

Guide to National Board Certification

Version 4.3

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

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

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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 137,000 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 maintaining certification. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' Maintenance of Certification (MOC) is a process that will allow a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) to extend certification in five year increments. The process is designed to ensure that Board certified teachers are continuing to grow professionally while maintaining a strong impact on student learning. 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. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about the MOC process.

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, which are 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

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](#).

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. Candidates who do not meet this requirement will have their candidacy terminated and will be required to start the entire certification process again as a first-time candidate.
- 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 assessment cycle 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.** For Component 1, you can elect to retake one or more of the three constructed response items/exercises and/or the selected response item part. Candidates have up to two retakes for each of the four parts of Component 1 at any time during the five-year window.
 - 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 scores and retaking components refer to the [Scoring Guide: Understanding Your Scores](#), found on the National Board website.

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.

Component 1: 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 less than 60 minutes.

Component 2: 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.

Component 3: 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.

Component 4: 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 requirements 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 nbpts.useclarus.com/register/. There is a \$75 nonrefundable and nontransferable registration fee that will be assessed to your account at the beginning of **each** assessment cycle and must be paid before you can select a component(s). Note that the registration fee is separate from the cost of each component.
- ✓ Purchase **only** the components you plan to complete during this assessment cycle, by the registration deadline. Refer to page 34 for instructions. Note: **You must purchase a component to be considered an active candidate and to prevent your registration from being withdrawn.** Refer to the Fees chart on page 10 for associated costs.

You are expected to complete all components during the assessment cycle in which the component is purchased. If you do not purchase a component by the registration deadline, your registration will be withdrawn. Refer to page 12 for additional details.

Changing your Certificate Area

If you are a first-time candidate, you may change your certificate area prior to the registration deadline through your National Board [account](#) by withdrawing all purchased components and repurchasing them in the new certificate area.

If you would like to change your certificate and/or specialty area and it is after the registration deadline or you have already completed components (i.e., you have received scores in a previous cycle), [contact Customer Support](#) for your available options and assistance.

Important Dates and Deadlines

All dates and deadlines are subject to change.

The following chart is applicable to all candidates submitting components for scoring during the 2023-24 assessment cycle.

2023-24 Important Dates and Deadlines	
Registration Window	May 22, 2023-February 29, 2024
Registration and Component Purchase Deadline (includes payment of registration and component fees)	February 29, 2024
Third-Party Payer Funding*	February 16, 2024
Change of Component Selection	February 29, 2024
Change of Certificate and/or Specialty Area	March 22, 2024
Withdrawal Deadline	February 29, 2024
Component 1: Content Knowledge Testing Window	March 1-June 15, 2024
ePortfolio Submission Window	April 1- May 18, 2024
Score Release	December 7, 2024

**This is the final date we will accept funding from Third-Party Payers. Candidates will be allowed to purchase components through February 29, 2024.*

The following chart is applicable to all candidates submitting components for scoring during the 2024-25 assessment cycle.

2024-25 Important Dates and Deadlines	
Registration Window	May 23, 2024-February 28, 2025
Registration and Component Purchase Deadline (includes payment of registration and component fees)	February 28, 2025
Third-Party Payer Funding*	February 7, 2025
Third-Party Payer Designation**	February 21, 2025
Change of Component Selection	February 28, 2025
Change of Certificate and/or Specialty Area	March 21, 2025
Withdrawal Deadline	February 28, 2025
Component 1: Content Knowledge Testing Window	March 1-June 15, 2025
ePortfolio Submission Window	April 1- May 17, 2025
Score Release	December 6, 2025

This is the final date we will accept funding from Third-Party Payers. This is the final date for Third-Party Payers to allocate funding to candidate accounts. Candidates will be allowed to purchase components through February 28, 2025.*

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to achieve National Board Certification, you must meet the education, licensure, and employment requirements described below. If you are a candidate in World Languages, you must also meet the language proficiency requirement.

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. The score requirements for achieving National Board Certification can be found in the [Scoring Guide](#). The chart below provides the certification eligibility requirements for beginning the National Board Certification process and when each requirement must be met.

Eligibility Requirement	Requirement Must be Met
Candidates must possess a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution. (Candidates 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.)	<i>Before</i> a candidate registers and purchases their first component for National Board Certification.
Candidates must hold a valid state teaching license or meet the licensure requirements established by their state.	<i>Before</i> a candidate registers and purchases their first component for National Board Certification. Note: A candidate must also hold a valid license for each of the three years they verify towards the employment requirement.

<p>Candidates must have successfully completed three years of teaching at one or more early childhood, elementary, middle, or secondary schools to achieve Board certification. (Applicants for ECYA/School Counseling must have successfully completed three years serving as a school counselor.)</p>	<p><u>No later than June 30</u> of a candidate’s third year of candidacy. *This requirement must be met for a candidate to be eligible to achieve certification.</p> <p>When a candidate meets the score requirements and all eligibility requirements, including the teaching employment requirement (if not already met), the candidate will achieve National Board certification.</p>
<p>World Language candidates: ACTFL language proficiency requirement.</p>	<p><u>No later than June 30</u> of the assessment cycle in which a candidate completes initial testing on all four National Board components. When a candidate meets the ACTFL and score requirements and the teaching employment requirement (if not already met), the candidate will achieve National Board certification.</p>

**This policy was revised, effective for first-time candidates in the fall of the 2022-23 registration cycle. Refer to the [Policy Change for Certification Requirements](#) FAQs for additional details.*

In the section below, you’ll find instructions for how to verify you meet the requirements located in the [Eligibility Verification Forms and Instructions](#).

Do you possess a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution? This requirement must be met before you begin the certification process.

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) 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 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)? This requirement must be met before you begin the certification process. This requirement must also be met for each of the three years you verify for the employment requirement. **Employment under an intern or a similar teaching license does not meet the licensure requirement.**

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. If you have questions about whether your license counts toward this requirement, you may consult the [Acceptable State Licenses](#) list and [contact Customer Support](#).

Have you completed three years of successful teaching employment 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. While you may begin the certification process before completing three years of successful teaching employment, you must meet this requirement by June 30 of your third year of candidacy to be eligible to achieve certification. Refer to the [Eligibility Verification Forms and Instructions](#) for more information.

- You must have held a valid state teaching license (or state school counseling license if you are a candidate for the ECYA/School Counseling certificate) for each of the three years you verify.
- 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 employment requirement:

- 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 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.

Verifying Your Eligibility

During the registration process, first-time candidates will be required to attest that the education and licensure requirements will be met before starting the certification process and asked to specify the number of years of full-time employment completed.

- Candidates who specify less than three years of experience will be required to attest to understanding three years of full-time employment must be completed no later than June 30 of their third year of candidacy and before they will be eligible to achieve Board Certification.
- Candidates who specify three or more years of teaching will be required to attest to understanding they may be selected for an audit and required to submit proof of meeting the education, licensure, and employment requirements.

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.

Audit

The National Board will audit first-time candidate records and request proof of meeting the eligibility requirements. If you are selected for the audit, by the audit deadline you must provide supporting documentation demonstrating you met the specified eligibility requirements. Please note the following:

- Candidates who have completed three or more years of teaching when they register will be **randomly** audited and required to submit proof of meeting the education, licensure, and employment requirements.
- **All candidates who have completed less than three years of teaching** when they register will be required to complete two separate audits:
 - Initial Audit: Proof of meeting the education and licensure requirements must be submitted during the initial year of candidacy.
 - Employment Audit: After completing the initial audit, an employment attestation button will appear on the Candidate Dashboard of the candidate's [National Board account](#). Candidates will need to complete the attestation and submit proof of meeting the employment requirement *after completing three years of successful teaching, and no later than June 30 of their third year of candidacy*, in order to be eligible to achieve certification. A candidate who does not meet the employment requirement by June 30 of the third year of candidacy will not achieve National Board Certification.

All candidates who are being audited will be notified by the National Board via email within 30 days of the purchase of their first component*, and will then have 30 days to return the appropriate verification forms located in the [Eligibility Verification Forms and Instructions](#). Audited candidates will be notified of their eligibility status within 15 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 registration and any purchased components will be withdrawn. 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.

