

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

About Score Release

1. When will I receive my score results?
2. How will I receive my score results?
3. How should I prepare for score release?

About Certification Requirements

4. What are the requirements for achieving National Board Certification?

About Score Reports

5. What information is included in my score report?
6. Why is the total weighted scaled score on my score report N/A?
7. How can I effectively use the feedback statements on my score report?
8. How are my scores managed throughout the certification process?

About Scoring and Score Definitions

9. How are the components scored and reported?
10. What are unweighted and weighted scores?
11. How is my total weighted scaled score calculated?
12. How are the unweighted average scores for each section calculated?
13. Why do I have a score of "0" on my score report?
14. Why do I have a score of "NS" on my score report?
15. Why didn't I earn certification despite scoring above 1.75 on each component and/or section?
16. Can I request a rescore or have my score reviewed?

Preparing for the Next Assessment Cycle and Retaking

17. What steps should I take to evaluate my performance?
18. How do I know if I should retake a component, and how do I decide which one(s)?
19. How many times can I retake a component?
20. If I choose to retake, can I submit the same video and/or student work or assessment data?
21. What happens if my retake score is lower than my initial score?
22. How do I register and purchase my retake selections?

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

NBCT Status Verification

23. I achieved certification; when will I receive my certificate?
24. How can I provide my district with verification of my status as an NBCT before my certificate arrives?
25. Where can I find achievement data for my district or state?

About Score Release

1. When will I receive my score results?

Score results will be released by December 31 each year. Monitor our [Score Release page](#) for the exact date of score release.

We anticipate releasing scores no later than noon CST on the published official Score Release date. You'll receive an email when your scores are available.

2. How will I receive my score results?

Score results will be released via your [National Board account](#). After logging in, select Score Reports from the left-hand navigation menu to access your score report and individual transcripts

3. How should I prepare for score release?

Please take the following actions in advance of score release:

- Log in to your National Board [account](#) to ensure you recall your username and password. If necessary, you can reset your password on the account log in page. If you have forgotten your username, you will need to contact Customer Support by phone for assistance.
- Verify your preferred contact information (address, telephone number and email address), and school district information is accurate and up to date.
- Familiarize yourself with the scoring and reporting procedures by reviewing the [Scoring Guide](#).

About Certification Requirements

4. What are the requirements for achieving National Board Certification?

To achieve certification, you must meet three score requirements and all eligibility requirements as detailed in the [Guide to National Board Certification](#). World Languages candidates must also meet the language proficiency requirement detailed in the [Guide to National Board Certification](#).

The three score requirements to meet to achieve National Board Certification are:

1. You must earn a minimum unweighted average score of at least 1.75 on Component 1 (i.e., the assessment center section). The minimum score requirement on this section is based on unweighted rubric scores, not weighted scores.
2. You must earn a minimum unweighted average score of at least 1.75 on Components 2 through 4 (i.e., the portfolio section). The minimum score requirement on this section is based on unweighted rubric scores, not weighted scores.
3. You must earn a total weighted score of at least 110.

For more details, see the [Scoring Guide](#).

About Score Reports

5. What information is included in my score report?

Your official National Board score report will include your status, whether or not you met each certification requirement, important next steps, and your scores. We encourage you to review the sample score report in the [Scoring Guide](#) and [Understanding Your Score Report](#) to help answer additional questions.

Response continued on next page

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

Your official National Board Score Report will display your highest scores (if you are a retake candidate) on each component you have completed along with any associated feedback statements for portfolio components. Your score report will include your unweighted scores, weighted scaled scores, assessment center and portfolio section averages, and total weighted scaled score based on the highest scores you earned.

Your Score Transcript, which can be accessed from the Scores page of your National Board account, displays all of your component scores by assessment cycle (year).

6. Why is the total weighted scaled score on my score report N/A?

Your total weighted score and/or weighted section scores will not be computed until you have attempted/submitted all four components. If you have not attempted one or more of the Components or if you have received an “NS” for any component, your Total Weighted Scaled Score will display “N/A.”

7. How can I effectively use the feedback statements on my score report?

Assessors assign feedback statements to guide you in the main areas in which you might want to reevaluate your performance and target areas for improvement. Feedback statements appear on your score report if your score is less than 3.75 on a portfolio component. For instructions on how to use feedback statements, review the [Scoring Guide](#) and watch [Understand your Score and Feedback Statements](#).

8. How are my scores managed throughout the certification process?

The National Board will automatically bank your component scores as you work toward completing all components for certification. Note that your highest scores—whether it is the initial attempt score or a retake score—are used to compute your total weighted scaled score.

Response continued on next page

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

Please be aware of the following rules and information:

- You must attempt each of the four components within the first three years of your candidacy.
- Every candidate has 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.
- There is no minimum or maximum score requirement to retake a component.
- 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, keep in mind you only have a three-year window to initially attempt each of the four components and a five-year window within which certification can be achieved.
- The highest numeric score from all attempts of an individual component will be used for total score calculation.

About Scoring and Score Definitions

9. How are the components scored and reported?

Highly trained assessors, many of whom are National Board Certified Teachers, scored responses on the Component 1 constructed response items and all portfolio components (Components 2, 3, and 4). The National Board uses a 12-point rubric score scale for all constructed response items and portfolio components. The rubric score scale is based on four primary levels of performance (Levels 4, 3, 2, and 1), with plus (+) and minus (-) variations at each level. See [Scoring Guide](#) for detail.

