

WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH SAY ABOUT NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION?

In a congressionally mandated report, the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies has affirmed, after an extensive research review, the National Board Certification process has a positive impact on student achievement, teacher retention and professional development. Research findings have found:

- Students of NBCTs outperform students of non-NBCTs on achievement tests, with a greater effect among minority students. (NRC, 2008; Clotfelter, Ladd and Vigor, 2007; Goldwater and Anthony, 2004; Cavalluzzo, 2004)
- National Board Certification helps to change teachers' formative assessment practices and their instruction in general. Even teachers who start at a lower skill level end up with better teaching practices than those who did not go through the certification process. (Sato, Wei and Darling-Hammond, 2008)
- National Board Certified Teachers provide mentoring and guidance to the new or struggling teachers who are most likely to leave within the first five years of teaching. (Yankelovich, 2001, Sykes, et al., 2006)

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER CERTIFICATION?

National Board Certified Teachers across the state serve as instructional leaders, provide candidate support, advocate for educational reform, and strive to continue growing as leaders in their classroom, schools, communities, and state. National Board Certified Teachers should contact their National Board Certification (NBC) District Coordinator to inquire about how they can get involved. To locate your District NBC Coordinator, visit <http://dpi.state.nc.us/recruitment/nationalboardcertification>. NBCTs may also connect with one another across the nation at NBCTLink found at www.nbpts.org.

WHAT IS NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION RENEWAL?

In order to maintain the designation as a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT), NBCTs in their eighth or ninth year should begin the NBCT renewal process. The renewal process allows certified teachers to demonstrate how their professional practice remains consistent with the high and rigorous standards for their subject area. For more information about the renewal process, visit www.nbpts.org. (The state of North Carolina does not fund the renewal process.)



Renewing my National Board Certification further opened my eyes to the importance of strong leadership in schools. As a renewed NBCT, my commitment to serving as an educational leader in my classroom, school, district, and state has strengthened. Encouraging and supporting positive change in education is vital as we work to prepare students who will be globally competitive and prepared for life in the 21st century.

Gina Credle, Mathematics NBCT (Renewed), 2008, Hyde County Schools



Committing to the National Board Certification process is a guaranteed professional growth experience. The process not only allows you to document accomplishments in teaching and learning, but it also provides a standards-based 'measuring stick' to guide future instructional decisions. Now that I have moved into an administrative role, I remain committed to NBPTS's core propositions. So, if you are considering seeking National Board Certification, I assure you that the process is a wonderful professional gift to yourself. You will stretch and grow in ways unimaginable!

Jan King, NBCT, AYA/Social Studies History, 2003, Henderson County Schools 2010 Wachovia Principal of the Year

WHERE TO GO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NBPTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

For more information on state assistance, completing the application, or candidate support contact:

BETH EDWARDS, NCDPI National Board Certification Program Coordinator
919-807-3358 or eedwards@dpi.state.nc.us

For more information about the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards contact:

KAREN GARR, NBPTS Regional Outreach Director
kgarr@nbpts.org or visit www.nbpts.org



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
Educator Recruitment and Development
Department of Public Instruction
6330 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6330

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APPLYING FOR NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION?

What NC Teachers Need To Know



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
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NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION



National Board Certification, offered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), is a way to recognize the accomplished teaching being delivered in North Carolina's classrooms. The certification process, based on high and rigorous standards, evaluates teaching practice through performance-based assessments. The result is improved performance and achievement for North Carolina's students.

The mission of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by:

- maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do;
- providing a national voluntary system certifying teachers who meet these standards; and
- advocating related education reforms to integrate National Board Certification in American education and capitalizing on the expertise of National Board Certified Teachers.

At the core of the National Board Certification process are standards which describe the highest level of teaching in different disciplines and with students at different developmental levels. These standards represent a consensus among accomplished teachers and other education experts about what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. They are aligned with the North Carolina Teacher Evaluation Process Standards. NBPTS Standards are available for downloading free-of-charge at www.nbpts.org.

Teachers who have participated in National Board Certification have overwhelmingly stated it is the most powerful professional development experience of their careers. They say the experience changes them as teachers. Through the process, they deepen their content knowledge and develop, master, and reflect on new approaches to work with their students.



