

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
LOUIS G. CAMBRIA : ORDER OF REVOCATION

: DOCKET NO: 2425-137

At its meeting of December 6, 2024, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed information from the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office (BCPO) and Department of Education, Office of Student Protection (OSP) regarding Louis G. Cambria. Cambria currently holds a Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-8 Certificate of Eligibility (CE), issued September 1995; a Teacher of Social Studies CE, issued December 1995; a Teacher of Social Studies Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS), issued August 1998; a Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-8 CEAS, issued August 1998; and a Standard Teacher of the Handicapped certificate, issued September 2000.

On or about January 5, 2024, Cambria was charged with Assault by Auto/Vessel-Reckless Serious Bodily Injury (4th degree), *N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1C(1)*, after he allegedly struck a pedestrian in a crosswalk, causing the victim to sustain a fractured pelvis, lacerations to both ankles, and a hematoma to her head. It is further alleged that after striking the pedestrian, he drove away from the scene of the accident.

On April 9, 2024, Cambria pled guilty to Assault by Auto/Vessel-Reckless Serious Bodily Injury (4th degree), *N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1C(1)*. On May 31, 2024, he was sentenced to one year of probation, along with fines and costs.

On April 11, 2024, OSP notified the Board that, as a result of his conviction for Assault by Auto/Vessel-Reckless Serious Bodily Injury (4th degree), *N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1C(1)*, Cambria was permanently disqualified from public school employment pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.*

Upon review of the above information, the Board voted at its meeting of January 16, 2025, to issue Cambria an Order to Show Cause as to why the certificates he holds should not be revoked. On January 17, 2025, the Board sent Cambria the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. The Order provided that Cambria had 30 days to respond pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B- 4.6(b)*. The certified mail copy was signed and returned, and the regular mail copy was not returned. Cambria did not file a response.

On May 16, 2025, the Board sent Cambria a second notice by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, providing him with an additional fifteen (15) days to respond to the Order to Show Cause pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(c)*. The certified mail copy was signed and returned, and the regular mail copy was not returned. Again, Cambria did not file a response.

Thereafter, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(e)*, the Board sent Cambria a hearing notice by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, on August 4, 2025. The notice explained that because no answer was filed there appeared to be no dispute as to material facts in this matter. Thus, Cambria was offered an opportunity to submit written arguments on the issue of whether the conduct addressed in the Order to Show Cause constituted conduct unbecoming a certificate holder, as well as arguments with regard to the appropriate sanction in the event that the Board found just cause to take action against his certificates. Cambria was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. The certified mail copy was marked “Delivered” and the regular mail copy was not returned. Cambria did not file a response or request to appear before the Board.

The Board has the authority to “issue appropriate certificates to teach or to administer” and “may revoke the same under rules and regulations prescribed by the State board.” *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-*

38; *see also* N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.2 and -4.4; *Morison v. Willingboro Bd. of Educ.*, 478 N.J. Super. 229 (App. Div. 2024), *cert. denied* 258 N.J. 143 (July 11, 2024). The Board may take action against a certificate holder on the basis of “demonstrated inefficiency, incapacity, conduct unbecoming a teacher, or other just cause.” N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.4; *see also Morison*, 478 N.J. Super. at 246, 248 (explaining the Board is responsible for protecting schoolchildren from improper teacher conduct and may suspend or revoke an educator’s continued ability to serve as a teacher at any public school based on unbecoming conduct).

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Cambria’s actions here constitute conduct unbecoming a certificate holder or other just cause. Because Cambria failed to respond to the Order to Show Cause, the allegations are deemed admitted. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(c). Consequently, at its meeting of December 12, 2025, the Board considered only the allegations in the January 16, 2025 Order to Show Cause and the information received from the BCPO and OSP. Because the allegations were deemed admitted, the Board concluded that no material facts related to Cambria’s offenses were in dispute. And because no material facts related to Cambria’s conduct were in dispute, the Board determined that summary decision was appropriate in this matter. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(h).

