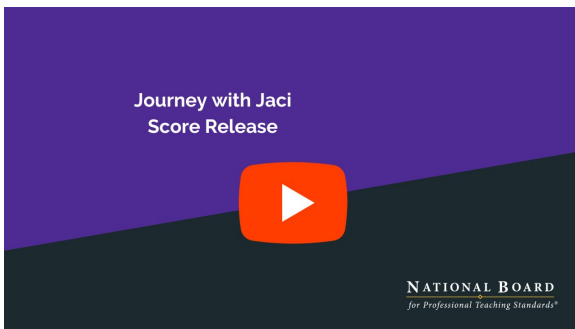


# Toolkit for Returning and Advanced Candidates

## Guide to Using the Toolkit

As your journey to becoming an NBCT continues we encourage you to use this toolkit to help you along the way. To start we recommend watching the videos below; it will give you a better understanding of using the resources effectively.



## Candidate Support

Several support programs are available to help you while you pursue Board certification. Please check our In Your State page to see if you have a program locally. The following list will provide links to national support programs if needed.

### National Support Programs

- [Stanford NBRC](#)
- [World Class Teaching Program](#)
- [NAME](#)
- [New Mexico NBCT Network](#)
- [Nevada National Board Professional Learning Institute](#)

### Understanding Your Score

- [Score Release Webpage](#)
- [Scoring Guide: Understanding Your Score](#) (complete guide on understanding scores and feedback statements)
- [Interpreting Your Score Visual](#) (step-by-step guide to help you read your score report)
- [Understanding Feedback Statements and Scores Webinar Resources](#) (entire webinar, including slides)
- [Working Wisdom: A Guide to Accomplished Teaching](#) Questions you can ask for each component in each certificate area. A great tool for reflection.
- [Connecting the Dots: Standards, Rubrics, and Prompts](#) This presentation offers a detailed explanation of how Standards, rubrics, and prompts are intertwined in effective writing. Access the [slides](#) and [recorded presentation](#) to enhance your writing capabilities.

# Toolkit for Returning and Advanced Candidates

## Storytelling

The following podcasts and blog are from NBCTs who did not certify their first time. They share their incredible journeys to becoming NBCTs and National Board Champions!

- [Doretha Allen](#)
- [Magdalena Mata](#)
- ["Five Years a Candidate" by Angela Killebrew](#)

## Facebook Groups

Connection between educators is so important. Several Facebook groups may serve as support as you navigate Board certification. While the National Board does not run these, they are moderated by NBCTs who support candidates. Here are a few to get you started:

[NB for Advanced/Retake Candidates](#)

[National Board Certified Teachers on Facebook](#)

[National Board Certification Survival Group](#)

**Bobbie Faulkner, NBCT, author and moderator for several Facebook groups, posted this mindset shift exercise (which was handed down to her by her mentor, Kelly Mueller, NBCT):**

This exercise might help you adopt a more positive mindset as you await your scores. *Once you get your scores*, take the number of points you earned and divide that number by 110. The answer will be to tell you what % of the way you are to certification.

EX: You earned 108 points. Divide 108 by 110 = 98% of the way there.

95 divided by 110 = 86% of the way there.

89 divided by 110 = 81% of the way there.

If one of your students earned a 98%, 86%, or 81% (or even lower), you would encourage them to keep going, right? These scores show learning! You wouldn't want them to quit trying. Assuming you are still eligible, you shouldn't quit either!

Seeing your score through this lens can be validating and motivating, even comforting rather than defeating. *When you get your scores*, use this exercise to your advantage!

Those *not yet eligible to certify* (who have not yet submitted all four components) can do the same, understanding your % for the time being will be lower. Let the information encourage you.