The National Board Certification Process is one of the most rewarding professional growth opportunities you can pursue. The process isn't just another "professional development," it is truly an opportunity to reflect, analyze, observe and improve. As we become more reflective practitioners, we become more adept at fostering learning in our classrooms. NBPTS is an amazing experience and you will be a more thoughtful, progressive and driven educator as a result. This journey will help you make the leap from good to great!

Jennifer Facciolini, Social Studies/History NBCT, 2005, Sampson County Schools
2010-2011 AT&T NC Teacher of the Year

HOW DO TEACHERS ACHIEVE NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION?

The assessment process for National Board Certification requires candidates to complete two major components: a portfolio of classroom practice, including samples of student work and videotapes of teacher instruction, and an assessment of content knowledge administered at a computer-based testing center. It is estimated the process will take the better part of a school year and involve a total of 200-400 hours of work outside of the classroom.

SUPPORT FROM THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

State legislation provides support to teachers seeking advanced certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. For state-paid teachers with a clear Standard Professional 2 license and a minimum of three years teaching experience in North Carolina, the state will:

- lend the assessment fee;
- provide up to three days of paid release time to candidates;
- grant renewal credit for those teachers completing all components of the assessment within the funded assessment cycle; and
- pay National Board Certified Teachers a salary differential (separate salary schedule) of 12% of their state salary for the life of the certificate (10 years initially and renewable each ten years). Charter school payment differentials may vary.

The United States Department of Education provides subsidy funds to partially fund federally paid teachers and to assist National Board Certified candidates with retake fees. North Carolina administers the subsidy funds to eligible North Carolina teachers.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR STATE FUNDING

The North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NC-SEAA) will lend the assessment fee to any eligible teacher. Teachers must pay the NBPTS processing charge (\$65.00) when they submit their application to NBPTS, apply for the NC-SEAA loan through the Department of Public Instruction, and repay the assessment fee within three years to the state of NC. Candidates will have the opportunity to wait 12 months, interest free, before beginning payments.

TEACHERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE LOAN IF THEY:

- are paid entirely from state funds;
- have completed three full years in North Carolina Public Schools (This includes DOC, DHHS, Office of Juvenile Justice, and licensed public charter schools);
- hold a valid, clear, continuing SP2 North Carolina teaching license;
- have not previously received State Funds for participating in the NBPTS assessment; (If a candidate received funding, withdrew from the process and fulfilled the repayment obligation, s/he can be funded again.)
- engage in direct classroom instruction or library/media or guidance counseling work 70% of the time over the course of the academic year.

IMPORTANT: If you do not meet the criteria listed above, please contact your local school system to determine additional steps needed to qualify for State funding.

Completing the National Board Certification process has helped me to better serve the students I teach by adjusting my instructional and analytically thinking about how to effectively teach them. I have become more reflective and proactive in applying current best practices in my classroom.

Karen Evans, Exceptional Needs Specialist NBCT, 2008, Johnston County Schools



HERE'S WHAT YOU MUST DO TO APPLY...

- Download a copy of the standards and study them to make sure your teaching practice is congruent with these professional standards.
- Download and print out the portfolio instructions, scoring guide and assessment exercises for your certificate area.
- Analyze and reflect upon the amount of time you have to give to this process.
- Determine the resources you already have and ones you will need to acquire in order to give this your best effort.
- Determine what kind of support you will need and whether it is available to you in your school, district or region.
- Read the information relevant to ethics policies and requirements on the NBPTS web site.
- Contact NBCTs in the certificate area of your interest.

NOT SURE IF YOU ARE READY FOR NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION? Try *Take One!*

Take One! is a program which seeks to improve teaching practice by developing learning communities organized around the National Board Standards and linking effective instruction to student learning. The program can be used by any educator as a stand-alone professional development tool or by licensed teachers as an initial step in becoming candidates for National Board Certification. It is also utilized as a school-wide form of professional development to assist with building collaborative learning communities.

The *Take One!* program is a standards-based approach for improving teaching and student learning. The process is based upon the NBPTS Five Core Propositions which are directly aligned with the North Carolina Teacher Evaluation Process.

For more information about the *Take One!* process, visit www.nbpts.org. (The state of North Carolina does not fund the *Take One!* process.)