

Guide to National Board Certification

Version 2.3

For candidates who began the certification process in 2014-15 and later.

- Register online at www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification

*National Board Certification
Promotes Better Teaching,
Better Learning, Better Schools*

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The fees and other terms and conditions contained in this Guide are subject to change. Please visit the National Board's website to locate any changes or updates to applicable terms and conditions.

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Introduction

What is the National Board?

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (National Board) is a not-for-profit professional organization, created and governed by practicing teachers and their advocates. The founding mission of the National Board 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; and
- advocating related education reforms to integrate National Board Certification into American education and to capitalize on the expertise of National Board Certified Teachers.

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

Founded in 1987, the National Board began by engaging teachers in the development of standards for accomplished teaching and in the building of an assessment – National Board Certification – that validly and reliably identifies when a teacher meets those standards. Today, there are 25 certificate areas that span 16 content areas and four student developmental levels. The essence of the National Board’s vision of accomplished teaching is captured in the enduring document [What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do](#), at the heart of which are the Five Core Propositions:

1. Teachers are committed to students and their learning.
2. Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.
3. Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.
4. Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.
5. Teachers are members of learning communities.

Certification – An Overview

Over the last 30 years the National Board has advanced the teaching profession by establishing and maintaining the definitive standards of accomplished teaching and certifying more than 112,000 teachers across the country against those rigorous standards.

That number is significant but too small in a profession of more than three million practitioners. To make the dramatic improvements we seek in education for every student, National Board Certification needs to be the norm, not the exception. It also must be what the profession expects and is designed to support. To meet this goal, the National Board provides options for educators to pursue certification. While teachers can complete the entire certification process in one year, some may choose to do so over several years if that fits better with other demands on their time. The assessment is grouped into four components. With each of the four components costing \$475, the total cost of certification is \$1,900. Candidates can pay for and submit each component separately.

The National Board has revised its policy for maintenance of certification; Board-certified teachers must demonstrate their knowledge and skills every five years. This policy is aligned with the movement of 40 state licensure systems to a five-year renewal period, but also reflects efforts to make certification more affordable and efficient for all teachers, so that that it can become the norm in the profession. Development of the maintenance of certification has not yet started, but the aim is to keep it similar in price and process to completion of a single component of the certification process every five years. This is in contrast to the current renewal process, which requires a “Profile of Professional Growth,” with three interrelated components and a reflection. Visit our website at www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification-renewal Visit our website at boardcertifiedteachers.org/maintenance-of-certification for detailed information regarding the rollout of maintenance of certification.

Our principles remain the same. This National Board’s Standards, the Five Core Propositions, and the Architecture of Accomplished Teaching have stood the test of time. This is an indication of the teaching profession’s ability to create and maintain a body of knowledge that guides practice. And, just as when the first teachers earned Board certification in 1994, National Board Certification remains performance-based and peer-reviewed, with the same emphasis on content knowledge and commitment to student learning.

The Certification Process

The National Board Certification process is designed to collect standards-based evidence of accomplished practice. In all 25 certificate areas, candidates for National Board Certification must complete four components: three portfolio entries, submitted online, and a computer-based assessment, which is administered at a testing center.

- Computer-based assessment
 - Component 1: Content Knowledge
- Portfolio entries
 - Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction
 - Component 3: Teaching Practice and Learning Environment
 - Component 4: Effective and Reflective Practitioner

The Components

A general description of each component follows. The specific instructions will vary by certificate area, as will the standards assessed by each component.

Content Knowledge

In this computer-based assessment, candidates demonstrate knowledge of and pedagogical practices for teaching their content area. Candidates must demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate content, which is necessary for teaching across the full age range and ability level of the chosen certificate area. This is assessed through the completion of three constructed response items and 45 selected response items (SRIs) of which five are embedded field test items and do not contribute to the score. (Refer to the Scoring Guide for additional information). Candidates will have up to 30 minutes to complete each of the three constructed response items. The time allotted for the selected response section varies by certificate area, but will be no fewer 60 minutes.

Differentiation in Instruction

This classroom-based portfolio entry is primarily comprised of samples of student work and an accompanying written commentary. Candidates will submit selected work samples that demonstrate the students' growth over time and a written commentary that analyzes the candidate's instructional choices.

Teaching Practice and Learning Environment

This is a classroom-based portfolio entry that requires video recordings of interactions between candidates and their students. Two written commentaries, in which the candidate describes, analyzes and reflects on their teaching and interactions will also be submitted. Both the videos and the written commentaries should demonstrate how candidates engage students and impact their learning.

Effective and Reflective Practitioner

This portfolio entry requires candidates to gather information from a variety of sources about a class of students with whom they work and demonstrate their knowledge of assessments and assessment practices to effectively plan for and positively impact student learning. The portfolio will also require candidates to provide evidence of collaboration with families, the community, and colleagues and the candidate's contributions to learning communities to advance student growth.

How to Register and Select Components

- ✓ Take time to read all of the information provided in this guide prior to registering. Pay close attention to the eligibility prerequisites on page 6 and the Important Dates and Deadlines chart below.
- ✓ Determine if your state or district offers [fee support](#). To ensure that you qualify for what is offered, you should begin this process as early as possible.
- ✓ Register online at www.nbpts.org/sign-in. There is a \$75 nonrefundable and nontransferable registration fee that must be paid during **each** assessment cycle before you can select a component(s). Note that the registration fee is separate from the cost of each component.
- ✓ Select **only** the components you plan to complete during this assessment cycle. (You must complete this step even if you are receiving third-party financial support.) Refer to page 27 for instructions.
- ✓ Submit payment in full by the payment deadline. Refer to the Fees chart on page 10 for associated costs.

You are expected to complete all components for which you register during the assessment cycle in which the component is purchased.

Important Dates and Deadlines

All dates and deadlines are subject to change.

The following chart is applicable to candidates submitting components for scoring during the 2016-17 assessment cycle.

2016-17 Important Dates and Deadlines	
Registration Window	April 1, 2016-January 31, 2017
Registration (includes payment of \$75 fee)	January 31, 2017
Component Selection (includes payment of component fees)	January 31, 2017
Change of Certificate and/or Specialty Area	January 31, 2017
Change of Component Selection	January 31, 2017
Withdrawal Deadline	January 31, 2017
ePortfolio Submission Window	April 1-May 17, 2017
Component 1: Content Knowledge Testing Window	April 1-June 15, 2017
Score Release	On or before December 31, 2017

The following chart is applicable to candidates submitting components for scoring during the 2017-18 assessment cycle.

