

I, Maggie Pazar certify that on December 3, 2008, I mailed a copy of this document, certified & postage prepaid, to all parties or their counsel of record. I certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the state of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION )  
CERTIFICATE OF )  
LETICIA ALVARADO )  
Certification Office Record No.: T089695 )  
DOB: [REDACTED]/1975 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

OPP No. A08-01-003  
FINAL ORDER OF  
DENIAL OF CERTIFICATE

COMES NOW Gene Sharratt, Review Officer of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), having reviewed the files of the above-referenced case, and having considered the arguments of each party and the recommendation of the Admissions and Professional Conduct Advisory Committee, does hereby deny the certificate application of Leticia Alvarado, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On August 15, 2007, Leticia Alvarado applied for a Washington education certificate.
2. On the character and fitness supplement, a part of the application process, Ms. Alvarado answered 'no' to all questions, including those regarding her having ever been the subject of an investigation by a certificate or licensing agency; having been dismissed or fired from employment involving children and having ever been the subject of an investigation or inquiry by an employer because of allegations of misconduct.
3. During the 2006-2007 school year, Ms. Alvarado was employed as a teacher in the Brownsville, Texas Independent School District. During this school year, Ms. Alvarado developed a personal relationship with a male high school freshman level special education student. Ms. Alvarado provided this student with gifts totaling over \$1200, without the

consent of the parents. She was also observed by another educator to be alone in her classroom playing video games with the student as late as 7:30 p.m.

4. On January 22, 2007, the Brownsville Independent School District placed Leticia Alvarado on Administrative Leave with Pay; pending completion of an investigation based on alleged inappropriate professional conduct.
5. On March 27, 2007, Ms. Alvarado received a Notification of Recommendation for Termination of Probationary Contract from Brownsville Independent School District.
6. On April 5, 2007, Ms. Alvarado received a letter of Termination of Probationary Contract from Brownsville Independent School District. The letter indicated that the best interest of the district will be served by termination of her employment.
7. On August 23, 2007, a six month temporary permit was issued to Leticia Alvarado by Educational Service District 123. That permit expired February 19, 2008.
8. On October 19, 2007, Ms. Alvarado submitted an application for employment as a substitute teacher with the Auburn School District; which included an applicant disclosure form. Ms. Alvarado answered 'no' to all questions on that form; including those regarding her having been non-renewed, discharged or fired from any employment; having been disciplined by an employer, and having been the subject of any investigation or inquiry because of allegations of misconduct.
9. On December 11, 2007, Auburn School District performed a routine reference check with Ms. Alvarado's previous employers. When contacting Pace High School, the Auburn School District was notified that Ms. Alvarado had been terminated by the Brownsville Independent School District Board of Trustees in June, 2007.

10. On December 24, 2007, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the Superintendent of the Auburn School District alleging a lack of good moral character or personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-87, by Ms. Alvarado.
11. On December 26, 2007, Ms. Alvarado was notified by Auburn School District that the district would not be utilizing her services.
12. On December 27, 2007, OPP initiated an investigation into allegations of a lack of good moral character or personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-87; OPP File No. D07-12-125.
13. On January 3, 2008, the OPP issued an Order of Dismissal for OPP File No. D07-12-125. This file was dismissed due to the fact that Ms. Alvarado did not currently hold a valid Washington Education certificate.
14. On March 10, 2008, the Office of Professional Practices received information from the Texas Education Agency, Office of Investigations, that they were conducting an investigation of Ms. Alvarado for inappropriate conduct while employed with the Brownsville Independent School District.
15. On March 26, 2008, the Texas State Board for Educator Certification issued an Inscribed Reprimand on the Texas Educator Certificate number 612-01-63-27 of Leticia Alvarado for violation of a provision of the educators' code of ethics.
16. On March 31, 2008, OPP sent a letter to Ms. Alvarado asking for a written statement responding to specific questions regarding her failure to disclose information on her

application for teacher certification and her application for employment to Auburn School District.

17. On April 4, 2008, Ms. Alvarado signed a statement in which she responded to specific questions for OPP. In the signed statement, Ms. Alvarado stated that she had been terminated from the Brownsville Independent School District; that she had violated the Texas educators' code of ethics; that she lied on the Washington State Application for Certification, Character and Fitness Supplemental; explained her reasoning for falsifying material facts on the Application for Certification, Character and Fitness Supplemental; explained her reason for falsifying material facts during the application process with the Auburn School District; and included information about the Texas State Board of Education disciplinary action with her Texas Education Certificate.
18. Good moral character and personal fitness is a requirement to attain a Washington education certificate.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Leticia Alvarado and over the subject matter of this action.
2. Leticia Alvarado has failed to provide clear and convincing evidence of good moral character or personal fitness to receive a Washington Education Certificate, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-86-170.

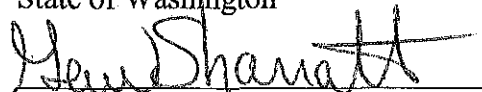
#### **ORDER**

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the application for certification of Leticia Alvarado be denied.

This Order will become final thirty (30) calendar days from the date of receipt of this order unless respondent files an appeal for a formal hearing before the Office of Administrative Hearings. Please direct the appeal and request for formal hearing to Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Administrative Law Office, Old Capitol Building, P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200.

DATED this 3rd day of December, 2008.

DR. TERRY BERGESON  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Sharratt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

DR. GENE SHARRATT  
Review Officer