-held perceptions and expectations of a member of the teaching profession. Such conduct violates the public trust and confidence placed in members of the profession. Applicant's conduct demonstrates a lack of fitness to perform the duties and responsibilities of a member of the teaching and school administration professions and is sufficient and just cause to deny her application for a license.
6. If a party fails to participate in the adjudicative process, the party may be found to have conceded to the outcome requested by the filed complaint.

THEREFORE the Professional Practices Commission recommends to the State Board, by a vote of 6-0, that the Applicant's application for a professional teaching license is denied based on battery of a young child while working as a teacher, and for failure to participate in the administrative proceedings.

This Initial Order is made and entered this May 17th, 2022.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION



---

Jennifer Holt, Chairperson

Order signed on May 17th, 2022.

## NOTICE TO APPLICANT

This Order is not a Final Order and is required to be reviewed by the Kansas State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act. The State Board will review all issues. Notice of review with the specific date and time will be provided to the parties within 15 days of the review.

You may submit to the State Board for its consideration as part of its review of the Initial Order a written brief citing legal authority as to why the above recommendation should not be accepted. You must file the brief with the State Board Secretary at the address indicated below within ten calendar days after service of the Initial Order for transmittal to the State Board. You must also make any request for oral argument at that time.

Makayla Auldridge  
Secretary, Kansas State Board of Education  
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 600  
Topeka, KS 66612

Response briefs are due within ten calendar days after service of the legal brief upon the opposing party. Any reply brief is due five calendar days after service of any response brief upon the opposing party. Any response or reply briefs must also be filed with the State Board Secretary at the address indicated above.

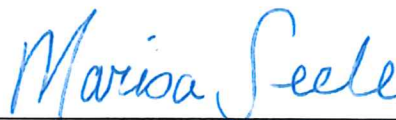
**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 17 day of May, 2022, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was filed with the Secretary for the Kansas State Board of Education, one (1) copy was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested; and one (1) copy was mailed by first-class prepaid postage mail, to:

Lea Davenport  
P.O. Box 219  
Pleasanton, KS 66075

And via interoffice mail to:

R. Scott Gordon  
Kansas State Department of Education  
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 102  
Topeka, Kansas 66612



---

Marisa Seele  
Secretary, Professional Practices Commission