

NATIONAL BOARD

for Professional Teaching Standards®

Maintenance of Certification

Maintenance of Certification: Sustaining Professional Growth

Maintenance of Certification (MOC), from the **National Board for Professional Teaching Standards**, is designed to recognize that National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) are continually growing professionally and maintaining a positive impact on student learning. As of 2020-21, MOC became the pathway for NBCTs to keep their National Board Certification active. By successfully meeting MOC requirements, an NBCT's certification is extended by five years. MOC replaced the prior 10-year certification renewal process. The National Board moved to MOC to:

- Make the Board certification process overall more affordable, more flexible, and more accessible to teachers
- Align with the timeline for most states' teacher licensure renewal policies

When teachers become Board-certified, they demonstrate the knowledge and performance-based teaching practices that meet the National Board Standards of accomplished teaching. *Maintaining* certification requires Board-certified teachers to demonstrate professional growth on those same standards. The cost of MOC is \$495 (plus a \$75 registration fee). MOC requires teachers to document evidence of professional growth over time within learning communities and for the benefit of students.

How can MOC support strengthen state licensure renewal policy?

Using MOC as a foundation for stronger teacher licensure policy allows states to:

- Ensure state teacher licensure renewal is a meaningful professional learning opportunity
- Reduce burdensome paperwork
- Encourage the retention of accomplished, Board-certified teachers

Because the completion of MOC every five years aligns with teacher licensure duration in most states, states can streamline and strengthen licensure renewal by adopting legislative or regulatory policy that provides NBCTs the option of using a teacher's participation in MOC to fulfill state licensure renewal requirements.

The National Board has advanced the teaching profession by establishing and maintaining the definitive standards of excellence in teaching and certifying more than 125,000 educators against those standards.

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Specifically, states can allow National Board Certification to be a “fastpass” to state licensure renewal, waiving requirements for teachers who earn and maintain an active National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certificate.

State teacher licensure renewal policy exemplars

Florida: A certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is deemed to meet state renewal requirements for the professional certificate for the life of the educator’s national certificate in the subject shown on the national certificate. Official documentation shall be a photocopy of the national certificate. F.A.C. 6A-4.0051

Washington: ...a professional certificate may be renewed based on the possession of a valid teaching certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards at the time of application for the renewal of the professional certificate. Such renewal shall be valid for five years or until the expiration of the National Board Certificate, whichever is greater. Such renewal is only available one time during the validity period of the National Board Certificate and cannot be the same National Board Certificate used to obtain the professional certificate. WAC 181-79A-251

Model policy language

[State name] recognizes National Board Certification as fulfilling the renewal requirements for state licensure until the expiration of the National Board certificate.

Find out more

Want to learn more or discuss how your state can leverage Maintenance of Certification? Contact the Policy team at takeaction@nbpts.org.