**Note: Candidates who register between May-August 31 will be audited in September. Candidates who register in February will be audited in March.*

Language Proficiency Requirement for World Languages Candidates

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards uses an external measure of language proficiency to assess World Languages Standards II: Knowledge of Language and III: Knowledge of Culture. In addition to the National Board candidate eligibility requirements, in order to be eligible to achieve National Board Certification World Languages candidates must meet the National Board World Languages Standards for language proficiency by providing official non-expired American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Speaking and Writing Proficiency Certificates with a rating at or above Advanced Low. Non-expired ACTFL certificates 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 may submit non-expired ACTFL speaking and writing certificates of Advanced Low or higher as early as after initial registration for the National Board process and payment of the nonrefundable and nontransferable \$75 fee but no later than June 30 of the assessment cycle in which you complete initial testing on all four

National Board components. Submit both copies of your non-expired ACTFL certificates via your National Board [account](#) at the same time. The two certificates do not need to have the same issue date.

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 and schedule tests at www.languageesting.com.

Scheduling Your ACTFL Assessments

To purchase your test and create an account, begin by [clicking here](#).

1. Select "Order a Test", then choose your target language (Spanish or French).
2. Click "Choose a test" in the "I am a student or teacher and need to take an ACTFL assessment as a requirement for my academic program." box from the second (orange) column.
3. 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 "Sign In".
2. Select "Order a Test", then choose your target language (Spanish or French).
3. Click "Choose a test" in the "I am a student or teacher and need to take an ACTFL assessment as a requirement for my academic program." box from the second (orange) column.
4. 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@languageesting.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 via your National Board account. 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 completed your first component in:

- 2024-25 and have ACTFL certificates that were issued on or after February 28, 2023
- 2023-24 and have ACTFL certificates that were issued on or after February 29, 2022.
- 2022-23 and have ACTFL certificates that were issued on or after February 28, 2021.
- 2021-22 and have ACTFL certificates that were issued on or after February 28, 2020.

For additional information regarding the ACTFL requirement, please review our [EAYA World Languages Candidates Requirement 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 National Board [account](#).

Fee Type	Details	Amount	2023-24 Deadline	2024-25 Deadline
Registration fee*	Assessed to your account at the beginning of each assessment cycle. You will not be able to select a component without payment of this nonrefundable and nontransferable fee.	\$75	No later than February 29, 2024	No later than February 28, 2025
Component 2-4 Fee	Required for each attempt (initial and retake) of all portfolio components.	\$475 per component	February 29, 2024	February 28, 2025
Component 1 Fee (first attempt)	Required for the Content Knowledge assessment.	\$475	February 29, 2024	February 28, 2025
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	February 29, 2024	February 28, 2025
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, 2024	At the time of request – this service will be completed after receipt of payment.

**Note: The Registration fee must be paid online via credit or debit card (Visa or MasterCard only). 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.

Payment Plan

The National Board payment plan is available to any candidate pursuing National Board certification or MOC, including retakes.

The payment plan offers the following benefits:

- It's quick and easy to set up
- You can spread the cost of your component(s) over six equal monthly installments (about \$80 per component per month)
- No interest or fees and no credit check
- You will be able to initiate the payment plan through the registration deadline.

More information about payment plan can be found [here](#).

Withdrawals, Refunds, and Reinstatements

Component Withdrawal

During a given assessment cycle, you are expected to complete all components for which you register and pay. If you are unable to complete a purchased component, you can withdraw the component through your National Board [account](#) prior to the withdrawal deadline by clicking the "Withdraw" button located on your Certification Dashboard.

- If you need to change your component selection (i.e., switch from Component 2 to Component 4), you will need to withdraw your current purchase and repurchase the new component by the registration deadline.
- To change your selected certificate and/or specialty area, withdraw your current purchase and repurchase the component in the correct certificate and/or specialty area by the registration deadline.

Note: If you are withdrawing a component because you want to change your certificate and/or specialty area and it is after the registration deadline, or you have already completed components (i.e., you have received scores in a previous cycle), please [contact Customer Support](#) for your available options and assistance.

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. If it is past the withdrawal deadline and you wish to withdraw a component without a refund, you may do so by [contacting our Customer Support team](#) – this service is not available online.

Registration Withdrawal (Current Cycle)

You must purchase at least one component to be considered an active candidate in the current cycle.

- If you are a first-time candidate who has not completed a component (i.e., you have not submitted a portfolio or tested at the assessment center), and do not purchase a component by the deadline, your registration for the current cycle will automatically expire after the registration window closes, and your candidacy will be cancelled. You will be required to register anew if you wish to continue pursuing certification at a later time. Registering anew will restart your 5-year window to pursue certification.
- If you are a returning candidate and do not purchase a component by the deadline, only your registration for the current cycle will expire. All previous registrations, component submissions, and scores will remain intact. Note: 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.

Candidacy Withdrawal

If you no longer wish to pursue certification, you may withdraw your candidacy. By withdrawing your candidacy, you will forfeit all previous scores and payments. You must first withdraw all currently purchased components. You can withdraw your candidacy by [contacting our Customer Support team](#) – this service is not available online. **Note:** You must attempt each of the four components within the first three years of your candidacy and have a five-year window to achieve certification. Candidates who do not meet the three and five-year completion requirements will have their candidacy automatically withdrawn:

- If you are a returning candidate in your third year of candidacy and do not complete the initial attempt of all four components by the deadline, your candidacy will expire. You will be required to register anew if you wish to continue pursuing certification at a later time.
- If you are a returning candidate in your fifth year of candidacy and do not achieve certification, your candidacy window will expire. You will be required to register anew if you wish to continue pursuing certification at a later time.

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. Please refer to page 12 for information about refunds.</p> <p>If you are withdrawing your component in order to change your certificate area, please contact Customer Support for assistance.</p>
Registration Withdrawal	<p>If you do not purchase a component by the deadline, your registration will automatically expire after the registration window closes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-time candidates: You will be required to register anew for future attempts at National Board Certification. • Returning candidates: Only your registration for the current cycle will be withdrawn. All previous registrations, component submissions, and scores will remain intact.
Candidacy 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 register 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 4 for the registration deadline. <p>You must contact Customer Support for assistance.</p>

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 up to six weeks to process after the date your withdrawal is processed. You are NOT eligible for a refund if the withdrawal deadline has passed.

Note: Funding received from Third-Party Payers (TPP) will be refunded to the TPP's National Board account. TPPs who wish to have refunds returned directly to their organization must request the refund in writing, using the [Third-Party Payer web form](#).

Reinstatements

If you have withdrawn your entire registration and wish to be reinstated before the withdrawal deadline, please [contact Customer Support](#).

Exceptions

All National Board candidates and National Board Certified Teachers are required to express their understanding of National Board policies and deadlines during the registration process. However, if you have encountered a hardship and have missed the withdrawal deadline, the National Board may consider offering an exception to deadlines and policies such as a late withdrawal and refund; an extension to the portfolio submission window; an extension to the assessment center testing window; or other reasonable accommodation.

All requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. National Board will consider requests based on personal and/or family illness, military deployment, death of an immediate family or school community member, adoption, visa rejection, divorce, and natural disaster. The following hardships do not qualify for an exception: financial hardship, changes in teaching assignment, work schedule conflicts, and failure to adhere to National Board policy.

For an exception request to be considered, you must submit evidence of the hardship that will prevent or has prevented you from completing the submission/testing requirements by the published deadlines. Submitting a request with supporting documentation does not guarantee an exception to policy will be approved. Circumstances that predate National Board registration or component purchase may not be considered. To submit an exception request:

1. Describe your situation that qualifies for an exception. You should include the specific amount of extra time (or other relief) you are requesting.
2. Collect documentation to support your exception request. Screenshots of your documentation are permitted. Documentation may include, but is not limited to, evidence of
 - a. a medical leave of absence from work, e.g., approved FMLA documentation,
 - b. a personal or family medical condition on physician/medical group letterhead, signed and dated, or
 - c. a hardship or leave of absence from work on school/district administrative letterhead, signed and dated.
3. Prepare your documentation.
 - a. Do not include Sensitive Personally Identifiable Information (SPII). SPII is defined as information that if lost, compromised, or disclosed could result in substantial harm, embarrassment, inconvenience, or unfairness to an individual. Black out SPII such as social security numbers, medical insurance information, credit and debit card numbers, and driver's license and state ID information.
 - b. Do not submit medical bills or insurance claims information.

