

National Board Certification Facts

National Board Certification (NBC) is an advanced teaching credential and a challenging professional development experience offered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

Who is eligible for National Board Certification?

To be eligible for National Board Certification, a candidate must:

- Have a minimum of three years teaching or school counseling experience K-12.
- Possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution. (Exception: Career and technical education teachers must have met the licensure requirements for the state.)
- Hold a valid state teaching or school counseling license for each of the three years of teaching experience.

Why do teachers seek National Board Certification?

Almost universally, the National Board Certified teachers agree that the certification process is the most meaningful professional development experience of their careers. The assessment process is rigorous, thought provoking and powerful in causing teachers to reflect upon how they engage their students in learning and how they constantly improve their teaching skills.

What is the assessment process based on?

The NBPTS has five core propositions that guided the development of standards for each of the certification areas. Those core propositions are:

- Teachers are committed to students and their learning.
- Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.
- Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.
- Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.
- Teachers are members of learning communities.

What is the assessment process like?

The assessment process is two-fold. The first part of the process asks the teacher to develop a portfolio reflecting various aspects of their teaching. Candidates compile evidence of how their teaching practice meets National Board standards by submitting student work, videotapes of classroom interaction, and written commentaries. There are three components within the portfolio process.

The second part of the process takes place at an assessment center where computer-based exercises focus on content knowledge as well as age-appropriate and content-appropriate teaching strategies. Teachers demonstrate their knowledge with written responses to prompts or stimulus materials, like journal articles and student work samples.



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Candidates report that the National Board’s assessments focus more on teaching and learning than any other “test” they have been exposed to. Many say it was the most rigorous but helpful professional development growth experience they have ever had.

Why doesn’t everyone apply for National Board Certification?

There are several reasons why teachers may not seek NBC.

1. National Board Certification is an advanced teaching certificate. The rigor of the process may not be something every teacher chooses or is able to undertake. The process seeks to recognize highly accomplished teaching.
2. The total cost of applying for National Board Certification is about \$2,000. However, with the revised assessment process, candidates pay for each component individually and have three years to submit all four components. Each of the four components is \$475 plus application fees.
3. The length of time needed to prepare for the portfolio and assessment portions of the process is substantial. Some NBTs report spending over 300 hours preparing for the process. Combined with the expenses of the process, some accomplished teachers may feel unable to seek National Board Certification.
4. The lack of a significant incentive in Missouri deters many teachers from pursuing NBC. Many states pay the full fee, provide substitute expenses so candidates can work on their portfolios, provide technical assistance, and acknowledge those that achieve NBC with a significant salary stipend. Recognizing National Board Certified teachers with additional compensation has dramatically increased participation in many states where salary incentives exist.

Does Missouri provide support and incentives?

The Missouri legislature no longer appropriates funds for National Board Certification support or incentives. Missouri school districts can choose to help fund candidate fees, provide mentors, and release days to work on entries. These are all allowable uses of professional development monies that are directed by your local, elected District Professional Development Committee. Title II and Title I professional development monies can also support National Board work.

Many Missouri school districts recognize the value of National Board Certified Teachers and offer stipends for NBCTs. Check with your local NEA or your district human resource office about support for National Board Certification in your district.

What can you do to support NBC in Missouri?

At the district level, discuss support for National Board fees and mentor support with your local school board and administration. Many Missouri NEA locals negotiate salary recognition for NBCTs.

Get involved in the Missouri NEA NBCT Network. Host a free Exploring NBC workshop in your district. Encourage accomplished teachers to apply for National Board Certification.



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