

## WHY BECOME A NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER?

National Board Certification is a means to professional growth and development. Our members describe the process as a way to deepen subject-matter knowledge and become more skillful in daily classroom instruction and student assessment. The ultimate result is improved student learning.

—Ed McElroy,  
President, American Federation of Teachers

Since becoming an NBCT, I use more inclusive strategies to meet diverse learners and learning styles, more rubric-based assessments for students...and I have become more active in incorporating the standards into my daily teaching.

—Rebecca Palacios,  
Early Childhood/Generalist

National Board Certification adds credibility to the teaching profession...The certification process provides an opportunity for you to evaluate your teaching style and question why you teach the way you do.

—Jay Salon,  
Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Science



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*A Union of Professionals*

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For information about National Board Certification, visit the AFT Web site, [www.aft.org](http://www.aft.org), or the NBPTS Web site, [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org).

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## THE JOURNEY TO THE TOP OF THE PROFESSION...



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## GO TO THE TOP OF YOUR PROFESSION.

You're in the classroom by choice—not by chance. Everyone talks about what our children need, and you have the power to make it happen. National Board Certification continues to grow in importance because teachers like you embrace the challenge of examining their practice against the profession's highest standards. What does it take to become a National Board Certified Teacher? What are the benefits of National Board Certification? This brochure has been developed to answer these and other questions you may have about the certification process.

## BEGINS IN YOUR CLASSROOM.



*A Union of Professionals*  
**AFT Teachers**

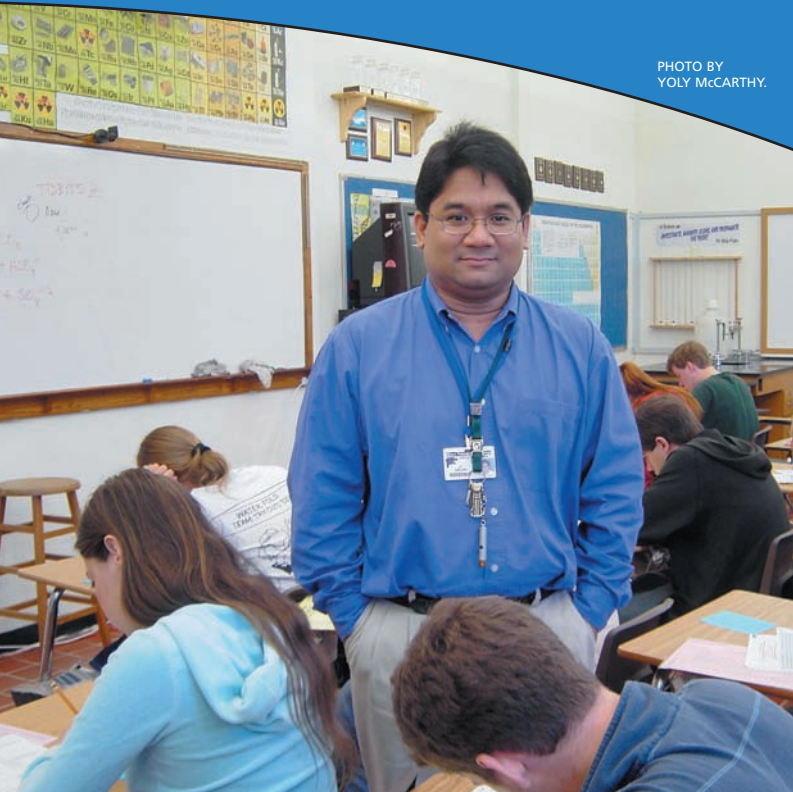


PHOTO BY YOLY MCCARTHY.





### What are the National Board Standards?

At the core of the National Board Certification process are standards that 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. For the complete text of the NBPTS standards for your content area, visit the National Board Web site at [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org).

### Who is Eligible?

To pursue National Board Certification, candidates must have:

- A baccalaureate degree
- Three years of teaching experience in early childhood, elementary, middle or secondary schools prior to submitting an application
- A valid state teaching license, where required, for each of those three years (check Web site for complete eligibility requirements)

### How long does candidacy take?

Like any other quality professional development opportunity, the time required for the candidate to demonstrate proficiency will vary. It is a one to three year process. Please visit the National Board Web site for specific information about registration deadlines and due dates.

### How much does it cost?

The current assessment fee is \$2,500, including a non-refundable fee of \$500. In addition, there is a non-refundable \$65 processing charge due at the time of application.

### If I decide to be a candidate, what will I have to do?

Candidates for National Board Certification have to provide evidence of accomplished teaching in two ways.

- Submission of a portfolio that includes four entries designed for the candidates to show evidence of the candidate meeting the National Board Standards:
  - ▼ Entry One demonstrates the candidate's ability to analyze student work and support student learning over time.
  - ▼ Entry Two and Entry Three demonstrate how the candidate's work with students reflects the Standards. They include video tapes of selected lesson segments and commentary about those lessons.
  - ▼ Entry Four demonstrates the candidate's commitment to on-going professional growth and to working with parents, community members and colleagues for the benefit of student learning.
- Responses to six, timed, open ended prompts designed to demonstrate the candidate's depth and breadth of content knowledge.

### What support is available for candidates?

Contact your local union and find out what support is available to you. Several locals have developed candidate support programs to assist candidates. Additionally, state and local union leaders may have negotiated contract language that will provide members with release time, materials, access to resources, financial incentives, etc. to assist with managing the process.

### What financial assistance is available for candidates?

Many states and local school districts provide loans and scholarships for candidates. Visit the *Fees and Financial Support* section of the National Board Web site for the latest information. Partial financial support is also available in each state through the federal Candidate Subsidy Program. This program, made possible through annual appropriations from the Congress, provides funds to a limited number of candidates in each state to help offset the assessment fee.

Additionally, the National Board Scholarship Program provides scholarships for teachers seeking National Board Certification. There are a limited number of available scholarships. Candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible if they would like to be considered. Scholarships are allocated only to teachers who have applied to be a candidate and have paid the nonrefundable \$500 application fee. Contact the National Board Scholarship Manager ([scholarship\\_manager@nbpts.org](mailto:scholarship_manager@nbpts.org)) for additional information about NBPTS scholarships.

### How long is the National Board Certificate valid?

The life of the certification is 10 years. A renewal process is available.

### What is National Board Certification?

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to identify, recognize and reward accomplished teachers and school counselors, who meet high and rigorous standards based on what they should know and be able to do. National Board Certification is available nationwide and covers 95 percent of PreK-12 teachers and school counselors.

As part of the certification process candidates complete 10 components that are assessed by trained teachers and counselors in their certificate area. The components consist of four portfolio entries featuring teaching practice and six constructed response exercises that assess content knowledge.

### What are the Five Core Propositions?

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards seeks to identify and recognize teachers who effectively enhance student learning and demonstrate the high level of knowledge, skills, abilities and commitments reflected in the Five Core Propositions.

- 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.



PHOTOS BY PAT SILVA.