4. Send your documents using the National Board [web form](#).

For more information on this exception service, please [contact our Customer Support team](#).

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. If you have selected a component and you meet the guidelines for receiving any remaining scholarship funds, you will be notified via email with required next steps. 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/support/in-your-state/.

What Next?

We use a paperless delivery system for our resources and documents. Standards and other assessment documents are available at www.nbpts.org/certification/candidate-center/. You'll need to check our website and your email regularly for updates and information. Please make sure to keep your email address current in your online National Board account. The National Board may also occasionally contact you via text message. Text messages will be sent by a staff member who identifies themselves as National Board staff, and you will be able to text or call back the number to verify its validity.

Before registering

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

Register and begin the process

- Go to nbpts.useclarus.com/register/ to register and pay the \$75 nonrefundable and nontransferable registration fee
- Purchase the components you'd like to complete during this assessment cycle; you must complete this step to be considered an active candidate. If you are receiving third-party financial support, you will need to wait until funding has been applied to your account before you may purchase a component. All fees must be paid prior to the payment deadline. Registrations with no component purchases will be withdrawn after the deadline.
- Prepare for portfolio submission and assessment center testing
 - Download the National Board Standards, component instructions, and scoring rubric for your certificate area at

www.nbpts.org/certification/candidate-center/first-time-and-returning-candidate-resources/

- Review the ePortfolio submission resources at www.nbpts.org/certification/candidate-center/eportfolio-submission/
- Review the assessment center policy documents, tutorials, and FAQs at www.nbpts.org/certification/candidate-center/assessment-center-testing/

Candidates with purchased components will:

- Receive an email at the start of the testing window authorizing them to schedule their appointment to complete the computer-based assessment (Component 1)
- Receive an email at the start of the ePortfolio submission window providing instruction for uploading and submitting material for scoring

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 useclarus.com, auth.net, NBPTS.org, and Pearson.com to your safe senders list so emails are not filtered to spam. The National Board may also occasionally contact you via text message. Text messages will be sent by a staff member who identifies themselves as National Board staff, and you will be able to text or call back the number to verify its validity.

**Note: You are encouraged to use your personal email address as your primary email address.*

Portfolio Submissions

The three portfolio components must be submitted electronically to your National Board account. You will receive information about uploading and submitting material via email during your candidacy. Prepare your submissions using the General Portfolio Instructions and certificate-specific component instructions online in our [Candidate Center](#).

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 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-based 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 in your National Board account at the time of component purchase. Review the [Request for Testing Accommodations Instructions](#) for additional details. You are urged to submit your request 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.

The deadline to submit your request for portfolio component accommodations is February 28. The deadline to submit your request for assessment center testing accommodations is April 1.

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. Prepare your submissions using the requirements, policies, and guidelines in the General Portfolio Instructions in order for your component to be scored. Scoring rubrics and component requirements are available in the component instructions.

The validity and 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 components 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 in each certificate area score each candidate's portfolio responses. All Component 1: Content Knowledge constructed response items are scored by two independent assessors. The selected response items in Component 1: Content Knowledge are machine-scored. 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.

For detailed information on the scoring process, the scores required to achieve National Board Certification, and how to interpret your score report, review the [Scoring Guide: Understanding Your Scores](#), located on the National Board website.

Contact Us

Online Resources*

Access www.nbpts.org/certification/candidate-center/first-time-and-returning-candidate-resources/ for information regarding

- Registration
- Eligibility Requirements
- National Board Standards
- Certificate-Specific Component Instructions
- Scoring Guide: Understanding Your Scores
- Component 1: Content Knowledge Assessment Center Policy and Guidelines
- Nonstandard Testing Accommodations
- ePortfolio Submission

Your information is managed via a secure, online account. Access nbpts.useclarus.com/login 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](#).

Via [Live Chat](#)

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

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.

Policies Related to 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 in your National Board account at the time of component purchase. Review the [Request for Testing Accommodations Instructions](#) for additional details.

You are urged to submit your request 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. The deadline to submit your request for portfolio components is February 28. The deadline to submit your request for assessment center testing is April 1.

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.

Policy on Denial or Revocation of Certification Based on Misconduct

Revised November 2017

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) reserves the right to deny certification to a candidate or to revoke NBPTS certification of a teacher for certain forms of misconduct. This policy sets forth the type of misconduct that can result in a denial or revocation of certification and describes applicable procedures.

The purpose of this policy is to maintain the integrity of National Board Certification and to prevent any candidate from gaining an unfair advantage over others. It applies to all candidates for National Board Certification and to all teachers who hold a certificate from NBPTS as a National Board Certified Teacher.

I. Misconduct Warranting Denial or Revocation of Certification

Certification may be denied or revoked for any candidate or certificate-holder who, in the sole judgment of NBPTS:

- A. Has knowingly misrepresented or falsified material information in connection with an application, credentials, assessment documentation, or other information submitted to NBPTS or any of its agents; or
- B. Has knowingly misrepresented or falsified material information regarding his or her National Board Certification; or
- C. Has knowingly engaged in inappropriate conduct in connection with the certification process or renewal/maintenance of the certification process, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Violation of confidentiality obligations imposed under applicable NBPTS policies, including sharing, publishing, electronically distributing, or otherwise disclosing or reproducing secure assessment materials or information;
 - 2. Obtaining improper access to secure assessment materials or information prior to the administration of an assessment;
 - 3. Violation of NBPTS policies that describe or limit permissible collaboration with others;
 - 4. Noncompliance with other assessment policies, procedures, or instructions;
 - 5. Any other form of misconduct that might compromise the integrity of the certification process; or
- D. Has been convicted of a felony, has had a teaching license denied, suspended or

revoked, or, in the case of an unlicensed teacher, has been fired or suspended, where the conduct leading to such an outcome has involved:

1. Child abuse;
2. Job-related crimes;
3. Violent crimes against persons; or
4. Other conduct of similar severity that NBPTS determines is inconsistent with the standards required of a National Board Certified Teacher.

Any denial or revocation of certification under this policy shall be subject to the following procedures.

II. Initial Investigation

- A. A three-person Initial Review Panel (IRP) will investigate instances of possible misconduct that fall within the scope of this policy. Based upon information gathered in that investigation, the IRP will decide whether certification should be denied or revoked based on the criteria in the preceding section. The decision must be supported by at least two of the three panel members, all of whom shall be current full-time employees of NBPTS.
- B. If the IRP concludes that misconduct has occurred, it may impose appropriate sanctions, including but not limited to:
 1. Denial of certification and withholding of score report, with leave to retake one or more assessment exercises;
 2. Denial of certification and withholding of score report, with exclusion from future participation in the assessment program (permanent or for a specified period of time); or
 3. Revocation of certification.
- C. A member of the IRP shall not participate in any decision where either the member or the President of the NBPTS determines that a disinterested third party could reasonably question whether the member is able to act fairly and impartially. If a member of the IRP cannot participate in a given initial review for any reason, a replacement member will be selected who is also qualified to serve on the IRP.
- D. The IRP will notify in writing any candidate or teacher who is being investigated for possible misconduct. The notice will provide a general description of the conduct that is the subject of the investigation and will ask the candidate or teacher to provide a written response. Candidates will be given at least fifteen (15) calendar days to provide their responses.
- E. The IRP may request additional information from a candidate or teacher who is being investigated for possible misconduct. Candidates and teachers shall cooperate in good faith and on a timely basis with any such request. The IRP may also ask NBPTS staff to provide information that the IRP believes may be relevant to its investigation.
- F. All decisions by the IRP will be based upon the written record. The IRP will provide a written decision to the candidate or teacher that includes a general description of the IRP's findings and the information that the IRP relied upon in making those findings. The decision will also state what sanctions, if any, the IRP has imposed in light of its findings.
- G. If a candidate or teacher does not request further review of an IRP decision pursuant to

the appeal process provided below, the findings and decision of the IRP will constitute the final decision of the NBPTS.

