

Revisions to the National Board Certification Process

Over the last 25 years, the National Board has advanced the teaching profession by establishing and maintaining the definitive standards of accomplished teaching and certifying more than 100,000 teachers across the country against those rigorous standards.

That number is significant, but too small in a profession of more than 3 million practitioners. To make the dramatic improvements we all seek in education for every student, National Board Certification needs to be the norm, not the exception.

To meet this goal, the National Board is revising the certification process.

Why revise the process?

- **Incorporate the latest research.** Just as we ask teachers to be reflective in their practice, we are reflective to ensure the certification process mirrors the evolving nature of the profession and current research on best practices in teaching. The process was last revised in 2001.
- **Remove barriers.** We are working with National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) and other experts in the profession to remove barriers in the process that have nothing to do with whether a teacher is accomplished.

What's changing in the process?

- **Flexibility** – Teachers can complete the entire certification process in one year or over several years if that fits better with other demands on your time.
- **Efficiency** - While maintaining the same level of rigor, the process will be grouped into four components.
- **Affordability** - The total cost of certification will decrease to about \$1,900, with each of the four components costing no more than \$500. Candidates will have the option to pay for and submit each component separately.

What this means for the 2013-14 National Board Certification process

- The 2013–14 candidate cycle is the last time that first-time candidates will apply using the existing certification process.
- Candidates must apply by December 31, 2013 to pursue certification in the current process.
 - Retake candidates will continue under the process they started.

Note: If you are a Take One! Candidate, please see the Take One! Presentation on nbpts.org.

What this means for the National Board Certification process in 2014-15 and beyond

- Applications for the revised certification process will be available to new candidates in spring 2014.
- The revised certification will be rolled out over time, with the first two components expected to be available for the 2014–15 school year.
 - We realize potential candidates have questions about the first two components, and we will distribute information and post to the website as soon as it's ready to share.

Note: Due to the ongoing revision of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) standards, candidates for the CTE certificates will begin the new process in 2015-16.

Timeline At-A-Glance

Goal to Achieve Certification	Deadline for Registration	Certification Process
Prior to the 2016-17 school year	Register by December 31, 2013 as a First Time Candidate for the 2013-14 process.	You will pursue certification using the current process, submitting as a First Time Candidate in Spring 2014 with two retake opportunities in the two subsequent years.
In the 2016-17 school year and beyond	<u>Register beginning in March 2014</u> . Please send us your email so we can remind you.	You will pursue certification using the revised certification process. Visit this page to learn more about revisions to the process: http://bit.ly/1enFXTk

What's not changing?

Though the process is changing, our principles remain the same.

No changes to:

- National Board Standards,
- Five Core Propositions
- Architecture of Accomplished Teaching
- A peer-review model
- Emphasis on content knowledge and commitment to student learning

Options for Potential First-Time Candidates

- Consider your goals and timeline when choosing how you would like to pursue certification
 - **If you are aiming to achieve Board Certification prior to the 2016-17 school year**, you will need to register as a First Time Candidate for the 2013-14 process by December 31, 2013. You will pursue certification using the current process.
 - **If you are aiming to achieve Board Certification in 2016-17 and beyond**, please send your email address to RevisedCertification@nbpts.org. We will contact you in March 2014, so you can register and begin the new, revised certification process.

More Information to Follow

- News of the revised certification process has sparked interest and prompted many questions
- We are working to get answers to our field staff, network leaders and teachers who are considering certification
- We chose to notify everyone early – even as some details are still being nailed down – in an effort to be transparent and allow teachers to plan ahead

What's Next?

- Stay in touch!
 - Check our website: www.nbpts.org
 - Follow us on [Facebook](#)
 - Call 1.800.22TEACH
 - If you are an NBCT, update your contact information in [My Profile](#)
- We will continue to share regular updates as the process unfolds.