



NBPTS®

National Board Certified Teachers

Begin Planning for Renewal





Whether you are in your eighth or ninth year of certification, newly certified, or somewhere in between, it's never too early to start planning for renewal.

As a National Board Certified Teacher® (NBCT®), you have successfully undertaken the rigorous National Board Certification® process and demonstrated not only your content knowledge but also your teaching skills against the most advanced standards in the nation. Yet, just as a board-certified medical professional or other expert, you continue to seek ways to stay current in your field through continuous learning of specific content knowledge as well as pedagogical and technological skills.

Although National Board Certification is valid for 10 years, the renewal process is designed to help you build on the ongoing and complex professional growth process that supports accomplished teaching. These activities often begin before certification and expand into a variety of professional growth areas involving but not limited to such activities as workshops, courses and readings of the latest professional literature. This process evolves over time, taking on new meaning throughout your career—whether you focus on pre-K–12 classrooms, on mentoring other teachers, or supporting candidates for National Board Certification.

Starting early to plan for your renewal process will help you track and plan for eventual documentation of your professional growth experience through NBCT renewal.

Why is renewal important?

When you renew, you

- Maintain your designation as a National Board Certified Teacher and the right to use “NBCT.”
- Reflect on how your teaching practice continues to support student learning.
- Preserve your professional stature even after you retire, leave the classroom or change careers.
- Continue to have the opportunity as an NBCT to advocate for educational reform and champion policies that support teaching excellence.
- Sustain salary incentives (in some states and localities).
- Stay connected through NBPTS programs, products and services such as NBCTLink, the online community exclusively for NBCTs; AdvocacyLink, the online advocacy resource; and Accomplished Teacher, the NBPTS online newsletter.

The renewal submission decision is based on “renewed” or “not renewed.” Many successful renewal candidates report that the renewal process takes as few as 30 hours, and since candidates for renewal have already demonstrated that they are highly accomplished teachers, approximately 9 out of 10 candidates successfully renew their certification.

When are you eligible to renew?

You are eligible to renew if you meet the following prerequisites:

- Your original 10-year certificate is valid when you apply for renewal. If your certification has expired, you are not eligible to renew.
- You are in your eighth or ninth year of certification.
- Your state teaching license is current and unencumbered (e.g., not suspended or revoked). If you are not required by the state to hold a license, you must submit proof that your school is recognized and approved to operate by the state. If you are not actively teaching but plan to establish a relationship and work with students of a colleague in order to complete renewal, you must meet the teaching licensure requirements of the state.

If you are no longer in the classroom or you are teaching in a different subject area from your original certification, you may borrow a classroom in the area and developmental level in which you certified. The same holds true if you have retired from active teaching, as long as you still hold a valid state teaching license.

What is required in the renewal process?

You must produce and submit a profile of continued professional growth since earning National Board Certification in the same content area and with students at a similar developmental level as your original certificate. There is no assessment center component for renewal.

As a renewal candidate, you will complete one portfolio-like submission that consists of three components and a reflection. The renewal submission, called the Profile of Professional Growth, allows you to demonstrate the connections you have made as an NBCT between your continued professional growth, student learning and the current standards in your field.

The renewal process is based on your current teaching practices, for which the standards may have been revised within your original area of certification. You must renew based on the current standards in your field. You do not have to be a full-time teacher in the classroom to complete the renewal process.

- **Component One.** You will document and submit four examples of your professional growth, called Professional Growth Experiences (PGEs), based on the current standards for your field and ongoing and multi-faceted professional experiences as an NBCT, including effective and appropriate use of technology and current knowledge of the field.
- **Component Two.** You will submit a video (VHS or DVD format) in which you must demonstrate *pre-K–12 classroom teaching* that focuses on the application of one of the PGEs featured in Component One. You will demonstrate student learning in the same content area and developmental level as your original certification.

What Do Renewal Candidates Say About the Process?

“Students you teach near the end of your career deserve just as much as students you taught earlier in your career.”

— Rebecca Palacios, NBCT
Texas and Vice Chair,
NBPTS Board of Directors

“I wanted a catalyst to prod me to continue working on my teaching practice. I wanted to see if I was still up for the professional challenge.”

— Tim Boerst, NBCT
Michigan

“You spend thousands of dollars on a course and may not get the same impact.”

— Helen Serrano, NBCT
New York

What Do Renewal Candidates Say About the Process?

“Renewal certification is good for ten years which is roughly equivalent to \$100 a year or \$10 a month. I can think of a lot of things I spend \$10 a month on that don’t bring me nearly the same value as certification from the National Board.”

— William Ferriter, NBCT
North Carolina

“I’m not receiving any monetary incentive. I renewed for my own validation in my skills as a teacher. If you’re going to stay connected with education after retirement, it’s critical to validate your work with students.”

— Murrel Hoover, NBCT
West Virginia

“For me, completion of renewal was not tied to reimbursement funds—money or no money, I would have renewed.”

— Jill Joos, NBCT, Delaware

- **Component Three.** You will submit either a second video or examples of learners’ work that demonstrates the application of a second PGE from Component One, and it must be different from Component Two. The learners featured in this component may be students or adults.
- **Reflection.** You will analyze and reflect upon the first three components from your perspective as an educator, focusing on the challenges encountered, as well as your plans for continued professional growth and efforts to impact student learning.

What are the fees?

To be eligible for renewal, you need to meet all established deadlines and submit the full \$1,150 assessment fee, which includes a \$300 non-refundable application fee.

If you withdraw and request a refund in writing prior to the submission deadline, you are eligible to receive a refund of the fee paid, minus the initial non-refundable application fee, and you may reapply during the next renewal cycle. However, if you are in your ninth year of certification and withdraw, you are still eligible for a refund, but you will not be able to renew before your certificate expires.

Please visit www.nbpts.org/renew for more information about fees, the process to withdraw, and the refund process and/or the reapplication process.

What is the timetable for the renewal process?

Visit nbpts.org/renew to confirm the official dates and deadlines when you are ready to apply. Generally, the cycle is as follows (but, again, can vary from year to year):

- The renewal application window is open from **September through December** of each year.
- The fee deadline is the **end of January**.
- Submissions are required to be postmarked by the **end of April**.
- You will receive a decision regarding your submission before **December 31st**.