III. Appellate Review

- A. *A candidate or teacher may appeal a decision by the IRP by submitting a written request for further review and payment of the required fee. The appeal should be submitted to NBPTS and clearly marked "ATTENTION: CERTIFICATION APPEALS."*
- B. *All appeals must be submitted within twenty (20) calendar days of the candidate's or teacher's receipt of the IRP's written decision. If an appeal is not timely, it will not be considered and the decision of the IRP will be final.*
- C. *In order to have a decision by the IRP overturned, a candidate must provide substantial evidence that the IRP made a clear error in its fact findings. Candidates should be as specific as possible in describing any such alleged error and should provide whatever supporting documentation they would like to submit.*
- D. *Appeals will be decided by an Appellate Review Panel (ARP). The ARP shall consist of three persons, each of whom shall be appointed by the Certification Council of NBPTS to serve three (3)-year terms and shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive three (3)-year terms. All ARP members shall be "teaching professionals" defined as persons who spend half or more of their work time in direct contact with PreK - 12 children in a teaching capacity, or in serving as mentors or coaches to teachers and their students in an instructional setting. The majority of the ARP members shall be National Board Certified Teachers. No panel member may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. A member of the ARP may resign at any time by notifying the Certification Council of NBPTS in writing. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified by the resigning member, or, if no time is specified, on receipt by the Certification Council of the notice of resignation.*
- E. *Action by the ARP shall be by majority vote, with at least two supporting votes required for any decision. The ARP may meet in person, by telephone, or by videoconferencing.*
- F. *A member of the ARP shall not participate in any decision where either the member or the Certification Council of NBPTS determines that a disinterested third party could reasonably question whether the member is able to act fairly and impartially. If one or more members of the ARP cannot participate in a given appeal, the Certification Council shall appoint one or more persons on an interim basis if necessary for the appeal to be decided, provided that any replacement member must also be qualified to serve on the ARP.*
- G. *The ARP may request additional information from a candidate or teacher who is appealing a decision by the IRP. Candidates and teachers shall cooperate in good faith and on a timely basis with any such request. The ARP may also ask NBPTS staff to provide information that the ARP believes may be relevant to an appeal.*
- H. *In almost all instances, the ARP will decide the appeal on the basis of the written record. The ARP may, in its sole discretion, schedule an oral hearing if it believes that a hearing is warranted, to be held at a time and place to be determined by the ARP.*
- I. *Absent unusual circumstances, the ARP will decide all appeals within ninety (90) calendar days after it receives a candidate's appeal letter. Requests by the ARP for additional information might result in a longer decision period.*
- J. *After reviewing a candidate's appeal letter, supporting documentation, and any other information that the ARP deems relevant to the appeal, and conducting any hearing that the ARP believes to be warranted, the ARP shall provide the candidate with written notice of the ARP's decision. If the ARP overturns the decision of the IRP in any respect, the written notice shall so state and shall inform the candidate of the ARP's findings and*

the relief that will be provided.

- K. *If the ARP overturns the IRP in any respect, it may provide the following relief:*
 - 1. *Withdrawal of the denial or revocation of certification; or*
 - 2. *Removal of any limitations on the individual's right to retake one or more assessments or to participate prospectively in NBPTS certification programs; or*
 - 3. *Such other relief as the ARP deems to be warranted.*
- L. *If the ARP affirms the decision of the IRP, the written notice shall so state and shall briefly describe the information considered by the ARP and the reasons for its findings.*
- M. *The decision of the ARP shall constitute the final decision of NBPTS and shall not be subject to any further internal appeal or judicial challenge by the candidate.*
- N. *Upon the conclusion of any appeal, or the expiration of the appeal period, the name of any teacher found to have engaged in misconduct will be removed from all NBPTS official listings of National Board Certified Teachers.*

IV. Filing Fee

- A. *NBPTS shall establish a filing fee that must be paid by candidates or teachers who appeal a decision by the IRP. The amount of the filing fee will be published on the NBPTS website or otherwise made available to candidates. NBPTS may revise the amount of that fee from time to time.*
- B. *If the ARP concludes that a candidate has substantially prevailed in appealing a decision by the IRP, the filing fee paid by the candidate or teacher will be reimbursed.*

V. Notice to Legitimately Interested Third Parties

- A. *In the interest of protecting the integrity of the teaching profession and National Board Certification, NBPTS reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to provide legitimately interested third parties with the following information regarding teachers whose certification has been revoked by NBPTS:*
 - 1. *Teacher name, last-known address and last-known school*
 - 2. *Action taken by NBPTS, and date of that action*

VI. Reports to NBPTS Board

The NBPTS Board of Directors shall be informed of all instances in which a certification is denied or revoked under this policy.

Maintenance of Certification

National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have requested a simplified and less expensive way to maintain National Board Certification that allows them to reflect on their practice and professional growth.

Hearing those requests, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' new Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process has been designed to ensure that Board-certified teachers are continuing to grow professionally while maintaining a strong impact on student learning.

As in other professions, MOC allows NBCTs to demonstrate to colleagues, the public, students and themselves that they continue to meet high standards of accomplished practice throughout their careers. The goal of MOC is to ensure all NBCTs can continue to experience professional learning and growth as a practitioner while maintaining a focus on student learning.

The new MOC process requires Board-certified teachers to demonstrate their knowledge and skills every five years. This change is designed to make ongoing certification efficient and professionally

meaningful, so it can become the norm in the teaching profession. And, the five year timeline is aligned with the majority of state licensure systems.

For more information about MOC, visit our website at www.nbpts.org/certification/candidate-center/maintaining-your-certification/.

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.

Score Verification Service is only available for 30 days after score release. For more information on the Score Verification Service, please [contact our Customer Support](#) team at 1-800-22TEACH.

Policy on Appeals of Denials of Certification Based on Scoring Decisions

Revised November 2017

I. Background

Candidates may appeal a denial of certification that results from the scores they achieved on their portfolio submissions and their assessments. This policy governs such appeals.

NBPTS strongly encourages candidates to use the Score Verification Service prior to filing an appeal from a scoring-related denial of certification. In the past, many candidates could have verified the accuracy of their results more efficiently by using this service.

Because the cost to file an appeal is significant, NBPTS also believes it is important to disclose to candidates that most candidates who file an appeal do not establish good cause as required by and defined in this policy. To avoid expending time and money unnecessarily, candidates are encouraged to carefully consider how good cause is defined under this policy when deciding whether it is in their best interest to file an appeal.

II. Grounds for Appealing

- A. *It is the policy of NBPTS to alter a report of scores relating to a candidate's portfolio submission or performance on an assessment only where the candidate has demonstrated **good cause** as to why relief is warranted.*
- B. *To establish good cause to support an appeal, a candidate must identify some particular circumstance that makes it fundamentally unfair for NBPTS to maintain the scoring decision(s) previously released to the candidate. The circumstance must consist of an event or occurrence that (i) is **beyond the control of the candidate**; (ii) **does not involve illness, anxiety or other similar personal circumstances** that the candidate experienced while teaching or testing; and (iii) **affected the candidate's performance** on the applicable assessment **or precluded the candidate from meeting an applicable deadline** for submitting assessment material for evaluation.*

The type of circumstances that will meet the required showing are extremely limited. Examples may include an event at a testing center that significantly disrupts administration of the assessment, or a candidate's inability to submit in a timely manner all required components of a portfolio entry because of the extended unavailability of the NBPTS ePortfolio system.

- C. *NBPTS carefully reviews all assessment materials, the scoring process, and applicable performance standards to assure itself that they are valid and reasonably reliable means of arriving at certification and scoring decisions. Accordingly, for purposes of*

this policy, a candidate will **not** establish good cause to support a request for reconsideration of a scoring decision by stating, for example, that:

1. The candidate or others believe that 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, seek an exception from, or challenge a performance standard that has been adopted by the NBPTS, the portfolio instructions, or scoring processes; or
 3. The candidate failed to understand or follow NBPTS policies or 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 to do so in a timely manner, 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, a candidate's failure to report test center problems within seven days after a testing appointment.
- D. There are no circumstances under which a mere disagreement with the score given to a portfolio entry or assessment center exercise on an assessment will constitute good cause or result in the award of additional "points."
- E. This policy applies regardless of how close a candidate comes to achieving certification.