2017-18 Important Dates and Deadlines	
Registration Window	April 1, 2017-January 31, 2018
Registration (includes payment of \$75 fee)	January 31, 2018
Component Selection (includes payment of component fees)	January 31, 2018

Change of Certificate and/or Specialty Area	January 31, 2018
Change of Component Selection	January 31, 2018
Withdrawal Deadline	January 31, 2018
ePortfolio Submission Window	April 1-May 16, 2018
Component 1: Content Knowledge Testing Window	March 1-June 15, 2018
Score Release	On or before December 31, 2018

Fields of Certification

The National Board offers standards, based on the [Five Core Propositions](#), in 25 certificate areas. A standards committee composed of a majority of Board-certified teachers is appointed for each certificate area. Other members of the committee may include experts in child development, teacher education and relevant disciplines. Standards committees recommend to the National Board the specific standards for each certificate area and advise those involved in developing the corresponding certification process.

The standards and the certificates are structured along two dimensions: the developmental level of students and the discipline. Candidates may choose either a generalist or a subject-specific certificate. View a list of the [available certificates](#) and the links to the standards.

If you are a first-time candidate, you may change your certificate area prior to the established deadline through your National Board account by clicking "Service Requests" from the left-hand navigation menu. Log in to your National Board [account](#).

Completing National Board Certification may take anywhere from one to five years, depending on the approach you take. The following rules apply:

- You must attempt each of the four components within the first three years of your candidacy.
- You have a five-year window to achieve certification. If you do not achieve certification within the five-year window, you may start the entire certification process again as a first-time candidate.
- Components must be completed during the cycle year in which they are purchased.
- There is no minimum or maximum score requirement to retake a component; you can elect to retake any component even if you have met the required minimum average section score(s). However, once you achieve National Board Certification, retake attempts are no longer available.
- You have up to two retake attempts for each component. You can retake at any time during the five-year window and retake years do not have to be consecutive. You can have a year when you take or retake no components; however, it does not extend your three-year window to initially attempt each of the four components or the five-year window within which certification can be achieved. The highest numeric score received from all attempts of an individual component will be used for total score calculation.

For additional information on retaking components refer to the Scoring Guide: Understanding Your Scores, located online at www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification/candidate-center/first-time-candidates.

Eligibility Prerequisites

To be eligible for National Board Certification, you must meet the education, employment, and licensure requirements described below. You must meet all eligibility requirements prior to starting the certification process. The rules for meeting eligibility for candidacy are described in this guide, but teaching situations across the country vary widely, and the rules may not address your particular circumstances. Please contact Customer Support for assistance if you are not sure whether you meet the eligibility requirements.

Do you possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution?

An accredited institution is defined as one that is authorized or accepted by a state as fulfilling the state's educational requirement for initial teaching licensure or school counseling licensure. A teacher or school counselor with a degree awarded by an institution outside the United States must submit proof that the degree is equivalent to a baccalaureate either by submitting transcripts to an organization that belongs to the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (see www.naces.org/members.htm) or by submitting documentation to the National Board confirming that the state in which you teach or serve as a school counselor has accepted the degree for licensure requirements.

NOTE: Candidates registering for the Career and Technical Education certificate are required to hold a bachelor's degree only if their state required one for their current license.

Have you completed three years of successful teaching in one or more early childhood, elementary, middle, or secondary schools? Applicants for ECYA/School Counseling must have completed three years successfully serving as a school counselor.

- The three years of employment experience must have been completed prior to starting the certification process.
- The employment must have occurred in one or more facilities located within the United States or at an institution accredited by one of 17 agencies recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. For a list of these agencies, access www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg6.html. You should check individual agency websites for the most current contact information.

The following activities do not count toward the teaching or counseling prerequisite:

- time spent in administrative positions
- student teaching or teaching internships (or student practice or school counseling internships)
- employment as a teacher's assistant
- employment under an intern or a similar teaching license
- teaching or school counseling done at the postsecondary level (e.g., community college or university/college); teachers or counselors with students who are over the age of 18 years must be teaching at the pre-K–12 level and in pre-K–12 settings (e.g., vocational classes in a high school setting), not in a community college or university/college. Teachers in administrative positions or those teaching in the adult learner community may pursue National Board Certification only if they are able to provide evidence of classroom teaching with pre-K–12 students within the timeframe specified in the component instructions.

Part-Time or Substitute Teaching

Teachers who have taught part time are eligible, provided that they have teaching employment that is the equivalent to three years of full-time teaching. Substitute teachers may count teaching time spent in long-term assignments toward the three years; substitute teaching that consisted of short-term or on-call assignments does not accrue toward the three years.

Part-Time School Counseling

If you serve as a school counselor part time, you are eligible to be an ECYA/School Counseling candidate, provided your counseling employment is equivalent to three years of full-time counseling.

Have you held a valid state teaching license (or met the licensure requirements established by your state for a "school counselor" and held that valid license if you applied for the ECYA/School Counseling certificate) for each of the three years of employment you verify? Employment under an intern or a similar teaching license does not meet the licensure prerequisite.

Your state teaching or school counseling license must have been unencumbered (e.g., not suspended or revoked) while you were employed as a teacher or school counselor. Teachers who are or were employed in a facility that requires a state-issued license must hold a valid license during their candidacy period. If part or all of the employment you are verifying was served at a facility in which a state teaching or school counseling license was not required (e.g., private school, parochial school, school outside the United States, or early childhood facility), you must submit proof of this information if requested.

Verifying Your Eligibility

During the registration process, first-time candidates will be required to attest that all eligibility prerequisites will be met before starting the certification process. By attesting to meeting these requirements, you represent the information is true and understand that if misrepresented or falsified, you will be withdrawn from the National Board Certification process or if granted, National Board Certification will be revoked.

National Board will routinely audit first-time candidate records and request proof of meeting these requirements. If you are randomly selected for an audit, by the audit deadline you must provide supporting documentation demonstrating you met the eligibility requirements. If you are deemed ineligible at any point, you will not receive a refund of the registration fee, any service fees, or the assessment fee for any completed components.

Audit

Candidates who are being audited for eligibility will be notified by the National Board via email within 30 days of registration. You will then have 30 days to return the appropriate verification forms located in the [Eligibility Verification Forms and Instructions](#). You will be notified of your eligibility status within 30 days of receipt of the completed verification forms. Candidates who do not return the appropriate forms and documentation within the specified time frame will be deemed ineligible and their application will be withdrawn.

Note: Candidates who apply between May-August 1 may not be audited until September.

Additional Prerequisite for World Languages Candidates

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' Board of Directors adopted a prerequisite policy for the World Languages certificate area. In addition to the National Board candidate eligibility prerequisites, World Languages candidates must meet the National Board World Languages Standards for language proficiency by providing official American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Speaking and Writing Proficiency Certificates with a rating at or above the required level.

