



FY 2017 Recommended Budget Budget Question

Board Question #: 55

BUDGET QUESTION: What are the requirements of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher?

RESPONSE:

Recognized as the gold standard in teacher certification, the National Board believes higher standards for teachers means better learning for students.

The founding mission of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by:

- Maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do;
- Providing a national voluntary system certifying teachers who meet these standards;
- Advocating related education reforms to integrate National Board Certification in American education and to capitalize on the expertise of National Board Certified Teachers.

Research shows that the students of Board-certified teachers learn more than students in other classrooms, which is why many states and districts offer incentives for teachers to pursue Board certification.

It is a multi-year process; the certification lasts for ten years.

Achieving National Board Certification automatically earns a teacher highly qualified status to teach anywhere in the nation and makes him/her eligible for licensure in all fifty states.

There are over 82,000 Nationally Board Certified teachers in the world; there are currently over 3,000 in Virginia.

Spotsylvania County Public Schools has 49 Nationally Board Certified teachers.

Spotsylvania County Public Schools sponsored our first cohort of teachers to go through the NBCT process in 2005, with our first achievers gaining certification in 2006.

The Commonwealth of Virginia rewards NBCTs with an initial stipend of \$5000 and a continuing award of \$2500/year for the remaining 9 years of the certification. If the teacher renews, the continuing state award is maintained as long as NBCT certification is held. The division has also contributed an annual stipend – currently \$2,500 per year throughout certification.

National Board Certification will distinguish you as an accomplished, effective teacher who has met the highest standards in the profession.

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Research shows that students of NBCTs outperform their peers in other classrooms. In achieving certification, you demonstrate that you have the knowledge and skills necessary to advance student learning and achievement. Certification also opens doors to leadership opportunities and increases your professional marketability, among other benefits. Even before you achieve certification, you will be able to apply what you're learning to help your students each and every day.

Certification consists of four components: written assessment of content knowledge, reflection on student work samples, video and analysis of teaching practice, and documented impact and accomplishments as a teaching professional. Throughout its more than 25-year history, the National Board has sought to review and revise its standards and certification process to reflect best practices in teaching. Throughout the process, you will be able to apply what you're learning to your classroom practice and connect with other teachers pursuing certification. Recognizing the many demands on teachers' time, the process is designed to be flexible, efficient and affordable.

To be eligible for National Board Certification, you must:

Hold a bachelor's degree (Exception: Career and Tech Ed teachers must have met the licensure requirements for the state); have completed three full years of teaching or school counseling; and possess a valid state teaching or school counseling license. (Exception: If you are teaching where a license is not required, you have taught in schools recognized and approved to operate by the state).