III. Procedure and Timeline for Filing an Appeal

- A. Candidates may appeal a scoring decision by submitting a letter of appeal in accordance with the following instructions:
- B. Submit a letter by regular mail or commercial delivery service with the filing fee to NBPTS, ATTENTION: CERTIFICATION APPEALS.
- C. Candidates must include in the letter all pertinent details supporting the appeal, as well as any supporting documentation. The letter and any supporting documentation should be specific and only materials that are directly relevant to showing "good cause," as defined in this policy, should be submitted.
- D. The letter of appeal must be postmarked within 60 calendar days of the date that is printed on the score report, and it must be received by NBPTS within a reasonable time of being postmarked.
- E. A candidate can only appeal a scoring decision within the 60-day period following the release of the decision that is the subject of the appeal. Appeals from scoring decisions rendered in former score release periods will not be considered.
- F. If a candidate has not submitted a timely appeal, the scoring decisions will be final and not subject to appeal.

IV. Resolution of Appeals

- A. Appeals from score-related certification decisions will be decided by an Appellate Review Panel (ARP).
- B. The ARP shall consist of three persons, each of whom shall be appointed by the Certification Council of NBPTS to serve three (3)-year terms and shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive three (3)-year terms. All ARP members shall be "teaching professionals" defined as persons who spend half or more of their work time in direct contact with PreK - 12 children in a teaching capacity, or in serving as mentors or coaches to teachers and their students in an instructional setting. The majority of the ARP members shall be National Board Certified Teachers. No panel member may serve

more than two consecutive three-year terms. A member of the ARP may resign at any time by notifying the Certification Council of NBPTS in writing. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified by the resigning member, or, if no time is specified, on receipt by the Certification Council of the notice of resignation.

- C. Action by the ARP shall be by majority vote, with at least two supporting votes required for any decision by the ARP. The ARP may meet in person, by telephone, or by videoconferencing.
- D. A member of the ARP shall not participate in any decision where either the member or the Certification Council of NBPTS determines that a disinterested third party could reasonably question whether the member is able to act fairly and impartially. If one or more members of the ARP cannot participate in a given appeal, the Certification Council shall appoint one or more persons on an interim basis if necessary for the appeal to be decided, provided that any replacement member must also be qualified to serve on the ARP.
- E. The ARP may request additional information from a candidate who is appealing a scoring decision. Candidates shall cooperate in good faith and on a timely basis with any such request. The ARP may also ask NBPTS staff to provide information that the ARP believes may be relevant to an appeal.
- F. In almost all instances, the ARP will decide the appeal on the basis of the written record. The ARP may, in its sole discretion, schedule an oral hearing if it believes that a hearing is warranted, to be held at a time and place to be determined by the ARP.
- G. Absent unusual circumstances, the ARP will decide all appeals within ninety (90) calendar days after it receives a candidate's appeal letter. Requests by the ARP for additional information might result in a longer decision period.
- H. After reviewing a candidate's appeal letter, supporting documentation, and any other information that the ARP deems relevant to the appeal, and conducting any hearing that the ARP believes to be warranted, the ARP shall provide the candidate with written notice of the ARP's decision. If the ARP finds that the candidate has shown good cause for the appeal, the written notice shall so state and shall inform the candidate of the relief that will be provided. If the ARP finds that good cause has not been shown, the written notice shall so state and shall briefly describe the information considered by the ARP and the reasons for its finding.
- I. If the ARP concludes that an appellant has shown good cause, it may provide the following relief, subject to such conditions and time limits as the ARP deems reasonable:
 - 1. An opportunity to re-take an assessment;
 - 2. An extension of a candidate's eligibility period for taking an assessment or submitting portfolio content;
 - 3. An opportunity to submit additional materials; and/or
 - 4. Such other relief as the ARP deems to be necessary to avoid fundamental unfairness to the candidate.

If the ARP makes a finding that good cause exists to reconsider a scoring decision, the ARP will specify whether that reconsideration should be based on: (1) the documents and performances originally provided by the candidate during the assessment process; (2) the candidate's original documents and performances along with supplemental documents or performances; or (3) new or revised documents or performances to be provided by the candidate. The ARP also shall specify such reasonable conditions or time limits as may be necessary to facilitate an efficient and reasonable reconsideration of the scoring decision in

question.

- J. *A decision of the ARP shall constitute the final decision of NBPTS and shall not be subject to any further internal appeal or judicial challenge by the candidate.*

V. Filing Fee

- A. *NBPTS shall establish a filing fee that must be paid by candidates who appeal a scoring decision under this policy. The amount of that filing fee will be published on the NBPTS website or otherwise made available to candidates. NBPTS may revise the amount of that fee from time to time.*
- B. *If the ARP concludes that a candidate has substantially prevailed in appealing a scoring decision, the filing fee paid by the candidate will be reimbursed.*

VI. Reports to NBPTS Board

The NBPTS Board of Directors shall be informed of all instances in which a candidate has substantially prevailed in appealing a scoring decision.

Ethics

Candidates who work as members of a team of teachers or school counselors have an excellent opportunity to collaborate with their peers. However, candidates must adhere to the Ethics and Collaboration guidelines provided in the [General Portfolio Instructions](#). You must submit responses that are unique to your teaching context, feature teaching that you did and work that you oversaw.

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.

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).

For important information regarding adherence to ethical behavior that is expected of all National Board candidates and National Board Certified Teachers, see the [Policy Guidelines for Ethical Candidate Support](#).

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 a student work sample, video evidence, or other type of evidence (e.g., an assessment) in a language other than English, you must include a written English translation for the work sample, video evidence, or other type of evidence in the file with the artifact. For a translation of a video, include the translation at the end of the Written Commentary. Include any necessary student identifiers (but do not include

students' last names). Note that the pages of your translation do not count toward your page totals.

If you do not include a translation or explanation, language other than English will not be considered in the scoring of your submission (except brief non-English terms or phrases commonly used by English speakers). Your submission will be scored based on the portions in English and the translations/explanations you provide. It will be scored as zero if the scorable portions do not merit a score of 1 or higher. However, failure to provide a translation or to properly label your translated submission will mean that your response will not be scored.

Your Written Commentary must be written entirely in English in order to be considered for scoring.

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, refer to [Choosing the Right Certificate](#) and 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.

Overview

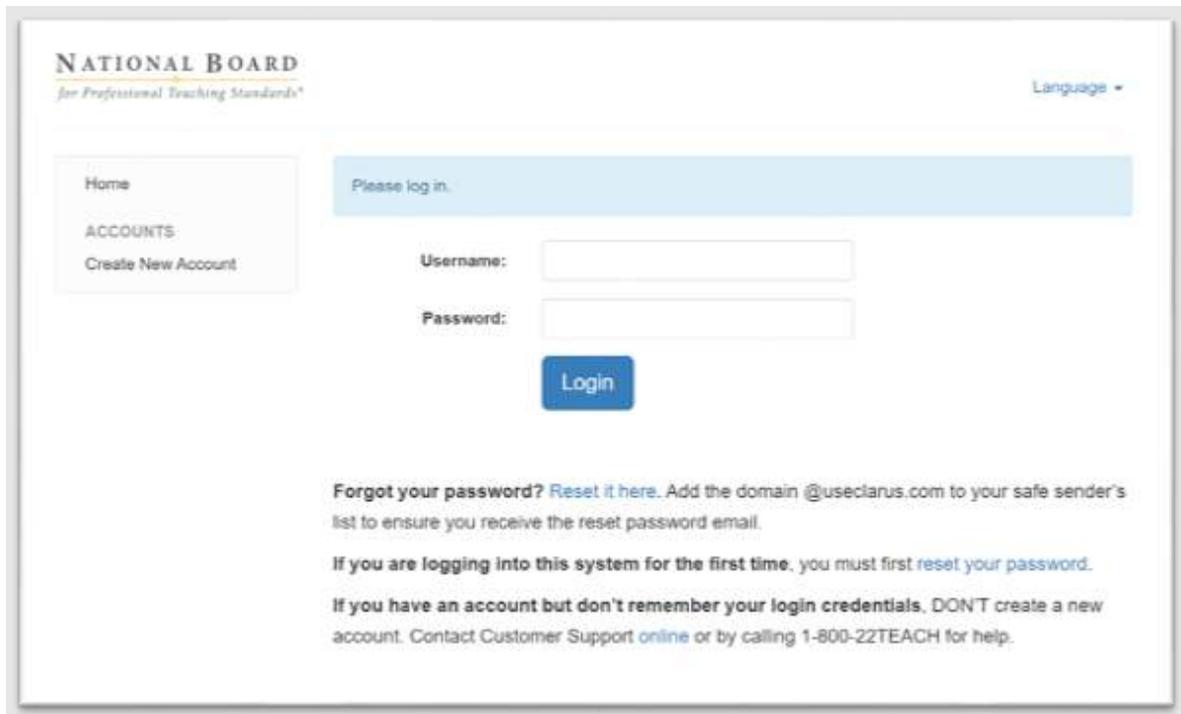
The National Board's Candidate Management System (NBCMS) is where you will create a National Board account, register, and purchase components for National Board Certification or Maintenance of Certification. You can log into your account at any time to review your status, view payment history, and manage your personal contact information. NBCMS is accessible at nbpts.useclarus.com/login?forward_url=%2F.