Candidates must obtain ACTFL certificates with ratings of Advanced Low or higher on ACTFL's speaking proficiency and writing proficiency assessments. ACTFL certification of Advanced Low or higher from any version of the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Writing Proficiency Test (WPT), such as OPIc Advanced Level Check – Speaking and Advanced Level Check – Writing, will be accepted.

If you are registering for the World Languages certificate, you must:

- Obtain both ACTFL speaking and writing certificates no more than two years prior to the registration deadline of your initial year of candidacy (the year in which you complete your first component and did not withdraw) and no later than June 30 of the cycle year in which you complete initial testing on all four National Board components. The two certificates do not need to have the same issue date.
- Receive a rating of Advanced Low or higher on both ACTFL speaking and writing certificates.
- Submit copies of your current ACTFL certificates using the National Board [web form](#), located on the [Contact Us](#) page of the National Board website. Include your name, National Board candidate ID, and copies of both of your ACTFL certificates in the email. ACTFL certificates from both speaking and writing proficiency assessments must be submitted at the same time.

If you have not obtained ACTFL certificates with ratings of Advanced Low or higher before the deadline of June 30 in the year you complete your initial attempt of all four components, your candidacy will be terminated even if you have met all other National Board score requirements.

Obtaining Your ACTFL Certifications

The National Board, in partnership with ACTFL, will provide each candidate a discounted price of \$60.00 plus a \$35.00 remote proctoring fee to take or retake either the ACTFL Advanced Level Check – Speaking or ACTFL Advanced Level Check – Writing. Candidates should register for retakes at <https://www.languagetesting.com/>.

Scheduling Your ACTFL Assessments

To register for an account, begin by [clicking here](#).

1. Select "Buy a Test" to buy a test and create an account.
2. Click on "Get Started"
3. Select "No" for "Are you testing for State Teacher Certification"
4. Enter Institution "National Board for Professional Teaching Standards – Individual"

If you already have an account, begin by [clicking here](#).

1. Enter Email Address and Password then click on "Login".
2. From your account, click on "Apply for an ACTFL Test" at the top of the screen under
3. "ACTFL TEST APPLICATION"

4. Click on "Get Started"
5. Select "No" for "Are you testing for State Teacher Certification"
6. Enter Institution "National Board for Professional Teaching Standards – Individual"

Follow the prompts to continue through the test registration system. After your test is scored, an electronic certificate will be emailed to you from Language Testing International. The certificate will display your rating on the ACTFL scale.

For assistance, contact Language Testing International at (800) 486-8444, ext. 751, or email customercare@languagetesting.com.

**Tests are available on demand, and are not technically scheduled with LTI, they are merely activated.*

Submitting Your ACTFL Certifications

After you have completed the National Board registration process and submitted payment of the nonrefundable and nontransferable \$75 fee, your evidence of language proficiency will be accepted.

Submit copies of your ACTFL certificates using the National Board [web form](#), located on the [Contact Us](#) page of the National Board website. You must include your name, National Board candidate ID, and copies of both of your ACTFL certificates. ACTFL certificates from both speaking and writing proficiency assessments must be submitted at the same time.

*Your ACTFL certificates are still valid for National Board Certification if you registered in:

- 2018-19 and have ACTFL certificates that were issued on or after January 31, 2017.
- 2017-18 and have ACTFL certificates that were issued on or after January 31, 2016.
- 2016-17 and have ACTFL certificates that were issued on or after January 31, 2015.
- 2015-16 and have ACTFL certificates that were issued on or after January 31, 2014.

For additional information regarding the ACTFL requirement, please review our [EAYA World Languages Candidates Prerequisite FAQ](#).

Fees

This table lists the various fees applicable to National Board Certification. You are responsible for confirming receipt by the National Board of any payments. After your application has been processed, you can view the fees posted to your individual account at www.nbpts.org/sign-in.

Fee Type	Details	Amount	2016-17 Cycle Deadline	2017-18 Cycle Deadline
Registration fee*	Charged once per assessment cycle. You will not be able to select a component without payment of this nonrefundable and nontransferable fee.	\$75	No later than January 31, 2017	No later than January 31, 2018

Component 2-4 Fee	Required for each attempt (initial and retake) of all portfolio components.	\$475 per component	January 31, 2017	January 31, 2018
Component 1 Fee (first attempt)	Required for the Content Knowledge assessment.	\$475	January 31, 2017	January 31, 2018
Component 1 Retake Fee	Required for each portion of Component 1 that you elect to retake.	\$125 per exercise and/or the Selected Response section	January 31, 2017	January 31, 2018
Component 1 Reauthorization Fee	If you miss your assessment center testing appointment or do not cancel within 24 hours, you must be reinstated before you can schedule a new appointment.	\$175	August 30, 2017	August 30, 2018
Returned Check Fee	This fee may be assessed if your personal check is returned for non-sufficient funds.	\$35	30 days after notification	30 days after notification

*Note: The Registration fee *must* be paid online via credit or debit card (Visa or MasterCard only), or via electronic check. This fee is required for each cycle in which you purchase a component(s).

The National Board reserves the right to change the fees stated above. Please visit the National Board's website for the most current information on applicable fees.

Withdrawals, Refunds, and Reinstatements

Component Withdrawal

During a given assessment cycle, you are expected to complete any components for which you register and pay. If you are unable to complete a component, you can withdraw the component through your National Board [account](#) prior to the withdrawal deadline by clicking "Service Requests" from the left-hand navigation menu. **Note:** The National Board does not offer a deferral service. If the withdrawal deadline has passed, we recommend that you consider completing your selected component(s) by the established deadlines as the assessment fees are nontransferable and even if you do not complete the component(s), the assessment year will count toward your five-year window to pursue certification.

Registration Withdrawal

If circumstances require you to end your candidacy, you can withdraw your entire registration. By withdrawing your entire registration, you are cancelling your candidacy and will be required to apply anew if you wish to continue pursuing certification at a later time.

- If you are a first-time candidate and have not completed a component(s) (i.e. you have not submitted a portfolio or tested at the assessment center), you can withdraw your registration through your National Board [account](#) prior to the withdrawal deadline by clicking "Service Requests" from the left-hand navigation menu. **Note:** You must first withdraw all currently purchased components before you will be permitted to withdraw your entire registration (see Component Withdrawal).
- If the withdrawal deadline has passed OR if you have completed one or more components in a previous cycle (i.e., you submitted a portfolio or tested at the assessment center), you can withdraw your registration by contacting our Customer Support team – this service is not available online.

