



# 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	)	OPP No. D02-04-051
	)	
	)	AGREED ORDER
DEBRA WILLIAMSON	)	OF SUSPENSION
Certificate No. 211314J	)	
	)	

COMES NOW the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 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 stipulate by and between the Office of Professional Practices (OPP), Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and Debra Williamson, that the Washington Education Certificate, No.211314J, of Debra Williamson, shall be suspended, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

### FINDING OF FACTS

2. Debra Williamson was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 211314J, on June 26, 1975. That certificate currently remains valid.
  
3. Debra Williamson is employed by the Kelso School District.
  
3. On March 26, 2002, and on February 6, 2003, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received two separate complaint letters from the superintendent of the Kelso School District, alleging a

DEBRA WILLIAMSON  
 AGREED ORDER OF SUSPENSION

lack of good moral character or personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 180-87, by Debra Williamson.

4. Debra Williamson has falsely taken at least six separate days of sick leave while traveling in the United States to participate in or judge dance expositions for a commercial company. These absences included:

1. 2/9/2001 – San Jose, CA – reason given for leave “migraine”.
2. 3/9/2001 – Burbank, CA – reason given for leave “ill”.
3. 4/20/2001 – New Orleans, LA – reason given for leave “flu/ear infection”.
4. 11/2/2001 – Dallas TX – reason given for leave “Dr. Appt.”
5. 11/16/2001 – Mesa, AZ – reason given for leave “migraine”.
6. 2/22/2002 – Burbank, CA – reason given for leave “hurt back”

On March 8, 2002, the superintendent of the Kelso School District signed a disciplinary action agreement with Debra Williamson. Each of these instances required a substitute teacher, for which Debra Williamson reimbursed the Kelso School District per the disciplinary action agreement, and agreed that further incidents of abuse of sick leave would result in her discharge from employment.

5. On January 10, 2003, Debra Williamson left her work assignment early to attend a dance exposition. She misrepresented her reason for leaving as illness. The Kelso School District imposed an unpaid disciplinary suspension of seven days on Debra Williamson, and required her to document all absences.

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

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Debra Williamson and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington education certificate, No. 211314J, of Debra Williamson, should be suspended as provided for in WAC 180-86-070.

3. Debra Williamson has violated WAC 180-86-013 and WAC 180-87.

**ORDER**

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington education certificate, No. 211314J, of Debra Williamson, be suspended for sixty (60) days from June <sup>21<sup>st</sup> dw</sup> 20, 2003 to August <sup>21<sup>st</sup> dw</sup> 20, 2003. JWD

DATED This 23 <sup>rd</sup> day of March ~~February~~, 2004.

DR. TERRY BERGESON  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington

Stipulated to and approved  
For entry:

Debra Williamson  
Debra Williamson

Thomas Doyle  
Thomas Doyle, Attorney for Respondent  
WSBA #10634

Marcia L. Riggers  
Marcia L. Riggers  
Assistant Superintendent  
Student Support and Operations