The Board finds that Cambria engaged in conduct unbecoming of an educator. Unbecoming conduct is defined as “conduct ‘which adversely affects the morale or efficiency of the [department]’ or ‘has a tendency to destroy public respect for [government] employees and confidence in the operation of [public] services.’” *Bound Brook Bd. of Educ. v. Ciripompa*, 228 N.J. 4, 13 (2017) (quoting *In re Young*, 202 N.J. 50, 66 (2010) (citing *Karins v. Atl. City*, 152 N.J. 532, 554 (1998))). “[A] finding of unbecoming conduct ‘need not be predicated upon the violation of any particular rule or regulation, but may be based merely upon the violation of the implicit

standard of good behavior which devolves upon one who stands in the public eye as an upholder of that which is morally and legal correct.”” *Id.* at 13-14 (quoting *Karins*, 152 N.J. at 555). “It focuses on the morale, efficiency, and public perception of an entity, and how those concerns are harmed by allowing teachers to behave inappropriately while holding public employment.” *Id.* at 14. “The touchstone of the determination lies in the certificate holder’s ‘fitness to discharge the duties and functions of one’s office or position.’” *Young*, 202 N.J. at 66 (quoting *In re Grossman*, 127 N.J. Super. 13, 29 (App. Div. 1974)).

Here, the Board finds that Cambria’s conviction for Assault by Auto/Vessel-Reckless Serious Bodily Injury (4th degree), *N.J.S.A.* 2C:12-1C(1), clearly demonstrates violations of the implicit standard of good behavior expected of public school teachers. And Cambria’s admitted conduct of driving away from the scene of the accident clearly demonstrates unbecoming conduct. Further, in enacting the Criminal History Review statute, *N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-7.1 *et seq.*, in 1986, the Legislature sought to protect public school pupils from contact with individuals whom it deemed to be a danger. The strong legislative policy statement is also in accord with the Commissioner’s long-standing belief that teachers must serve as role models for their students. Here, OSP determined that Cambria’s conviction permanently disqualifies him from public school employment. *See N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-7.1(c)(2) and (d). Thus, the Board finds that Cambria engaged in conduct unbecoming an educator and provides the basis for the Board’s finding.

Having found that Cambria engaged in unbecoming conduct, the Board must now determine the appropriate penalty to be applied. In doing so, the Board considers the “nature and gravity of the offenses under all the circumstances involved, any evidence as to provocation, extenuation or aggravation,” and any “harm or injurious effect” on the maintenance of discipline and the proper administration of the school system. *In re Fulcomer*, 93 N.J. Super. 404, 422 (App.

Div. 1967). Central to this evaluation is the understanding that “[t]eachers... are professional employees to whom the people have entrusted the care and custody of ... school children. This heavy duty requires a degree of self-restraint and controlled behavior rarely requisite to other types of employment.” *Tenure of Sammons*, 1972 S.L.D. 302, 321. Fitness to teach depends on a broad range of factors, including the teacher’s impact and effect upon the students, because a “teacher works in a sensitive area in a schoolroom” and “shapes the attitude of young minds toward the society in which they live.” *Grossman*, 127 N.J. at 30 (quoting *Adler v. Bd. of Educ. of City of New York*, 342 U.S. 485 (1952)). Importantly, unfitness to hold a position in a school system may be shown by one incident if sufficiently flagrant. *Fulcomer*, 93 N.J. Super. at 421; *Redcay v. State Bd. of Educ.*, 130 N.J.L. 369, 371 (1943), aff’d, 131 N.J.L. 326 (E & A 1944).

In this instance, the Board concludes that the appropriate response to Cambria’s breach in conduct of an educator is revocation of his certificates. Cambria’s conduct of striking a pedestrian in a crosswalk with his vehicle, causing the victim to sustain a fractured pelvis, lacerations to both ankles, and a hematoma to her head, and then leaving the scene of a serious accident demonstrates he is unfit to discharge the duties and functions as a public school teacher, and demonstrates strong evidence that revocation is appropriate. Allowing him to maintain certification to teach in a public school would have a negative impact on the proper administration of the school system.

Further, the record established that, as a result of his conviction for Assault by Auto/Vessel-Reckless Serious Bodily Injury (4th degree), N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1C(1), Cambria is disqualified from public school employment. An educator who is not qualified for public school employment should not be able to hold himself out as a public educator. Thus, revocation of his certificates is the appropriate response in this matter.

Accordingly, on December 12, 2025, the Board voted to revoke Louis G. Cambria’s

Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-8 Certificate of Eligibility (CE), Teacher of Social Studies CE, Teacher of Social Studies Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS), Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-8 CEAS, and Standard Teacher of the Handicapped certificate. On this 22nd day of January 2026, the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision, and it is therefore ORDERED that Cambria's certificates are REVOKED, effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Cambria return his paper certificates, if issued, to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Certification and Induction, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within 30 days of the mailing date of this decision.



Rani Singh, Secretary
State Board of Examiners

**Date of Mailing:
By Certified and Regular mail**

Appeals may be made to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-38.4*.