Withdrawal details:

Type of Withdrawal	Implications
Component Withdrawal	<p>Any component(s) not withdrawn prior to the withdrawal deadline must be completed during the assessment cycle in which the component(s) was purchased.</p> <p>Component(s) not withdrawn and not completed during the assessment cycle will count toward your five-year window to pursue certification and toward the three attempts allowed for each component.</p> <p>Assessment fees are nontransferable regardless of the circumstance.</p> <p>Please refer to page 12 for information about refunds.</p>
Registration Withdrawal	<p>All score(s) for component(s) completed during your five-year window to pursue certification will be forfeited.</p> <p>You will be required to apply anew as a first-time candidate for future attempts at National Board Certification. The following rules apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you previously submitted components for scoring and wish to register again in the <i>same</i> certificate area, you must wait until the next assessment cycle. • You can register again in a <i>different</i> certificate area without restriction. Refer to page 12 for the registration deadline.

Note: The National Board may withhold your scores if you withdraw your registration or any components after the established deadline. Additionally, the National Board will continue to maintain sole ownership of all assessment-related materials you have submitted notwithstanding any such withdrawal on your part.

Refunds

If you withdraw prior to the withdrawal deadline, you are eligible for a refund, less the nonrefundable and nontransferable \$75 registration fee and any service fees. Refunds take 4-6 weeks to process.

You are NOT eligible for a refund if the withdrawal deadline has passed.

Reinstatements

If you have withdrawn your entire registration and wish to be reinstated before the withdrawal deadline, please contact Customer Support at 1-800-22TEACH.

Scholarships and Rewards

Scholarships

Through the generosity of corporate and foundation partners, National Board is periodically able to offer a limited number of scholarships to help offset a portion of the fees for National Board Certification. Scholarships are allocated under the guidelines set by the donors on a first come, first served basis. If you are eligible for a scholarship, the funds will be automatically posted to your National Board account prior to the published payment deadline and you will be notified via email. Please note that funding is limited and you should not rely on a scholarship to cover your component fees.

Incentives and Fee Support

Various states and local school districts have recognized the value of National Board Certification by offering salary increases, bonuses, or other incentives to educators who become NBCTs. There may also be some state and/or local funds available to support National Board Certification fees.

Before you register, contact your state or local program administrator for information about fees and incentives available in your state, as well as for any special application requirements that may apply. Many states set candidate application deadlines that differ from those set by the National Board, but the state application deadlines must be met for a candidate to be eligible for state fee support.

Learn more about how states and school districts support National Board Certification at www.nbpts.org/in-your-state.

What Next?

In our ongoing efforts to streamline the certification process, we use a paperless delivery system. Standards and other assessment documents are available at www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification/candidate-center. You'll need to check our website and your email regularly for updates and information.

Before registering

- Confirm you meet the eligibility prerequisites
- Review the National Board Standards, Scoring Guide, General Portfolio Instructions, and certificate-specific component instructions for your certificate area at www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification/candidate-center

Register and begin the process

- Go to www.nbpts.org/sign-in to register and pay the \$75 nonrefundable and nontransferable registration fee
- Select the components you'd like to complete during this assessment cycle; you must complete this step even if you are receiving third-party financial support. All fees must be paid prior to the payment deadline
- Prepare for portfolio submission and assessment center testing
 - Download the National Board Standards, component instructions, and scoring rubric for your certificate area at <http://www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification/candidate-center/first-time-and-returning-candidate-resources/>
 - Review the ePortfolio tips, tools, and tutorials at <http://www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification/candidate-center/eportfolio-submission/>
 - Review the assessment center policy documents, tutorials, and FAQs at <http://www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification/candidate-center/assessment-center-testing/>

Candidates who are eligible and fully paid will:

- Receive an email prior to the start of the testing window authorizing them to schedule their appointment to complete the computer-based assessment (Component 1)
- Receive an email prior to the ePortfolio submission window providing their voucher codes and login information to upload and submit their portfolio entry(s)

Communications

Email will be our primary means of communication throughout your candidacy. Ensure you receive important updates and information by keeping your preferred email address updated in your account and adding NBPTS.org and Pearson.com to your safe senders list so emails are not filtered to spam.

Portfolio Entry Submission

The three portfolio components must be submitted electronically for scoring using our online submission system. You will receive information about using the ePortfolio system during your candidacy. Prepare your submissions using the General Portfolio Instructions and certificate-specific component instructions online at www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification/candidate-center/first-time-and-returning-candidate-resources/.

Assessment Center Testing

Component 1: Content Knowledge is administered at computer-based testing centers across the United States. Once test centers are ready to accept appointments and your eligibility has been verified, you will receive an email with instructions for scheduling your appointment. Prior to scheduling your appointment, you should review [Component 1: Content Knowledge Assessment Center Policy and Guidelines](#) for important information about the testing process and how to prepare for a computer-administered assessment.

If you have a disability that necessitates an accommodation under the ADA for any component of the National Board Certification process, your request must be made using the form and instructions found in the [Request for Testing Accommodations Form and Instructions](#). You are urged to submit your request form as early as possible to allow 6–8 weeks for the National Board to review your request for accommodation(s) and make all appropriate arrangements for you to be able to attend the assessment center on your preferred testing date.

Scoring

National Board Certification is a standards-based assessment. Your score reflects the degree to which assessors were able to locate clear, consistent, and convincing evidence that you have met the National Board Standards specific to your certificate area. Scoring rubrics are available in the component instructions. When results are reported, you will receive a score for each component attempted, as well as information to assist you in making decisions on whether or not to retake.

You are required to demonstrate your teaching practice in your selected certificate area and with students in the stated age range for your certificate area. Failure to use an appropriate class or students in the stated age range will make your portfolio component unscorable.

The reliability of scores assigned to candidate performance is supported by maintaining the standardized training and scoring protocols that National Board has developed and refined since the certification program was first offered. For this reason, all scoring events for portfolio entries and constructed response items occur under the direction of experienced trainers and content specialists who are tasked with ensuring that the integrity of the process is maintained.

One or more assessors score each of the National Board Certification responses for all certificate areas and all constructed response items are scored by two independent assessors. The selected response items in Component 1: Content Knowledge are machine-scored.

Candidates who work as members of a team of teachers or school counselors have an excellent opportunity to collaborate with their peers. However, there are guidelines provided in the portfolio instructions for candidates to submit appropriate original individual work to support evidence of meeting standards of accomplished teaching.

