

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

DANNY R. MARRS JR.

MARCH 12, 2026

PLSB CASE NO. 25-121

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At a special meeting on March 12, 2026, the Arkansas State Board of Education (“Board”) reconsidered the existing record pursuant to the order of the Circuit Court of Cleburne County, Arkansas. Based upon the reconsideration of the existing record, the Board, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

- (a) On December 6, 2024, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Marrs violated Standard 1: an educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom; Standard 2: an educator maintains competence regarding his or her professional practice, inclusive of professional and ethical behavior, skills, knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities relating to his or her organizational position; Standard 3: an educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices; and Standard 7: an educator maintains the confidentiality of information about students and colleagues obtained in the course of the educator’s professional services that is protected under state law or regulations, federal law or regulations or the written policies of the educator’s school district, unless disclosure serves a professional purpose as allowed or required by law or regulations;

(b) Educator Marrs was notified on December 9, 2024, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.

(c) After considering the investigator's report and evidence on March 6, 2025, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standards 1, 2, and 3 in that Educator Marrs:

- Lack of supervision.
- Exhibited an inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
- Violated district, state or federal policies or law.
- Failure to report.

(d) The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:

(1) Probation of License for 2 years;

(2) Assess a \$250.00 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order);

(3) Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings;

(a) Title: The 85% Solution: How Personal Accountability Guarantees Success --

No Nonsense, No Excuses (256p) Author: Linda Galindo ISBN 13:

9780470500163

(b) ERC23007: Code of Ethics Part Four: Professional Responsibilities (1 Credit Hour)

(c) Mandated Reporter: Requirements in Arkansas (1.5 Credit Hours)

<https://ar.mandatedreporter.org/UserAuth/Login!loginPage.action>

- (4) Educator to provide written reflections on each book/training on how they will impact the educator's professional practices in the future. Due within 90 days of the State Board final order;
 - (5) Quarterly reports from the educator's supervisor while on probation on how his professional practices are progressing; and
 - (6) Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- (e) The educator accepted the recommendation, and the case was placed on the April 10, 2025, State Board of Education consent agenda. The Board voted to move the case to the June 12, 2025, State Board of Education action agenda for further review of the case. The rationale for the review was: egregious allegation, parents spoke at the State Board meeting, and the State Board wishes to view the full report.
- (f) On June 12, 2025, Educator Marrs and his attorney appeared before the State Board.
- (g) The educator's attorney and the PLSB made oral arguments to the Board.
- (h) The State Board of Education entered an order making conclusions of fact and law which resolved the licensure matter and resulted in a finding that the Code of Ethics were violated, and which imposed a sanction that included a one-year suspension.
- (i) Educator Marrs appealed the State Board's decision to Circuit Court. The Circuit Court of Cleburne County, Arkansas remanded the case to the Arkansas State Board of Education for reconsideration of the case without the disqualified members, and to issue a new written order.
- (j) On January 6, 2026, the Circuit Court of Cleburne County vacated the order of the State Board of Education and ordered that the State Board reconsider the record and

issue a new written order to resolve the matter in the best judgement of the board as constituted pursuant to the order.

(k) The case was placed on the March 12, 2026, State Board of Education agenda for reconsideration pursuant to the order of the Circuit Court.

(l) Upon reconsideration of the record as certified to the court pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-17-401, 6-17-422, 6-17-428 and 25-15-201 et seq., and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators, the Board made the following findings, conclusions and determinations by a preponderance of the evidence.

(m) The Board found that Educator Marrs violated standards 1, 2, and 3.

(n) The Board imposed the following sanction:

- Suspension of License for 1 year followed by a Probation of License for 2 years;
- Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:
 - i. Title: The 85% Solution: How Personal Accountability Guarantees Success -- No Nonsense, No Excuses (256p) Author: Linda Galindo ISBN 13: 9780470500163
 - ii. ERC23007: Code of Ethics Part Four: Professional Responsibilities (1 Credit Hour)
 - iii. Mandated Reporter: Requirements in Arkansas (1.5 Credit Hours)
<https://ar.mandatedreporter.org/UserAuth/Login!loginPage.action>
- Written reflections on each book/training on how they will impact the educator's professional practices in the future. Due to the State Board for approval within 30 days prior to the end of suspension for suspension removal;
- Quarterly reports from the educator's supervisor while on probation on how his professional practices are progressing; and
- Require Educator to pay all associated costs.

(o) The Board found the following rationale:

1. Lack of supervision:

- Ongoing incidents of misbehavior by students that were not observed or heard by coaches.
- Coach and assistant coaches stated that coaches did not enter the locker room when students were present but listened from the coach's office.

2. Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior:

- The educator should have known to call the Child Abuse Hotline.
- While there was not a willful violation of the Code of Ethics, the educator should have known his actions violated the Code of Ethics.
- The educator has no prior violations of the Code of Ethics.
- The educator cooperated and assisted in the investigative efforts for the school.

3. Failed to follow district policy:

- Educator violated 6.1.a.11, "Any student that is on Court Ordered Probation, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or assigned to alternative school for disciplinary reasons, will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities, field trips, or overnight activities."

4. Failed to report:

- The educator failed to report suspected child maltreatment as required by state law.
- The educator called the parent after receiving a text message to find out additional information (names of offenders and victims, etc.), and the student was in the background stating that the information was not completely accurate.
- The educator learned about the alleged sexual contact (text message stated, "...these guys have actually stuck their dick to butt") on May 10; however, the Child Abuse Hotline was contacted on May 15.
- "Sexual contact" as described above is defined by Ark. Code Ann. 12-18-103. The information about conduct received in the text message could have been considered sexual contact according to Arkansas law; as such, the text message received should have been reasonable cause to suspect child

maltreatment which should have prompted a report to the Child Abuse hotline.

- The level of negative impact on students was low to moderate for some students and high for a few students.
- The school put in place procedures and additional safeguards to ensure the conduct did not reoccur.
- There is no evidence of malicious intent.
- There is no evidence that the educator was aware of any misbehavior in the locker room until May 10.
- The educator promptly notified his supervisor of the misbehavior.

5. The educator has 14 years of experience.

6. Lack of mitigating factors and there were several aggravating factors.

(p) This order shall remain permanently in Educator Marr's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Adrienne Woods, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education