Access an Existing Account

If you have already created a National Board account, you can access it at nbpts.useclarus.com/login?forward_url=%2F. To log in, you'll need your existing username and password.

If you have forgotten your password, you can reset it by clicking the *Reset it here* link located on the log in page. **Attention NBCTs:** If you have not logged into your account since before April 9, 2020, you will need to reset your password the first time you log in.

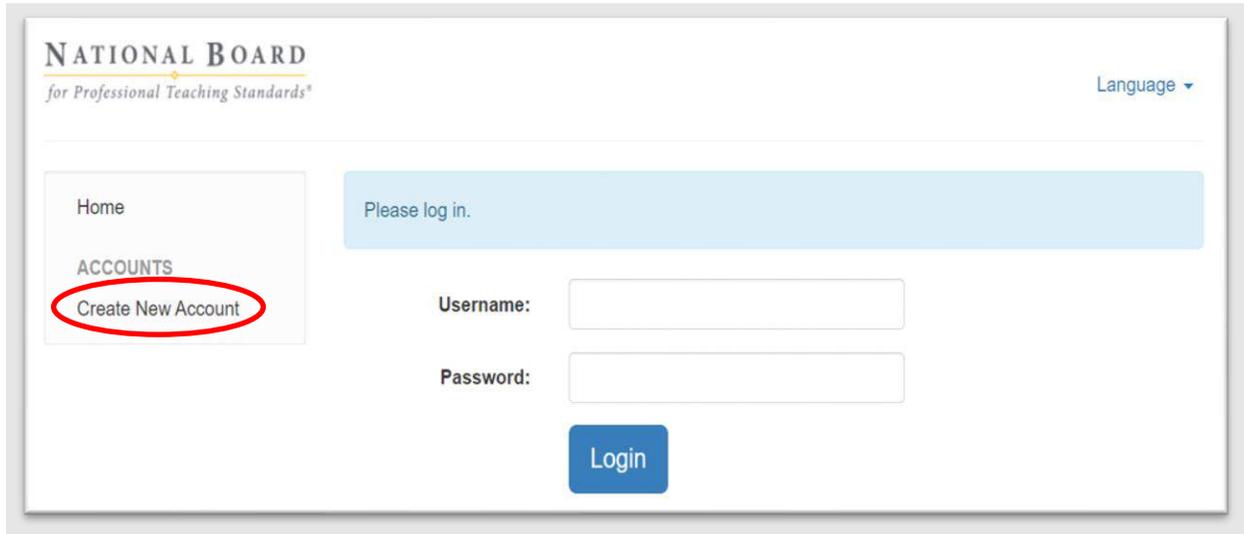
If you do not recall your username, please do not create a new account. [Contact Customer Support](#) for help.



The screenshot shows the login page for the National Board. At the top left is the logo "NATIONAL BOARD for Professional Teaching Standards". At the top right is a "Language" dropdown menu. On the left side, there is a navigation menu with "Home" and "ACCOUNTS: Create New Account". The main content area has a light blue header that says "Please log in." Below this are two input fields: "Username:" and "Password:". A blue "Login" button is positioned below the password field. At the bottom of the page, there are three lines of text: "Forgot your password? [Reset it here](#). Add the domain @useclarus.com to your safe sender's list to ensure you receive the reset password email.", "If you are logging into this system for the first time, you must first [reset your password](#).", and "If you have an account but don't remember your login credentials, DON'T create a new account. Contact Customer Support [online](#) or by calling 1-800-22TEACH for help."

Create a New Account

The first step in the registration process is creating an account. Click the *Create a New Account* button and complete the steps to create your login credentials and to provide basic personal and contact information. **Note:** If you began the certification process in a previous cycle or are an NBCT, you already have an account in NBCMS and should log in using your existing credentials.



Important message for new users: To be considered an active candidate for National Board Certification, you must also complete the steps to register AND purchase components.

If you have forgotten your password, you may reset it using the *Reset it here.* link located on the NBCMS login page and entering your username. A system generated email will be sent to the primary email address in your National Board account which will contain instructions for resetting your password. Be sure to add @useclarus.com to your safe senders list to ensure receipt of the email.

If you do not recall your username or no longer have access to the primary email account on file, please do not create a new account. [Contact Customer Support](#) for help.

The screenshot shows the 'Change Password' page on the National Board website. The header includes the 'NATIONAL BOARD' logo and the tagline 'for Professional Teaching Standards®'. A left-hand navigation menu contains links for 'Home', 'ACCOUNTS', and 'Create New Account'. The main content area is titled 'Change Password' and lists 'Password Requirements' with four bullet points: at least 8 characters, at least 1 number, at least 1 capital letter, and at least 1 lowercase letter, with a note that passwords cannot be reused within 90 days. Below the requirements are three input fields: 'User Name' (with a masked value), 'New password', and 'Confirm new password' (both masked with asterisks). A blue button at the bottom is labeled 'Change Password and Login'.

Candidates are required to register during each assessment cycle in which components will be purchased and completed. To complete your registration, log into your [National Board account](#) and click the *Click here to get started* link located under the *Registration* section on your *Certification Dashboard*.

Registration

You must register and pay a \$75 registration fee for each cycle in which you plan to purchase a component or MOC. Your registration can only be completed during the active registration window. The registration fee is nonrefundable and nontransferable. Registration for the 2023-24 cycle is May 22, 2023 - February 29, 2024.

You have not registered for the current cycle. Click the "Register Now" button below to get started.

Register Now

As part of the registration process, you will complete your account profile, attest to National Board policies, and pay the \$75 registration fee. The fee is nonrefundable and nontransferable (review the [Guide to National Board Certification](#) for additional details).

After completing your account profile, you will be directed to the *Payment Portal* to complete your payment using a credit card (Mastercard or Visa only). Once payment is complete, you can click the *Back to Home* button located in the upper right-hand corner of the screen to return to your Candidate Dashboard.

Purchase Screen : No Funding

Type: Annual Registration Price **\$75.00**

Amount Due	\$75.00
------------	----------------

Please select a payment option

Pay Now

I agree to the [terms and conditions](#) of payment

Enter my payment details

Your registration payment will be visible in the *Payment Portal* section of your National Board account.

Purchase History

Date	Component	Certificate	School Year
05/03/2023	Annual Registration		23 - 24

Your *Candidate Dashboard* will display a message indicating your registration is complete and you will be able to purchase components.

Registration

Your registration for the current cycle has been completed.