Assessors who score(d) portfolios for the National Board may be willing to provide supportive and constructive feedback to you regarding your performance before you submit your portfolio entries for scoring. It would be inappropriate, however, for any person who has served as a member of the National Board scoring staff to make a judgment about the score that a performance should be given if reviewed outside of a formal scoring session. National Board assessors sign a statement agreeing that they will not give their opinions about the potential score that might be assigned to a performance when reviewing candidate performances outside of the scoring session. For more information on the scoring process and how to interpret your scores, review [Scoring Guide: Understanding Your Scores](#),

located [online](#).

National Board Policies

The National Board makes every effort to ensure that the National Board Certification process is fair for all applicants. National Board is committed to examining and refining its policies continuously in ways that benefit all candidates and enhance its delivery of efficient and high-quality services. The following policies (in italics, below) have been adopted by the Board of Directors and are applicable to National Board Certification.

NOTE: The National Board's policies and procedures relating to assessment and certification, as set forth in this Guide and in the sources referenced in this Guide, are subject to change at the sole discretion of National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, as it deems necessary for the betterment of the program.

Candidates with Disabilities

It is the policy of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to comply with the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)* regulations governing both facilities and administration. The National Board program is committed to serving candidates with disabilities by providing services and reasonable accommodations that are appropriate given the purpose of the assessments. If you have a disability that necessitates an accommodation under the ADA, your request must be made using the [Request for Testing Accommodations Form and Instructions](#).

You are urged to submit your request form as early as possible to allow 6–8 weeks for review. All requests for accommodations must be approved in accordance with National Board policies and procedures.

Confidentiality Guidelines

- I.** *The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards will take precautions so that all information about a candidate's candidacy and performance is strictly confidential. The names, school districts, certificate areas, and certification expiration dates of National Board Certified Teachers will be published and NBCT mailing addresses will be shared with public officials representing NBCTs' jurisdictions. Candidate scores will not be published or released by the National Board without prior written consent. The National Board will release certification decision information only to the candidate seeking National Board Certification unless the National Board receives written authorization from the candidate.*
- II.** *Any candidate who accepts full or partial payment of the assessment fee by a third-party agency is deemed to have given permission to the National Board for release of the certification decision to that third-party agency.*
- III.** *During the application process, the National Board will collect information necessary to communicate with candidates, to verify that candidates have met eligibility requirements, and to conduct research projects.*
- IV.** *On the application, the National Board offers potential candidates the option of having limited candidate information released to third-party agencies that may provide incentives, supports, and rewards for teachers/school counselors seeking National Board Certification. Such agencies may include national, state, and local professional and disciplinary associations whether or not the candidate is a member of such associations, state education agencies, county education agencies, local school districts, and community foundations. Candidates who do not wish to have their names released for this purpose can indicate this preference on the application form; however, doing so may result in missed opportunities for candidacy funding support. Candidates*

who accept full or partial funding from a third-party agency are deemed to have authorized permission for release of information to that third-party agency, regardless of the preference indicated on their application.

- V.** Upon full or partial payment of a candidate's assessment fee by a third-party agency, the National Board will provide the candidate's completion and certification status to the third-party agency. Neither total scores nor individual exercise scores will be released to third parties.
- VI.** The National Board will establish procedures requiring that all employees, contractors, assessors, or administrators who have access to information about the identity or performance of candidates understand the strictly confidential nature of this information.
- VII.** National Board will take precautions to assure that written and electronic confidential information is reasonably protected.
- VIII.** The National Board will assure that when research data are shared, any information about the identity or performance of individual candidates will be concealed.

Denial or Revocation of Certification

- I.** Certification may be denied or revoked for any applicant or certificate holder who, in the sole judgment of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards,
 - A)** has knowingly misrepresented or falsified material information in connection with an application, credentials, assessment documentation, or other materials or information submitted to National Board or
 - B)** has knowingly engaged in inappropriate conduct in connection with the certification process or renewal of the certification process, including but not limited to:
 - noncompliance with assessment procedures, regulations, or instructions;
 - violation of confidentiality agreements signed in accordance with the candidate application and/or assessment administration;
 - obtaining improper access to secure assessment materials or information prior to the administration of the assessment;
 - sharing, publishing, electronically posting, or otherwise reproducing secure assessment materials or information;
 - violation of the National Board guidelines that describe collaboration with others; or
 - any other form of cheating or misconduct that compromises the integrity of the certification process; or
- II.** National Board shall establish a fair procedure for such denials or revocations that is based on a finding by the President that certification should be denied or revoked based on the criteria in the preceding section and imposition of appropriate sanctions, including but not limited to:
 - denial of certification and withholding of score report, with leave to retake one or more assessment exercise(s),
 - denial of certification and exclusion from future participation in the assessment program,
 - revocation of certification,
 - assessment of monetary sanctions to cover costs and/or damages (including the costs of investigation) associated with the misconduct found.
- III.** In the interest of public protection and protecting the integrity of the teaching profession, for all teachers who have been denied certification and excluded from future participation in the assessment program or had a National Board Certificate revoked, National Board will
 - A)** provide the following information to the agency responsible for state licensure, employers, as well as to any third-party payer who financially supported or supports

- the teacher involved: (1) teacher name; (2) teacher home address, city, and state; (3) teacher school; and (4) date of action taken by National Board;*
- B)** *remove the name of the teacher from any National Board official listing of National Board Certified Teachers; and*
 - C)** *make the following information available through online and print publications and press releases: (1) teacher name; (2) teacher city and state; and (3) date of action taken by National Board.*

Maintenance of Certification

Beginning with certificates issued in 2017, maintenance of certification will be required every five years. This Guide will be updated with additional information as it becomes available.

Reconsideration of Certification or Scoring Decisions

Revised October 2004

I. Background

Recognizing that the cost to file an appeal is significant, National Board feels it is important to disclose that history has shown that most candidates who file an appeal do not establish good cause as defined by policy, expending time and personal funds unnecessarily.

