



National Board Certification for Educational Leaders **Phase 1- National Board Certification for Principals**

- **As the nation rebuilds its educational infrastructure to more effectively educate its children, we need stronger educational leaders.** Effective principals, assistant principals and teacher leaders are critical to advancing the nation’s agenda for school reform. Certification programs represent new ways to develop, recognize and retain top school-based leaders.
- **National Board Certification for principals is the first phase of an expanded umbrella program, National Board Certification for Educational Leaders,** which builds on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards 20-year, highly successful program, National Board Certification for teachers and school counselors.
- **Effective principals working with teacher leaders are instructional and organizational change agents who have a critical impact on school, teacher and student success.** This positive learning environment, championed by these new certifications, advances student achievement and supports the recruitment and retention of accomplished teachers.
- **Principal certification advances student learning and elevates the profession.** Achieving certification will demonstrate that a school leader is ensuring that all students learn and achieve. The program will also increase motivation and prestige in the profession—and possibly offer financial incentives. Like board-certified doctors, principals who achieve National Board Certification demonstrate they have met advanced standards for their profession.
- **National Board Certification will provide a consistent and reliable way to measure the attributes of effective principals.** There is growing consensus in the field about the attributes of these highly accomplished school leaders. As yet, there is no reliable way to measure the performance of these school leaders—and recognize and reward their accomplishments.
- **The need for National Board Certification for principals is recognized by prominent education, leadership and philanthropic organizations.** In developing the first national certification program for school-based administrators, NBPTS is collaborating with a growing list of the nation’s leading national and philanthropic organizations—e.g., National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of Elementary School Principals, American Association of School Administrators, National Middle School Association, National Association of Charter School Authorizers, New Leaders for New Schools, and The Chicago Public Education Fund.

- **Principals support the prospect of advanced certification.** Initial research by NBPTS shows that principals support certification that would recognize the importance of instructional leadership, organizational change, and community involvement—as well as the essential role of the principal in school management. In a recent NBPTS survey, 83 percent of school leader respondents and 69 percent of district leader respondents expressed interest in principal certification. Both school- and district-level leaders were most interested in a certification that would better prepare principals to lead systemic instructional improvement.
- **NBCTs throughout the nation recognize the importance of school-based leadership in creating a culture of learning and supporting accomplished teachers.** Reports from a series of state and national summits on supporting and staffing high-need schools, attended by hundreds of NBCTs, ranked school-building leadership among the most important factors in recruiting and retaining accomplished teachers and advancing student learning.
- **National Board Certification for Educational Leaders is moving forward.** Already, the National Board—in collaboration with several committees representing principals, teachers, national organizations and other stakeholders—has developed and finalized core propositions that form the foundation for principal, assistant principal and teacher leader certifications. More than 7,500 educators nationwide (including 2,500 principals) provided feedback to help NBPTS ensure that these core propositions reflect current and future accomplished educational leadership.
- **NBPTS is now developing the standards, assessment, scoring rubric and scoring for the certifications.**
- **Funding for the certifications is well underway—reflecting both private and public sector support.**
 - In addition to the gifts provided by the National Policy Board for Educational Administration, State Farm Insurance Companies and the Wallace Foundation, The Chicago Public Education Fund has made a \$1,000,000 investment to the program.
 - The state of North Carolina has decided to support principal certification when it is ready in 2011. NBPTS anticipates that other states will follow.
 - The FY 2009 Omnibus appropriations bill, signed into law in March, provides \$1,000,000 for the development of principal certification.

Individuals interested in learning more about National Board Certification for Educational Leaders can sign-up at www.nbpts.org/principals and www.nbpts.org/teacherleaders to receive electronic updates and other information.