

1975 WL 29811 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

May 14, 1975

***1 Re: Requirement that all teachers at the Opportunity School be certified.**

Dr. J. T. Willis
Director
South Carolina Opportunity School
West Campus Road
West Columbia, SC 29169

Dear Dr. Willis:

You have requested this Office to delineate a procedure to be followed by the Opportunity School in requiring that all of the teachers become certified. Pursuant to Section 21-50, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA (1962) (as amended)

Academic and vocational training provided by the South Carolina Opportunity School, . . . , shall meet standards prescribed by the State Board of Education based upon standards prescribed by the South Carolina Department of Education for the academic and vocational programs of these schools. The Board may prescribe such additional requirements as it may from time to time deem necessary. The State Superintendent of Education will administer the standards related to the high school and elementary school programs. Reports from the State Department of Education, evaluating the education program at such institutions and indicating whether or not the program meets the standards as prescribed, shall be made directly to the Board of each institution at regularly scheduled meetings. Such State Department of Education supervisory personnel as deemed appropriate shall be utilized for evaluating the programs and reporting to each Board.

On April 23, 1975, Ernest B. Carnes, Chief Supervisor Accreditation and Educational Improvement Section of the Department of Education, sent a letter to you stating that:

We are considering this year as a transitional year for your school to implement the approved accreditation standards. Based upon program deficiencies existing in the educational program, we are advising you that if the accreditation standards were applied in evaluating the program in operation for the 1974-75 school year, the classification would be Warned.

One of the deficiencies which resulted in this Warned status is that the School has three teachers who do not have South Carolina Teaching Certificates. To comply with the State Department of Education Defined Minimum Program for the South Carolina Opportunity School, the School must require that all of its teachers be certified by the South Carolina Department of Education. The Opportunity School should notify the three teachers listed in the April 23, 1975, letter that unless they become certified prior to the beginning of the 1975-76 school year they cannot be rehired in their present teaching capacities. I am enclosing a copy of a suggested letter to be sent to these teachers. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours very truly,

M. Elizabeth Crum
Assistant Attorney General

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