II. Grounds for Reconsideration

- A)** *Once a candidate has received a certification decision and/or a report of exercise scores relating to his or her performance on an assessment, it is the policy of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to reconsider those certification or scoring decisions only where the candidate has submitted to National Board a written request for reconsideration that demonstrates good cause as to why such reconsideration is necessary. To establish good cause to support a request of reconsideration of a certification or scoring decision, a candidate must identify some particular circumstance or condition that makes it fundamentally unfair for National Board to maintain the certification and/or scoring decisions previously released to the candidate.*
- B)** *Before National Board makes final and releases any certification or scoring decision, it carefully reviews the assessment materials, the scoring process, and the performance standard to be used in connection with those decisions and assures itself that they are valid and reasonably reliable means of arriving at those decisions. Accordingly, for purposes of this policy, a candidate will not establish good cause to support a request for reconsideration of a certification or scoring decision by stating, for example, that:*
 - 1)** *the candidate or others believe that the certification decision or one or more of the exercise scores received by the candidate do not accurately reflect the quality of the candidate's performance or teaching abilities; or*
 - 2)** *the candidate or others disagree with or seek an exception from or challenge the performance standard or some component of the performance standard that has been adopted by the board, the standards, the portfolio instructions, or scoring processes; or*

- 3)** *the candidate failed to understand or follow National Board policy and procedures (as outlined in the Guide to National Board Certification and the online Assessment Center Policy and Guidelines), failed to understand or follow an instruction in the assessment materials, failed to submit documents, or failed to perform in a manner that best presented the candidate's qualifications for certification. Please note this includes, but is not limited to, the failure to report test center problems within seven days after a testing appointment.*

This holds true regardless of how close a candidate comes to achieving certification. This also holds true regardless of personal circumstances endured while seeking certification. Furthermore, there are no circumstances under which mere disagreement with the score of a portfolio entry or assessment center exercise will result in the immediate award of additional "points."

III. Procedure and Timeline for Filing an Appeal

Candidates who wish to submit a letter of appeal must follow these instructions:

- Submit your letter of appeal and appeal fee (\$500) to:
National Board
1525 Wilson Blvd, Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22209
- *Include in the letter all pertinent details supporting the appeal. Be specific. Enclose only materials that are directly relevant to a show of "good cause."*
- *The letter of appeal must be received within 60 calendar days of the date that is printed on the score report.*
- Appeals are only received for a period of 60 days after the date that scores are released. During that period, a candidate can only appeal a certification or scoring decision that was rendered during that specific score release. Appeals filed for certification or scoring decisions rendered in former score releases will not be considered. Once the appeal deadline has passed and a candidate has not submitted an appeal, scores will be final and not subject to appeal.

Score Verification Service

The Score Verification Service offers candidates the option to have one or more scores verified. A fee of \$75 per score verified, which can be paid by credit card online, is charged to the candidate for this service. No explanation of the request is required and a response is guaranteed within 30 days. In the past, many candidates who filed an appeal could have first verified the accuracy of their results at a lower cost through score verification. The National Board strongly encourages candidates to make use of the Score Verification Service before deciding if an appeal is in their best interest.

For more information on the Score Verification Service, please contact our Customer Support team at 1-800-22TEACH.

VI. Annual Report

The President shall submit a report to the Board of Directors on the implementation of this policy.

Ethics

The National Board does not tolerate cheating or confidentiality breaches of any type. Help protect the integrity of National Board Certification. Immediately report breaches of

security, misconduct, and/or unethical practice by calling National Board at 1-800-22TEACH (83224).

Language Accommodations

We recognize that languages other than English are frequently used in the classroom; therefore, for the following circumstances, the accommodations described are allowed.

- **Student Work Samples and Video Evidence with Brief Expressions or Phrases in a Language Other than English.** Student work samples and video evidence may include brief expressions or phrases in a language other than English. The inclusion of such expressions or phrases must be limited because assessors do not have fluency in languages other than English. If expressions or phrases in a language other than English that are important for an assessor to understand are included, you must include brief explanations of these expressions or phrases in the Written Commentary.
- **Student Work Samples and Video Evidence in a Language Other than English.** If you are submitting student work samples or video evidence in a language other than English, you must provide a written English translation for the samples or evidence with your submission. The translation must include your candidate ID number, the entry title, and any necessary student identifiers (but do not include students' names). Note that the pages of your translation do not count toward your page totals.

Exceptions

- English Language Arts. Candidates seeking certification in this area must submit student work samples and video evidence in English.
- World Languages. Assessors for this certificate area are fluent in English and the target language; therefore translations are only required for documentation that is written in a language other than English or the target language.

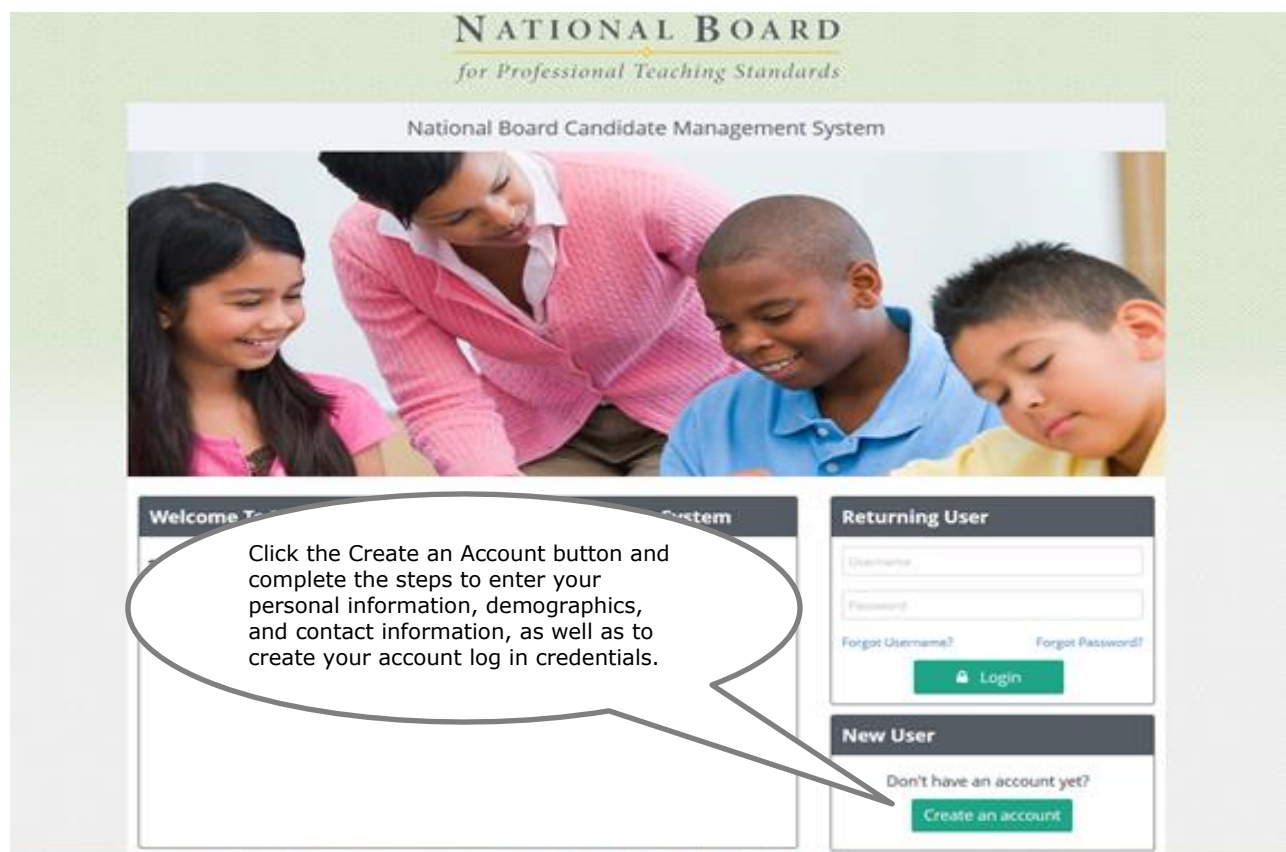
If the majority of your instruction takes place with students for whom English is a new language, the appropriate National Board certificate may be either the Early and Middle Childhood/English as a New Language certificate or the Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/English as a New Language certificate. To help you make the decision whether to pursue certification in one of the available certificate areas, discuss your teaching situation with professional colleagues, your school faculty, a National Board Certified Teacher, or your faculty support group. For more information on submissions in languages other than English, see the component instructions for your certificate.