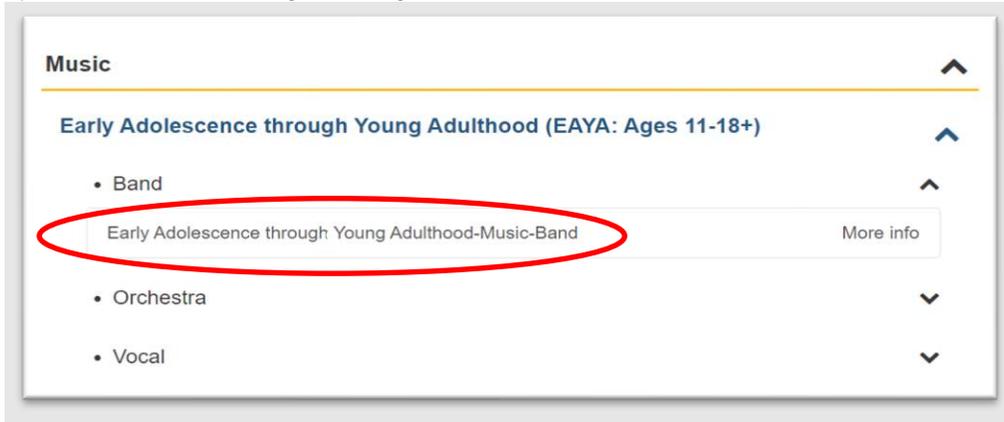
Choose your Certificate Area (First-time Candidates)

Before you will be permitted to purchase a component, you will need to choose your certificate area. If you are unsure which certificate is appropriate for your specific teaching situation, please review [Choosing the Right Certificate](#) for an overview of the available certificate areas and student developmental levels. Log into your [National Board account](#) and click Choose Certificate in the left-hand navigation menu to access the list of available certificate areas. Certificate areas are listed alphabetically, by content. You can use the arrows to the right of each name to view available student developmental levels and paths/specialty areas. The example below shows the Music content area, expanded to display two developmental levels, each with three separate specialty areas to choose from.

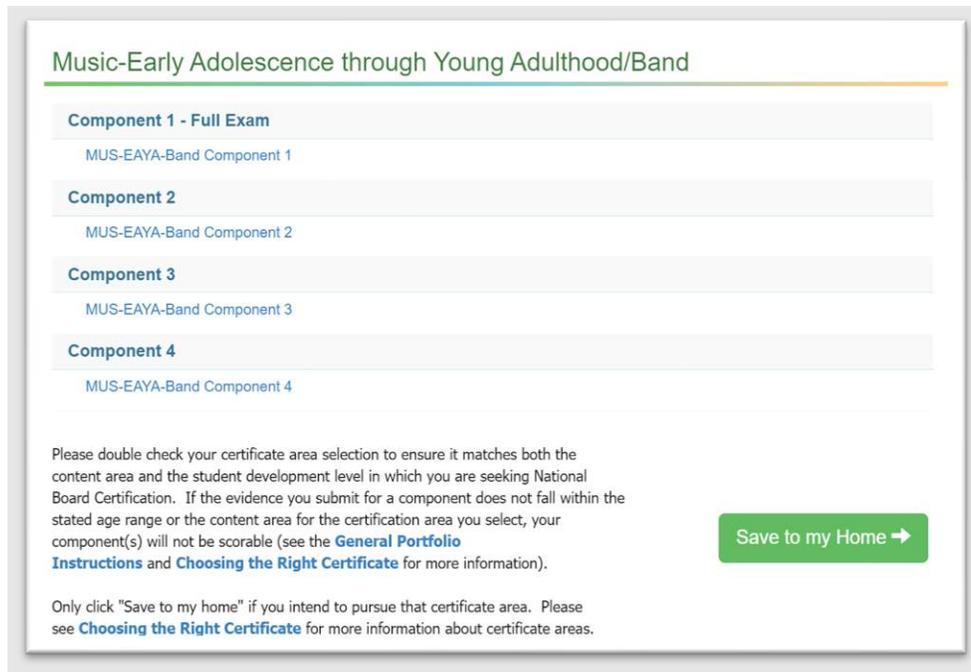


When you are ready to choose your certificate area, you will make your selection from either the developmental level or the path/specialty area. Note: Not all certificate areas have multiple

developmental levels or paths/specialty areas. The example below shows the selection of the Music, Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood, Band certificate area.

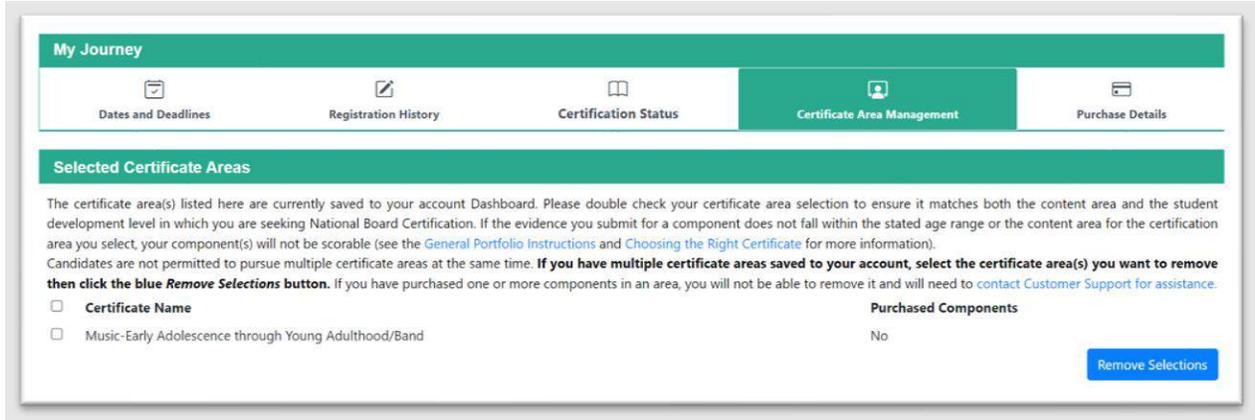


Click the green *Save to my Home* button to save the certificate area to your Candidate Dashboard. Please double check your certificate area selection to ensure it matches both the content area and the student developmental level in which you are seeking National Board Certification. If the evidence you submit for a component does not fall within the stated age range or the content area for the certificate area you select, your component(s) will not be scorable (see the [General Portfolio Instructions](#) and [Choosing the Right Certificate](#) for more information).



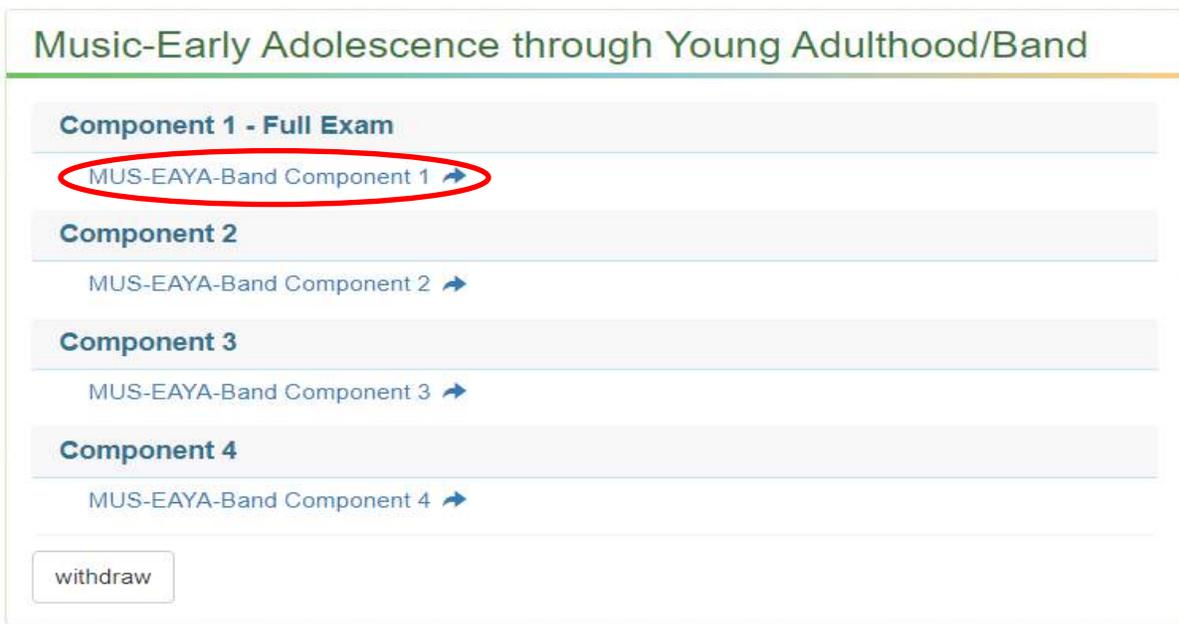
Please be sure you are selecting the correct certificate area before saving. Please double check your certificate area selection to ensure it matches both the content area and the student developmental level in which you are seeking National Board Certification. If the evidence you submit for a component does not fall within the stated age range or the content area for the certificate area you select, your component(s) will not be scorable (see the [General Portfolio Instructions](#) and [Choosing the Right Certificate](#) for more information).

