



# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

DR. TERRY BERGESON OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • PO BOX 47200 • OLYMPIA WA 98504-7200 • <http://www.k12.wa.us>

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION )  
CERTIFICATE OF )  
 )  
 )  
RUEBEN ALFREDO ROJAS )  
Certificate No. 235646G )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

OPP No. D96-02-007  
  
ORDER OF SUSPENSION

COMES NOW the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), under the authority granted by the laws of the state of Washington, having reviewed the file of the above-referenced case, and having considered the entire evidence contained therein, does hereby suspend the Washington Education Certificate No. 235646G, of Rueben Rojas for a minimum of Twelve (12) months based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Rueben Alfredo Rojas was issued a Washington education certificate, No. 235646G, on September 4, 1979. That certificate currently remains valid.
  
2. Rueben Rojas was employed by the Highline School District during the 1995-96 school year.
  
3. On December 8, 1995, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the Superintendent of the Highline School District alleging a lack of good

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moral character or personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 180-87, by Mr. Rojas.

4. On several different occasions between 1994 and 1996, Mr. Rojas made inappropriate comments to students and acted inappropriately toward students.

5. On June 15, 1996, the Highline School District and Mr. Rojas entered into a settlement agreement. Mr. Rojas resigned from his position as a certificated employee with the Highline School District effective June 30, 1996.

6. Mr. Rojas has been employed by the Lake Elsinore Unified School District in California, as a classroom teacher, and athletic coach, since August 27, 1997.

7. On March 7, 2001, OSPI issued a Proposed Order of Suspension to Rueben Rojas. On April 3, 2001, OSPI received a letter of appeal pursuant to WAC 180-86-140. On October 31, 2001, OSPI and Rueben Rojas entered into an Agreed Order of Stayed Suspension which included the following provisos to be completed within one year from the date of the Order.

- A. Submission of a new application provided by OPP;
- B. Submission of fingerprints for clearance by the FBI and Washington State Patrol;
- C. Mr. Rojas will obtain a psychological evaluation by a mutually agreed upon professional that verifies he does not pose a threat to students;
- D. Mr. Rojas will sign a release so that OSPI may provide information to the evaluator and obtain a copy of the completed evaluation;

E. Mr. Rojas will provide OSPI with signed affidavits from superintendents in all California school districts where he has been employed since 1996 verifying his good moral character.

8. Item Number 6 in the Agreed Order of Stayed Suspension states: ... "If the requirements are not met within one year of the signing of this Agreed Order, the suspension will take effect and shall run for at least one year, and shall remain in place until all the foregoing requirements are met."

9. Rueben Rojas has not complied with the terms of the Agreed Order of Stayed Suspension.

10. Good moral character and personal fitness is a continuing requirement to maintain a Washington education certificate.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Rueben Rojas and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington education certificate, No.235656G, of Rueben Rojas, should be suspended as provided for in WAC 180-86-070.

3. Rueben A. Rojas has violated WAC 180-87-060, RCW 28A.410.090, WAC 180-86-013, WAC 180 86-014, and WAC 180-40-235.

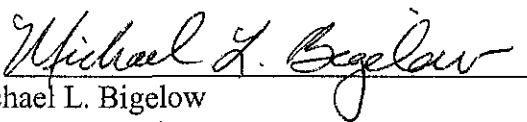
**ORDER**

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington education certificate, No. 235646G, of Rueben Alfredo Rojas be suspended for a minimum of twelve (12) months as provided for in the Order of Agreed Stayed Suspension signed on October 31, 2001.

Reinstatement shall require successful completion of the provisions as agreed to in the Agreed Order of Stayed Suspension dated October 31, 2001.

DATED this 5th day of May, 2003.

DR. TERRY BERGESON  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington

By:   
Michael L. Bigelow  
Associate Superintendent  
Budget and School Business Services