National Board Candidate Management System

Create an Account

The *National Board Candidate Management System* (NBCMS) is where you will create a National Board account, register for National Board Certification, and select and pay for components. You can log into your account at any time to review your status, view payment history, and manage your personal contact information. NBCMS is accessible from the National Board's website at www.nbpts.org/sign-in.

The first step in the registration process is creating an account. Click the Create an Account button and complete the steps to enter your personal information, demographics, and contact information, as well as to create your account log in credentials. **Note: In order to be considered an active candidate for National Board Certification, you must also complete the steps to register and select and purchase components.**



Register for National Board Certification

First-time Candidates

Log in to your account at www.nbptsorg/sign-in. Click Certification Registration from the left-hand menu or the Register for National Board Certification button under Quick Start to begin the registration process.

The screenshot shows the user interface of the National Board Candidate Management System. On the left is a dark sidebar menu with options: Home, Certification Registration, Purchase Component, Scholarship Application, Activity History, Service Requests, Financial Statement, and Logout. The main content area has a 'Quick Start' section with a blue button labeled 'Register for National Board Certification'. Below this is a table with columns for Certification Track, Certification Period, and Registration Status. A 'Profile' section contains a table with fields for Name, National Board ID, Profession, Primary Email, Primary Phone, Candidate Status, and Account Created. A callout bubble with a white background and black border points to the 'Certification Registration' menu item and the registration button, containing the text: 'Click Certification Registration from the left-hand menu or the Register for National Board Certification button under Quick Start to begin the registration process.'

The registration process consists of eight steps, ending with the payment of the \$75 nonrefundable and nontransferable Registration fee. An overview of these steps is provided below.

The screenshot shows the 'National Board Candidate Management System' interface. At the top, it says 'Viewing: 2017 - 2018 Current Assessment Year'. Below the header is a progress bar with eight steps: Introduction, Step 1: Personal Information, Step 2: Employment Information, Step 3: Eligibility, Step 4: Agreement, Step 5: Certificate Selection, Step 6: Registration Review, Step 7: Payment, and Step 8: Confirmation. Below the progress bar is a table with columns for Certification Track, Certification Period, and Registration Status. A 'Welcome to National Board Certification Registration' section contains four numbered instructions: 1. Email will be our primary means of communication... 2. Visit <http://www.boardcertifiedteachers.org>... 3. During registration, you must attest that you have read and agree to the deadlines and policies... 4. Verify that you meet the eligibility requirements... A green 'Next' button is located at the bottom right of the welcome section.

Step 1: Personal Information

Step one of certification registration requires you to complete the personal information fields, which are divided into six subcategories. Subcategories include: Name, Demographic, Address, Email, Phone, and Education Information.

- Under Education Information, you can enter your Undergraduate and Graduate degrees, as well as specify where you earned your initial teaching license.

Step 2: Employment Information

Employment information is gathered based on School Type (public or private), School State, School District, School, Grade Level Taught, Years of Teaching Experience, and Union Affiliation. To provide consistency in capturing information, dropdown menus are provided. If your employment information is not listed in the dropdown menu, you may select "Other" and manually input your information. Note: After completing all required fields, you must click "Save" before you can move on to the next step.

Step 3: Eligibility

Before proceeding to step four, you must confirm you meet the eligibility prerequisites outlined on pages 6-7 of this Guide.

Step 4: Agreement

The Agreement tab requires you to select 'yes' or 'no' to the following policies:

- I hereby confirm that I have carefully read the *Guide to National Board Certification* (the "Guide"). I agree to comply with and be bound by all policies and procedures set forth in the *Guide*, and in the sources referenced in the Guide, including but not limited to those relating to confidentiality, deadlines and withdrawal.
- I certify that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- I understand and agree to the terms of the Certification Denial or Revocation Policy that describes areas of misconduct and consequences of unethical practices.
- I agree that in the event I achieve National Board Certification, the National Board will publish my name in the NBCT directory, along with my state, city, school district, year certified, and certification expiration date.
- I understand that the \$75 Registration fee is nonrefundable and nontransferable, regardless of circumstance.

The Agreement tab also allows you to elect to have your name released to third-party agencies that may provide incentives, support and rewards for teachers seeking National Board Certification. **This election is necessary if you wish to request funding from a third party. Note: You MUST select 'yes' to all policies in order to continue with the registration process.**

Step 5: Certificate Selection

Here you will select your Certificate Area, Development Level, and Specialty Area (if applicable). You are encouraged to review the [National Board Standards](#), the [Choosing the Right Certificate Area](#), and Component at a Glance documents located at <http://www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification/candidate-center/first-time-and-returning-candidate-resources/> before making your selection.

Step 6: Registration Review

This step allows you to review and edit the information you've entered. Note: All required fields must be completed in order to proceed to the next step.

Step 7: Payment

You may pay the \$75 Registration fee by credit or debit card or by electronic check. **Note: Your registration is not complete until this payment has been made.**

Step 8: Confirmation

Upon payment of the Registration fee, you will be sent an email confirmation with receipt of payment. **Note: Additional steps are required to select and purchase your components.**

Returning Candidates

If you completed the certification process during a previous assessment cycle, you may register during the current assessment cycle and select a new component(s) or retake a previously completed component(s) by logging in to your account at www.nbpts.org/sign-in.

Note: The option to retake a component will be available after score release of the cycle year in which it was originally completed.

