

National Board Certification

Overview Quick Start Guide: Updated 2023

We're excited that you are interested in learning more about National Board certification. If you're considering certification, we've pulled together this resource packet just for you. It includes the key things we think you need to know and provides a directory of links to relevant and useful content.

Pursuing Board certification is a highly rewarding experience that will help you grow and advance as a teacher.

1. What is National Board certification?
2. What does the certification process look like?
3. The National Board Standards and Five Core Propositions.
4. The four components.
5. The Certificate Areas.
6. Available Funding & Support.
7. Free courses to help you prepare.
8. FAQs.

1. What is National Board Certification?

National Board certification was designed to develop, retain, and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvement in schools nationwide. It is the most respected professional certification available in K-12 education.

Initial certification requires four components to assess your level of accomplished teaching.

Once Board-certified, teachers submit a portfolio every five years to maintain their certification. It's designed to be flexible, fitting around your personal and professional responsibilities. With 25 different certification areas across all grade levels to choose from, there is something for nearly all teachers from Math, Art and Health education through to Music, English Language Arts and World Languages.

Who is it for?

The great news is that Board certification is for all teachers or school counselors who have 3+ years classroom experience (though you are able to begin pursuing Board certification as early as your first year teaching), a bachelor's degree, and a valid state license. Candidates registering 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.

What are the benefits of pursuing certification?

- It helps you advance and grow as a teacher: Board certification can offer a career path that opens leadership positions in your school, district or beyond.
- It could be financially advantageous: You can earn more with salary incentives in many states and districts for Board-certified teachers. You could receive a stipend between \$1,500 and \$10,000 in addition to your salary each year when you certify and, in addition, many states and districts offer loans or a subsidy to cover the cost of pursuing certification itself!
- It's flexible: The certification process is flexible and has been designed to fit around your personal and professional responsibilities. Work towards Board certification in a way that suits you and your professional and personal responsibilities. Completing your first attempt of all four components can take as little as one year, or up to three. You have up to two retake attempts for each component and have a five-year window to achieve certification.

2. What does the certification process look like?

Pursuing certification is a personal journey that is unique to you. With different certificate areas and timelines available, there is no single or right way to pursue and complete certification.

To help you get started, please visit [Homeroom](#), which is a one-stop resource hub for support materials and resources you need on your National Board Journey. Homeroom includes information on payment options, deep dives into the four components, and planning guides.

3. The National Board Standards and Five Core Propositions

Developed and revised by practicing teachers based on research and practitioner expertise, the National Board Five Core Propositions and Standards describe what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do to have a positive impact on student learning. The Architecture of Accomplished Teaching provides a view of how use of the Five Core Propositions and the Standards result in student learning.

- [Five Core Propositions](#)
- [Standards](#)
- [AAT Graphic](#)

4. The Four Components

There are four components you will need to complete and submit for scoring. One is a computer-based assessment and the remaining three are portfolio entries.

Component 1: Content Knowledge

A computer-based assessment that requires you to demonstrate your understanding of content knowledge and pedagogical practices for teaching your content area. You must demonstrate knowledge of developmentally-appropriate content, which is necessary for teaching across the full range and ability level of your chosen certificate area.

Scoring Weight: This component counts for 40% of your total score.

[Component 1: Overview Video](#)

Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction

This portfolio entry requires that candidates gather and analyze information about individual students' strengths and needs and use that information to design and implement instruction to advance student learning and achievement. You will submit selected student work samples that demonstrate the students' growth over time and a written commentary that analyzes your instructional choices.

Scoring Weight: This component counts towards 15% of your total score.

[Component 2: Overview Video](#)

Component 3: Teaching Practice and Learning Environment

This portfolio entry requires video recordings of interactions between you and your students and among your students. You will also submit a written commentary in which you describe, analyze and reflect on the impact of your teaching on your students.

Scoring Weight: This component counts towards 30% of your final score.

[Component 3: Overview Video](#)

Component 4: Effective and Reflective Practitioner

This portfolio entry requires you to gather information from a variety of sources about a class of students with whom you work and demonstrate your knowledge of assessments and assessment practices to effectively plan for and positively impact student learning. You will provide evidence of collaboration with families, the community, and colleagues and the candidate's contributions to learning communities to advance student growth.

Scoring Weight: This component counts toward 15% of your final score.

[Component 4: Overview Video](#)

For a complete overview of the Components, please visit Session 2, Step 2 of [Homeroom](#).

5. The Certificate Areas

There are 25 areas you can choose from. For more information on these categories and our guide to choosing the right certificate, check out these resources:

- [Certification Areas](#)
- [Guide for Choosing the Right Certificate](#)
- [Choosing the Right ENL Pathway](#)

6. Available Funding and Support

Many states and districts provide financial support to help pay for certification; in some cases covering the full cost. To find out more about what support is available in your state, click [here](#).

7. Free Resources

We want to see every teacher who commits to certification succeed. That's why there are a number of resources available to you on your certification journey. Access teaching resources, guides, and a community of fellow teachers ready to support you at every step.

To help you get started, please visit [Homeroom](#), which is a one-stop resource hub for support materials and resources you need on your National Board Journey. Homeroom includes information on payment options, deep dives into the four components, and planning guides.

If you're interested in learning more about National Board certification, you can self-enroll in [this free Canvas course](#). We have a more detailed [Canvas course](#) to support you once you start working on your certification process.

8. FAQs

Here are answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about eligibility, the process, scores and retakes, cost, and supports.

Contact Us

If you have any further questions, we're always here to help. You can submit your question using the [National Board web form](#) or contact our customer support team at 1-800-22TEACH (83224).

Update: 10/04/2023