



## National Board Certification in Texas

### **Overview of National Board Certification**

#### **What is National Board Certification?**

National Board Certification is a voluntary advanced professional certification for PreK-12 educators that identifies teaching expertise through a performance-based, peer-reviewed assessment. More than 125,000 teachers across all 50 states have achieved Board certification.

#### **What are the benefits of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher?**

National Board Certification provides teachers an opportunity to hone their practice, demonstrate their professional knowledge and reinforce their dedication to their students and their career. Board Certification opens doors for teachers to make an impact on student learning in their own classroom, and to influence teaching and learning improvements beyond their four walls. The State of Texas and several districts across the state offer financial benefits for Board-certified teachers.

#### **What is required to become a National Board Certified Teacher?**

The certification process is designed to collect standards-based evidence of accomplished practice. To become a Board-certified teacher, eligible candidates must demonstrate advanced knowledge, skills, and practice in their individual certificate area by completing four components. The content knowledge component is a computer-based assessment taken at a testing center; the other three are portfolio-based and submitted through an electronic portfolio system.

- Component 1: Content Knowledge
- Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction
- Component 3: Teaching Practice and Learning Environment
- Component 4: Effective and Reflective Practitioner

#### **Who is eligible to become a National Board Certified Teacher?**

To be eligible for certification, teachers must meet the following education, employment, and licensure requirements outlined in the [Guide to National Board Certification](#). Candidates will be asked to verify these during initial registration.

- Possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. NOTE: Candidates for the Career and Technical Education certificate are required to hold a bachelor's degree only if their state required one for their current license
- Have completed three years of successful teaching in one or more early childhood, elementary, middle, or secondary school
- Hold a valid state teaching license (or meet the licensure requirements established by your state for a school counselor if applying for the ECYA/School Counseling certificate) for each of the three years of verified employment. Exceptions may apply.
- Provide official American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) certified ratings of Advanced Low or higher from ACTFL speaking and writing proficiency assessments if registering as a World Languages candidate.



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### **National Board Certification and the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA)**

#### **When will National Board Certified teachers in Texas earn a designation and generate TIA funds?**

Beginning in January of 2021, eligible National Board certified teachers (NBCTs) will earn a Recognized designation on their Texas educator certificate for the 2020-2021 SY. The designation will expire in conjunction with the National Board certificate. Allotment funding for eligible NBCTs will be calculated in late summer and will flow to districts beginning in September 2021. NBCTs working in districts that currently offer strategic compensation for NBCTs may be eligible to earn a Recognized designation for the 2019-2020 SY and generate allotment funding in September 2020. Districts currently offering strategic compensation to NBCTs must complete an application by April 30, 2020, for NBCTs to earn a Recognized designation in 2019-2020.

#### **What are the eligibility requirements to earn a designation and generate allotment funds?**

To be eligible for designation, the NBCT must have a one-year or standard Texas teaching certificate. Teachers with a Recognized designation must be employed as a Texas teacher (087 Role ID in PEIMS) and complete a creditable year of service in order to generate funding for that year.

#### **What factors determine the amount of TIA funds a NBCT generates, and what are the spending requirements for TIA funds?**

NBCTs with a recognized designation will generate between \$3-\$9k for their district depending on the socioeconomic status of the students and the campus' rural status. 90% or more of the allotment funds generated must be spent on teacher compensation on the campus where the designated teacher works.

#### **If a NBCT moves into a district, do the funds follow the teacher?**

The designation and funding will follow the teacher to the new campus and will be calculated based on the new campus' rural status and socioeconomic tier. NBCTs should update employment information in the NBCT directory when they move to a new campus.

#### **Are NBCTs limited to a Recognized designation?**

No; NBCTs are also eligible to earn a designation through their LEA if their LEA has an approved designation system. The highest designation and/or the later expiration date will display on the certificate if an NBCT has an additional designation earned through a district designation system.