The \$75 nonrefundable and nontransferable Registration fee is required for each cycle in which you plan to purchase and submit components. In order to register for the current assessment cycle, you must first pay this fee. Note: If you are not planning to pursue components in the current assessment cycle, you are not required to pay the \$75 registration fee.

In April each year, your Home page will automatically default to the current assessment cycle. To view information from a previous cycle, click the button located on the upper right of the screen. To register for the current assessment cycle, click the link located under Notifications. The Registration fee can be paid via credit card or electronic check. Once your registration is complete, follow the steps to select and purchase a component(s).

The screenshot shows the user interface of the National Board Certification System. At the top, it says "National Board for Professional Teaching Standards" and "Certification System". The current assessment year is "2017 - 2018". On the left is a navigation menu with options: Home, Certification Registration, Purchase Component, Scholarship Application, Activity History, Service Requests, Financial Statement, and Logout. The main content area has a "Notifications" section with a message: "Your payment for the 2017-2018 assessment cycle registration is due. [Click here](#) to complete the payment." Below this is a table with columns "Certification Track", "Certification Period", and "Registration Status". The table contains one row: "English Language Arts-Ages 14-18+: Adolescence and Young Adulthood", "2015-2020", and "Registered". Below the table is a "Profile" section with fields for Name, National Board ID, Profession (Teacher), Primary Email, and Primary Phone. To the right of the profile is a "Primary Mailing Address" section with fields for Address, City (Los Angeles), State (CALIFORNIA), and ZIP (United States of America - USA 90027). Two callouts are present: one pointing to the "Click here" link in the notification, and another pointing to the "Primary Mailing Address" section.

Your Home page will default to the current assessment cycle. To view information from a previous cycle click the button located on the upper right of the screen.

To pay the \$75 nonrefundable and nontransferable registration fee, click the link located under Notifications.

Certification Track	Certification Period	Registration Status
English Language Arts-Ages 14-18+: Adolescence and Young Adulthood	2015-2020	Registered

Select Components

Log in to your account at www.nbpts.org/sign-in and click Purchase Component from the left-hand menu or the Click Here button under Notifications. Only purchase the components you plan to complete during the current assessment cycle. (You must complete this step even if you are receiving third-party financial support.)

NATIONAL BOARD
for Professional Teaching Standards

National Board Candidate Management System

Viewing: 2017 - 2018
Current Assessment Year

Hi, firstnamelastname

Home

Notifications

- Your registration is complete. Click [here](#) to see your complete registration.
- Components are available for purchase. [Click here](#) to purchase a component.

Certification Track	Certification Period	Registration Status
Art-Ages 11-18+: Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood		Registered

Profile

Name	First Last	Candidate Status	Registered
National Board ID	03055449	Primary Mailing Address	123 Main Street Any Town TEXAS United States of America - USA 78211
Profession	Teacher		
Primary Email	[Redacted]		
Primary Phone	(222) 222-2222		

The component selection process consists of six steps. An overview of these steps is provided below.

NATIONAL BOARD
for Professional Teaching Standards

National Board Candidate Management System

Viewing: 2017 - 2018
Current Assessment Year

Hi, firstnamelastname

Home > Purchase Component

Step 1: Select Component | Step 2: Agreement | Step 3: Order review | Step 4: Submit Confirmation | Step 5: Payment | Step 6: Confirmation

Certification Track	Certification Period	Registration Status
Art-Ages 11-18+: Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood		Registered

Select Component

The components available for purchase, as well as their associated costs, are listed below. You must purchase each component individually. If you are expecting payment from a third party, or choose not to submit payment at this time, you must complete the order process through Step 3: Order Review and click "Submit Order" for the component(s) to be reflected on your account. **Note: All fees must be paid by the established deadline. If you are unable to complete your selected component(s), you have the option to withdraw. Review the [Guide to National Board Certification](#) for important dates, deadlines, and policy information.**

Component Name	Price	Balance Due	Status	Action
C1: Content Knowledge Assessment	\$475.00		Not Purchased	Purchase
C2: Differentiation in Instruction	\$475.00		Not Purchased	Purchase
C3: Teaching Practice and Learning Environment	\$475.00		Not Purchased	Purchase
C4: Effective and Reflective Practitioner	\$475.00		Not Purchased	Purchase

Step 1: Select Component

The components available for your certificate area will be displayed here. You must select and purchase each component individually. **Note: Although payment is not required at the time of component selection, you must complete the order process through Step 3 and click Submit Order for the component to be reflected on your account.**

Step 2: Agreement

The Agreement tab requires you to select 'yes' or 'no' to the following policies:

- I agree that my assessment materials, once submitted, are the property of the National Board and may be used at the sole discretion of the National Board for assessment, professional development, research, and any other purposes the National Board deems appropriate to further the mission of the organization.
- I understand the deadline for withdrawing and receiving a partial refund as outlined in the Guide to National Board Certification.

Step 3: Order Review

This step allows you to review and edit your component selection. **Note: Although payment is not required at the time of component selection, you must click Submit Order for the component to be reflected in your account and for payments – including any potential third-party payments – to be applied.**

Step 4: Submit Confirmation

Confirmation of the component purchase is provided here. You are also provided with the option to review your activity history and purchase additional components. **Note: If you are expecting payment from a third party, you do not need to move on to Step 5.**

Step 5: Payment

You may pay the component fee by credit or debit card or by electronic check. **Note: Even if you are expecting payment from a third party you must be prepared to submit payment in full by the published deadline.**

Step 6: Confirmation

Upon payment of the component fee, you will be sent an email confirmation with receipt of payment.

Note: You MUST repeat steps 1-6 for each component you plan to purchase and should only purchase the components you plan to complete during the current assessment cycle.

Contact Us

Online Resources*

Access www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification for information regarding

- Registration
- Eligibility Requirements
- National Board Standards
- Component Instructions
- Scoring Guide: Understanding Your Scores
- Assessment Center Policy and Guidelines
- Nonstandard Testing Accommodations
- ePortfolio

Your information is managed via a secure, online account. Access www.nbpts.org/sign-in to

- create/access your account,
- register for the upcoming assessment cycle,
- purchase components,
- view your candidate record,
- pay by credit or debit card,
- view payments, and
- update personal information.

Contact National Board Customer Support (Be sure to include your candidate ID number in all correspondence with the National Board.)

By phone: 1-800-22TEACH (83224) Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., CST

Online: Submit your question using the [National Board web form](#).

- For assistance with registration.
- To inquire about deadlines, policies, or the status of your account.

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Produced for

NATIONAL BOARD

for Professional Teaching Standards®

by



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The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Inc. has been funded in part with grants from the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation. The contents of this publication do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education or the National Science Foundation, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the sponsors.

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