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LOCAL

Public records indicate EVSC teacher accused of misconduct never had teaching license



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Key Points

The Indiana Department of Education does not have any license or permit on file for Noah Mikael McBride.

The minimum requirements for an adjunct permit are at least four years experience in the content area in which the individual intends to teach and a passing background check.

According to the Indiana School Boards Association, an adjunct teacher does not qualify as a teacher under state law.

EVANSVILLE — A North High School teacher accused of 14 felonies won't be at risk of losing his teaching license if convicted because according to public records, he never had one.

The Indiana Department of Education does not have any license or permit on file for Noah Mikael McBride, according to Courtney Bearsch, the chief communications officer for the Office of the Secretary of Education.

On the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. website, McBride is listed as an adjunct teacher. Under Indiana law, an adjunct teacher does not have to have a teaching license, but must have an adjunct permit. Those are issued locally and reported to the Indiana Department of Education.

When the Courier & Press ran McBride's name through the public database of adjunct permits, no results were found.

Thursday, the Courier & Press reached out to the EVSC via spokesman Jason Woebkenberg to ask if he could provide documentation of McBride's adjunct permit, and did not receive a response. The Courier & Press then contacted EVSC attorney Pat Shoulders on Friday for the permit, and an explanation as to why the state wouldn't have that documentation.

Shoulders said he forwarded the questions on to EVSC administration. Saturday morning, Woebkenberg contacted the Courier & Press and said he would ask the corporation's human resources department about where that documentation was filed.

Monday morning, the Courier & Press asked for an update and Woebkenberg replied with the definition of an adjunct teacher.

"Indiana state statute allows school districts to create an agreement with employees on an adjunct teaching permit," Woebkenberg said. "These permits allow school boards in the state to recognize content experience in place of a traditional teaching license."

The Courier & Press asked if EVSC's human resources officials had found where McBride's documentation was filed and if a copy could be provided. Woebkenberg did not respond.

McBride, 26, faces four counts of Level 4 felony child seduction where the defendant has a professional relationship with the child; four counts of Level 4 felony child seduction where the defendant is a coach and engages in sexual intercourse with a child; one Level 5 felony count of solicitation for sexual intercourse; two Level 5 felony counts of solicitation for other sexual materials; one count of Level 6 felony dissemination of material harmful to minors; one count of Level 6 felony official misconduct; one count of Level 6 felony obstruction of justice; and one misdemeanor count of intimidation.

McBride is currently booked in the Vanderburgh County jail.

When did McBride take the teaching position?

According to Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. Board of Trustees' meeting minutes from July 15, 2024, McBride was "reassigned" from a special education assistant at North High School to teaching Spanish and social studies there.

In personnel reports in EVSC school board minutes from around that time, the Courier & Press found a handful of instances where someone working as a teacher's aide or other position outside of a classroom was moved into a formal teaching position.

Using public records, the Courier & Press looked up each of the individuals and found all but McBride held some sort of credential recognized by the Indiana Department of Education.

In the same board meeting where McBride's reassignment was approved, an instructional assistant was moved into a third-grade teaching position. The difference there is the person has a transition-to-teaching permit, meaning they are enrolled in a college to get their degree.

Another person was reassigned from the position of attendance case manager to teach first grade at the July 29, 2024, board meeting. According to the IDOE license lookup, they are working on an "emergency permit," which school districts must apply for.

"An emergency permit is issued at the request of a school district in a content area for which the district is experiencing difficulty staffing the assignment with a properly licensed educator," according to the IDOE.

Even in that instance, the IDOE requires the person with the emergency permit to "make a commitment to work toward completion of an approved program" to add the teaching content area to an existing license or to get an initial license.

The permit is only good for a year before a renewal has to be requested. The IDOE can deny the request for renewal if the individual can't show progress toward a license.

What is an adjunct permit?

The adjunct permit is different from the others mentioned above as it is issued by the local corporation's school board and not the state. But the state still requires school corporations report that information to them.

According to guidance from the Indiana School Boards Association, corporations must report the number of adjunct teacher permit holders by grade level and subject area.

The school corporation must report to IDOE for each adjunct teacher:

- Name

- Subject matter permitted to teach

- Description of experience in the content area being taught

- Salary, including any other compensation being paid

- Number of previous employment agreements entered into with school corporation or any other school corporation

Indiana School Boards Association information also states that the Indiana Department of Education requires the name of the school corporation hiring the adjunct teacher for the current school year, the grade level the adjunct teacher is teaching and the adjunct teacher's school personnel number.

According to the Indiana School Boards Association, an adjunct teacher does not qualify as a teacher under state law. This means a school corporation is not required to evaluate them.

The minimum requirements for an adjunct permit are at least four years experience in the content area in which the individual intends to teach and a passing

background check.

What classroom positions has McBride held in the EVSC?

According to Indiana Gateway public records, McBride first received a salary from EVSC in 2021 as an early child associate. He remained in that position through 2023.

In 2023, McBride was paid by the EVSC as a "special education assistant 1:1." Also referred to as a paraprofessional, this position works with a student with disabilities one-on-one.

In 2024, McBride is listed as an adjunct teacher. He was paid \$31,075.35, according to Indiana Gateway.