If you have saved the incorrect certificate area on your Candidate Dashboard, you will need to remove it before you will be permitted to select another. From your Candidate Dashboard, click *My Journey* in the left-hand navigation menu, then *Certificate Area Management*, to view your *Selected Certificate Areas*. Choose the area you want to remove, then click *Remove Selections*. Note: If you have purchased a component in the area you wish to remove, you will be required to withdraw the purchase first.



Purchase a Component

Once you have saved your chosen certificate area to your Candidate Dashboard, you will be able to select the components you plan to purchase by clicking the component name. **Important Note:** Components must be completed during the cycle year in which they are purchased. Only purchase the components you plan to complete during the current cycle.



Retaking Component 1

Component 1 consists of four parts. You are not required to retake all four parts; however, you must purchase all parts you plan to test in a single transaction. After selecting Component 1, you will be provided with the option to select individual parts.

You may only retake each Component 1 part twice. The naming convention for each part of Component 1 is as follows: "Test Version-Certificate Area-Component 1 Part". The Component 1 part breakdown is as follows:

- SRI= Selected Response Items (multiple choice questions)
- CRI1=Constructed Response Item, Exercise 1
- CRI2=Constructed Response Item, Exercise 2
- CRI3=Constructed Response Item, Exercise 3

Refer to your [certificate-specific Component 1 instructions](#) to ensure you are selecting the correct parts. Review your certificate-specific Component 1 instructions to ensure you are selecting the correct part. Candidates pursuing Path 1 of the English as a New Language certificate area will be tested on the path selected; review [Choosing the Right ENL Path](#) for details.

Modules

Retake Candidates: You may only retake each Component 1 part twice. The naming convention for each part of Component 1 is as follows: "Test Version-Certificate Area-Component 1 Part". The Component 1 part breakdown is as follows:

- SRI: Selected Response Items (Multiple Choice)
- CRI1: Constructed Response Item, Exercise 1
- CRI2: Constructed Response Item, Exercise 2
- CRI3: Constructed Response Item, Exercise 3

Review your [certificate-specific Component 1 instructions](#) to ensure you are selecting the correct part. Candidates pursuing Path 1 of the English as a New Language certificate area will be tested on the path selected; review [Choosing the Right ENL Path](#) for details.

Select Parts to Retake *

Select Parts to Retake *

Contact Information Verifi

Preferred Email Address *

|

V3-AYA-SCI-CHEM-SRI

V3-AYA-SCI-CHEM-CRI1

V3-AYA-SCI-CHEM-CRI2

V3-AYA-SCI-CHEM-CRI3

Requesting Accommodations

Once you have selected the component you plan to purchase, you will be required to verify your contact information and specify if you require nonstandard testing accommodations. Review the [Request for Testing Accommodations Instructions](#) document for additional details.

If you require a portfolio or testing accommodation, you must request it when you purchase your component. Your request must include all supporting documentation.

- Use the drop-down menu to select your requested accommodation.
- Complete the online form.
- Click the + *Add* button to upload your forms and documentation.

APPLICANT REQUEST FOR TEST ACCOMMODATIONS

Are you requesting special accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for testing? You can find forms and instructions [here](#).

* Yes No

SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION REQUEST

What specific accommodations are you requesting? *

Adjustable Font Size ✕

Attach Files for Special Accommodation Documentation

+ Add

Payment Options

Pay in Full

You may pay for your components in full using a credit or debit card. Select the Pay Now option, agree to the terms and conditions, then click the blue Enter my payment details button to enter your credit card details. Reminder: Components must be completed during the cycle year in which they are purchased. Only purchase the components you plan to complete during the current cycle.

Purchase Screen : No Funding

Component Selected : WL-EAYA-French Component 1

Component Price	\$475.00
Amount Due	\$475.00

Please select a payment option

Pay Now

Pay in 6 Monthly Installments

I agree to the [terms and conditions](#) of payment

[Enter my payment details](#)

National Board Payment Plan

The National Board payment plan is available to any candidate pursuing National Board certification or MOC, including retakes. The payment plan offers the following benefits:

- It's quick and easy to set up
- You can spread the cost of your component(s) over six equal monthly installments (about \$80 per component per month)
- No interest or fees and no credit check
- You will be able to initiate the payment plan through the February 28th registration deadline.

Select the *Pay in 6 Monthly Installments* button, set up your payment schedule, confirm your details, agree to the terms and conditions, then click the blue *Enter my payment details* button to enter your credit card details. **Reminder:** Components must be completed during the cycle year in which they are purchased. Only purchase the components you plan to complete during the current cycle.

Purchase Screen : No Funding

Component Selected : WL-EAYA-French Component 1

Component Price	\$475.00
Amount Due	\$475.00

Please select a payment option

Pay Now

Pay in 6 Monthly Installments

BASED ON YOUR SELECTION(S)

The total amount applied to your payment plan is **\$475.00**

This means you will pay six monthly installments of **\$79.17**

Your first payment will start on **10th September 2022**

Payment Schedule

Please select the date you would like payment to be taken each month.
You will set up your payment card details on the next page.

10th

Payment plan confirmation

If you are happy with the above payment plan details, please sign below:

My Signature

I agree to the [terms and conditions](#) of payment

Third-Party Payer Funding

If you are expecting payment from a third-party, you will need to wait until the third-party has submitted payment on your behalf and funding is reflected in your National Board account before purchasing a component. You can view available funding by clicking the *Payment Portal* link in the left-hand navigation menu on your Certification Dashboard. Available funding will be listed at the top of the *Payment Portal* screen.

The screenshot shows two sections. The first section, titled "Available Third Party Funds", contains a table with three columns: Component, Third Party Funder, and Funds Available. The second section, titled "Purchase History", contains a table with five columns: Date, Component, Certificate, School Year, and Action. Below the Purchase History table is a red message: "You do not have any transactions at this time."

Component	Third Party Funder	Funds Available
Component 2	Test	\$475.00
Component 3	Test	\$475.00
Component 4	Test	\$300.00

[Return to your dashboard to purchase these components](#)

Date	Component	Certificate	School Year	Action
You do not have any transactions at this time.				

Full Funding

Click the blue *Complete Payment* button to complete your purchase. **Reminder:** Components must be completed during the cycle year in which they are purchased. Only purchase the components you plan to complete during the current cycle. After the registration window closes, all unused funding in your account will be returned to your third-party payer and may be available for use in a future cycle.

The screenshot shows the "Purchase Screen : Full Funding" interface. It displays the selected component and third-party funding details, a summary table, and a "Complete Payment" button.

Component Selected : WL-EAYA-French Component 2	Component Price	\$475.00
Third Party Funding : Test		- \$475.00
Amount Due		\$0.00

If you'd like to decline third party funds, please contact Customer Support at 1-800-22TEACH (83224).

[Complete Payment](#)

Partial Funding

If your third party-payer has only provided partial funding for a component, you will be required to pay the remaining balance, using a credit card, at the time of purchase. Select the *Pay Now* option, agree to the terms and conditions, then click the blue *Enter my payment details* button to enter your credit card details. **Reminder:** Components must be completed during the cycle year in which they are purchased. Only purchase the components you plan to complete during the current cycle.

Purchase Screen : Partial Funding

Component Selected : WL-EAYA-French Component 4	Component Price	\$475.00
Third Party Funding : Test		- \$300.00
	Amount Due	\$175.00

If you'd like to decline third party funds, please contact Customer Support at 1-800-22TEACH (83224).

Make Payment

Pay Now

I agree to the terms and conditions of payment

[Enter my payment details](#)

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for Professional Teaching Standards®

by



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