

## NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

National Board Certification is a voluntary process for teachers that is designed to complement state licensure. Individuals interested in seeking National Board Certification must have earned a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution, have completed three years of full-time teaching experience, and have held a valid state license without deficiencies (not an interim or emergency license) during the three years of employment, possess a valid five-year Virginia license, and be employed as a public-school teacher in a Virginia public school. Teachers interested in pursuing National Board Certification may find additional information regarding possible scholarships on the [National Board for Professional Teaching Standards](#) website.

Key points about national board certification policy:

- **Voluntary process:**

Individuals choose to pursue National Board Certification, unlike state licensure which is usually mandatory to teach.

- **Assessment components:**

To earn certification, individuals must typically complete multiple components including content knowledge exams, classroom video submissions, student work samples, and reflective essays demonstrating their teaching practice.

- **Multiple subject areas:**

The NBPTS offers certification options across various teaching subjects and grade levels.

- **Candidate Fee Support:**

\$2,000 of the fee for one (1) candidate.

- **Other Support:**

Two (2) professional development days for portfolio presentation. Candidate support through Virginia Commonwealth University's cohort program.

**Renewal process:**

National Board Certification must be renewed periodically by demonstrating continued professional development.

- **Benefits:**

Earning National Board Certification can lead to increased salary, recognition within the profession, and potential opportunities for career advancement. An initial award not to exceed \$5,000, contingent upon available funding, will be issued to teachers who meet the eligibility criteria described above and who achieved National Board Certification while teaching in a Virginia public school.

Continuing awards not to exceed \$2,500, contingent upon available funding, will be issued annually for the life of the active certificate to teachers who meet the above eligibility

criteria each year the award is granted. An individual will not receive an initial award and a continuing award in the same year.

For those individuals who receive notification that they achieved National Board Certification while teaching in another state, no initial award will be granted. These individuals will be eligible for the continuing award, contingent upon available funding, for the life of the active certificate provided the individual continues to meet the eligibility criteria described above.

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