

National Board Certification

Candidate Resource Guide (2)

Congratulations on starting your National Board certification journey.

We've put together this Candidate Resource Guide that includes the key certification documents and additional resources to support you on your National Board certification journey.

The official components and instructions can be accessed on this [page](#). This page includes certificate-specific Standards and instructions, overviews of the certification components, and important policy and procedure documents.

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1. The Certificate Areas

There are 25 certificate areas you can choose from. Think carefully about which area is right for you based on what you currently teach and the access you will have to evidence needed to support your submissions.

For more information on these categories and our guide to choosing the right certificate, you can check out these resources:

- [Certificate Areas for Board certification](#)
- [Guide for Choosing the Right Certificate](#)

2. Planning Your National Board Journey

The certification process is designed to be flexible and fit around your personal and professional responsibilities. Completing your first attempt of all four components can take as little as one year, or up to three. You have up to two retake attempts for each component and have a five-year window to achieve certification.

As you embark on this journey, you will need to make choices about the order in which you complete the components and how to collect the best evidence possible to meet component requirements. Your journey is unique, so you can purchase the components you work on in each assessment year.

What You Need to Know

You must attempt each of the four components within the first three years of your candidacy. However, you have a five-year window to allow for retakes and 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. More information on this is in the [Guide to National Board Certification](#).

Example Timeline Plans

Here are two examples, out of many, that you can use to think through what your journey could look like. If you want to design another road map you can use the Component Guides (in the Components section below) to help you design the timeline that best supports you on your journey. If you are interested in working on all four components in one year, you can use the component specific planning guides to organize your work.

- [Two Year Planning Guide](#)
- [Three Year Planning Guide](#)

3. Your Funding Options

Many states and districts provide financial support to help pay for certification; in some cases covering the full cost. To find out more about support available in your state, click [here](#). You can find additional information on [funding here](#).

4. Candidate Support

We want to see every teacher who commits to certification succeed. That's why there are many resources available to you on your certification journey. Access teaching resources, guides, and a community of fellow teachers ready to support you at every step. While the National Board does not organize or formally endorse groups or programs, there are many candidate support programs across the country. Here are some resources to explore in accessing supports:

- Click on your [state](#) to learn more about local support programs.
- Check out the [National Board Network](#) community.
- Explore a national candidate support program.
 - [Stanford National Board Resource Center](#)
 - [University of Mississippi](#)
- Join a [Facebook Group](#).
- Enroll in a free [Canvas course](#).
 - This course is designed for teachers pursuing National Board certification. It is populated with videos, tools, and resources for National Board candidates. The course is organized around six modules:
 1. Welcome: Details about using Canvas, setting up your profile, overview of the National Board process
 2. Component One: Step-by-step preparation for your testing experience.
 3. Component Two: Step-by-step guidance for understanding and preparing your submission, with a focus on differentiation and analyzing student work.
 4. Component Three: Step-by-step guidance for understanding and preparing your submission, with a focus on learning environments and videos.
 5. Component 4: Step-by-step guidance for understanding and preparing your submission, with a focus on effective assessment and planning of this component.
 6. Understanding your Score: All the information you need to understand your score and next steps.

5. The National Board Standards and Five Core Propositions

Developed and revised by practicing teachers based on research and practitioner expertise, the National Board Five Core Propositions and Standards describe what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do to have a positive impact on student learning. The Architecture of

Accomplished Teaching provides a view of how use of the Five Core Propositions and the Standards result in student learning.

- [Five Core Propositions](#)
- [Standards](#)
- [AAT Graphic](#)

6. The Four Components in Detail

There are four components in the certification process. One is a computer-based assessment and the remaining three are portfolio entries. Below we have gathered all of the resources you will need to familiarize yourself with each of the components.

Component 1: Content Knowledge

A computer-based assessment that requires you to demonstrate your understanding of content knowledge and pedagogical practices for teaching your content area. You must demonstrate knowledge of developmentally-appropriate content, which is necessary for teaching across the full range and ability level of your chosen certificate area. This component counts for 40% of your total score.

[Component 1: Planning Guide](#): Instructions, support videos/webinars and graphic organizers.

Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction

This portfolio entry requires that candidates gather and analyze information about individual students' strengths and needs and use that information to design and implement instruction to advance student learning and achievement. You will submit selected student work samples that demonstrate the students' growth over time and a written commentary that analyzes your instructional choices. This component counts towards 15% of your total score.

[Component 2: Planning Guide](#): Instructions, support videos/webinars and graphic organizers.

Component 3: Teaching Practice and Learning Environment

This portfolio entry requires video recordings of interactions between you and your students and among your students. You will also submit a written commentary in which you describe, analyze and reflect on the impact of your teaching on your students. This component counts towards 30% of your final score

[Component 3: Planning Guide](#): Instructions, support videos/webinars and graphic organizers.

Component 4: Effective and Reflective Practitioner

This portfolio entry requires you to gather information from a variety of sources about a class of students with whom you work and demonstrate your knowledge of assessments and assessment

practices to effectively plan for and positively impact student learning. You will provide evidence of collaboration with families, the community, and colleagues and the candidate's contributions to learning communities to advance student growth. This component counts toward 15% of your final score.

Component 4: Planning Guide: Instructions, support videos/webinars and graphic organizers.

7. Scoring and Rubrics

It is important that you read **The Scoring Guide** to understand how the assessment is scored and the score requirements for achieving Board certification. As you prepare for your components, work closely with **the component-specific rubrics** in the Component Instructions.

Resources (including webinars) for **Understanding Scoring and Feedback Statements**.

8. Candidate FAQs

Here are answers to **Frequently Asked Questions** about eligibility, the certification process, scores and retakes, cost, and supports.

Contact Us

If you have any further questions, we're always here to help. You can submit your question using the **National Board web form** or contact our customer support team at 1-800-22TEACH (83224).

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