#### **How can districts support teachers who are interested in becoming certified?**

Districts may use up to 10% of TIA-generated funding to support teachers who wish to pursue NB certification. Some districts form cohorts of candidates and offer support throughout the year or match candidates with an NBCT mentor. Districts may elect to cover the cost of certification fees.



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### **Fees and Reimbursements\***

#### **What is the cost of National Board Certification?**

The initial cost for each of the four components is \$475, with the total cost for the initial attempt of all four components being \$1,900. Retake attempts require an additional fee. For each assessment cycle a teacher plans to take components, a \$75 nonrefundable and nontransferable registration fee is required and must be paid before purchasing a component.

#### **When do National Board certificates expire, and what is the cost of renewal?**

For teachers who certified in 2017 or later, National Board Certification is active for a period of **five years**. National Board Certified Teachers must successfully complete the Maintenance of Certification process to extend their certification. The National Board's Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process will ensure that Board-certified teachers continue to grow professionally while maintaining a strong impact on student learning. Starting in the 2020-2021 cycle, MOC will become the new pathway for National Board Certified Teachers to keep their certification active.

Successfully meeting MOC requirements will extend an NBCT's certificate by five years from their current certificate's expiration date. This is a change from the ten-year Renewal, which will sunset following the 2020-2021 year. MOC will cost \$495 plus a \$75 registration fee.

#### **What costs are eligible for reimbursement through TIA?\***

The Teacher Incentive Allotment will reimburse districts up to \$1900 for initial certification, up to \$1250 for renewal, and up to \$495 for maintenance of certification (MOC). Fees paid towards certification and renewal are eligible if the certification or renewal was achieved following the passage of HB 3 in summer 2019.

#### **How can a district pay fees directly to National Board for future candidates?**

The district will need to set up a Third-Party Payer (TPP) account to submit fees directly to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards on behalf of candidates. The first step to setting up a third-party payer (TPP) account is to complete the [Third-Party Payer Information Form](#). The district should refer to the [TPP Guide](#) and [TPP FAQs](#) for information on the process.

If there's anything the National Board can do to help facilitate payment processing, please don't hesitate to reach out directly via the [Third-Party Payer web form](#), or by phone at 1-800-22TEACH.

#### **How does a district apply for reimbursement of National Board fees?\***

Districts may apply for fee reimbursement through an online process beginning in January 2021. Districts must provide documentation of fees paid directly to National Board and/or reimbursed to the NBCT.

**\*National Board designation and fee reimbursement policies are pending proposal and adoption of Commissioner rules. Proposed rules will be posted for public comment this spring.**



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### **What if a district paid National Board fees for an employee who leaves the district or works in a non-teacher role, such as a librarian or instructional coach?\***

Districts may submit a request for reimbursement for NBCTs who achieved certification in 2019 or later if they can provide documentation of fees paid directly to NB or reimbursed to the NBCT. TEA will not verify the NBCT's current position or campus for the purposes of fee reimbursement.

### **What if a district paid fees for a teacher who did not fulfill the requirements to earn National Board certification?\***

A teacher must have earned a NB certification in 2019 or later for their district to be eligible for fee reimbursement through TIA.

### **Can teachers request reimbursement directly through TIA?\***

The Teacher Incentive Allotment allows districts to seek reimbursement of fees paid to National Board. The district must reimburse the NBCT prior to seeking reimbursement through TIA.

### **What is the general timeline from initial registration for National Board certification to reimbursement, and how does it align with a Recognized designation and other TIA funding?\***

Becoming National Board certified can take up to four year from initial registration to certification, but most candidates are certified within 1-3 years. New NBCTs will receive notification in December, and will earn a Recognized designation on their teaching certificate in the spring following initial certification. The Recognized designation will begin the same school year that the teacher earned National Board certification.

For the first year of an NBCTs recognized designations, districts will be notified of the allotment generated by each teacher in the spring and will receive allotment funds in September of the following school year. TEA will verify that designated teachers completed a creditable year of service and maintained eligibility prior to funding.

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