Response continued on next page

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

Selected response items are machine-scored. One point is awarded for a correct answer and zero points for an incorrect answer. The number of scorable items answered correctly will be converted to and reported as a score between 0 and 4.25 with 2.75 representing the lower bound of accomplished teaching. Raw scores (number correct) are not reported.

10. What are unweighted and weighted scores?

Your **unweighted score** is the rubric score that reflects your level of performance on the component. A score of 2.75 is the lowest rubric score in the range of clear evidence of accomplished teaching practice. An unweighted score has not been multiplied by a scaling weight. All unweighted scores are rounded to three decimal places.

A **weighted scaled score** for a component is calculated by multiplying the highest unweighted score by the component's scaling weight. A scaling weight is a number that reflects the component's importance, or weight, within the total assessment. All weighted scaled scores are rounded to three decimal places. More information on weighing and scaling is described in the [Scoring Guide](#).

11. How is my total weighted scaled score calculated?

Your total weighted scaled score is calculated by adding together all seven weighted scaled scores (four scores from the assessment center section and three scores from the portfolio section) and rounding to the nearest integer. The total weighted scaled score has valid scores ranging from 30 to a maximum of 178. If you have not attempted one or more of the components or if you have received an "NS" (Not Scorable) for any component, your total weighted scaled score will display "N/A."

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

12. How are the unweighted average scores for each section calculated?

The assessment center section average is calculated by adding together the four unweighted, or rubric, scores from Component 1: Content Knowledge, and then dividing by four. In the score report excerpt below, the candidate earned scores of 2.750, 2.500, and 2.750 on the three constructed response items/exercises and earned 2.863 on the selected response items, and $(2.750 + 2.500 + 2.750 + 2.863) / 4 = 2.716$.

**The following images are samples and for illustration purposes only.*

Assessment Center Section		
Component 1: Content Knowledge	Assessment Cycle	Highest Unweighted Score (HUS)
Exercise 1	2016 - 2017	2.750
Exercise 2	2016 - 2017	2.500
Exercise 3	2016 - 2017	2.750
Selected Response Items	2016 - 2017	2.863
Assessment Center Section Average Score:		2.716

The portfolio section average is calculated by adding together the three unweighted, or rubric, scores from Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction, Component 3: Teaching Practice and Learning Environment, and Component 4: Effective and Reflective Practitioner, and then dividing by three. In the score report excerpt below, the candidate earned scores of 3.125, 2.750, and 2.250 on the three portfolio components, and

$$(3.125 + 2.750 + 2.250) / 3 = 2.708.$$

The portfolio section average is calculated by adding together the three unweighted, or rubric, scores from Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction, Component 3: Teaching Practice and Learning Environment, and Component 4: Effective and Reflective Practitioner, and then dividing by three. In the score report excerpt below, the candidate earned scores of 3.125, 2.750, and 2.250 on the three portfolio components, and $(3.125 + 2.750 + 2.250) / 3 = 2.708$.

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

13. Why do I have a score of “0” on my score report?

If the space for a score assigned to a constructed response item or a portfolio component displays a “0” (zero), then one or more of the following may apply:

- For a constructed response item, your submitted response did not meet the requirements to receive the minimum score of 0.75.
- For the portfolio components,
 - you did not submit a major piece of evidence such as the written commentaries, the student work samples, or the video recordings, or other critical materials.
 - your video recording(s) were not viewable.
 - your submission contained student work and/or video-recorded footage that was in a language other than English (and/or the target language for World Languages) and did not include an explanation or a translation.
 - your videos included edits beyond those allowed as specified in the video editing rules (see your certificate-specific Portfolio Instructions and Scoring Rubric and General Portfolio Instructions for the rules).
 - your written commentary did not describe the evidence in your video(s) or student work samples.

14. Why do I have a score of “NS” on my score report?

If the space for a score assigned to a constructed response item or a portfolio component displays the “NS” (Not Scorable) designation, then one of the following may apply:

- For the assessment center responses,
 - you did not schedule or attend your assessment center testing appointment.
 - you did not open the selected response part of the exam and did not attempt any of the items.

Response continued on next page

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

- you did not open a constructed response item and did not view any prompts in the item.
- you were suspected of plagiarism or cheating.
- For the portfolio components,
 - you did not submit a portfolio component.
 - your portfolio component submission revealed that the age range requirement was not met; i.e., the class or groups featured did not include at least 51% of students within the defined age parameters of your selected certificate area.
 - your portfolio component submission featured content that did not fall within the scope of your selected certificate.
 - your portfolio component submission featured classes and/or students and evidence that did not fall within the allowable time frame specified in the Portfolio Instructions and Scoring Rubric and General Portfolio Instructions.
 - you and your students could not be seen and heard in your video recording.
 - your retake of a portfolio component did not adhere to the retake rules in the General Portfolio Instructions.
 - you were suspected of plagiarism or cheating.
 - you did not adhere to the National Board's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Instructions and acceptable use of AI.

15. Why didn't I earn certification despite scoring above 1.75 on each component and/or section?

Scores of 1.75 are not indicators of accomplished teaching. The unweighted rubric scores range from .75 to 4.25, and 1.75 is considered low. While the minimum unweighted score required on both sections is 1.75, this score indicates limited evidence of accomplished teaching practice.

Response continued on next page

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

The purpose of the minimum unweighted score requirement on both sections is to ensure that candidates demonstrate –at the very least – limited evidence of what each section measures in order to be eligible for certification; however, to earn certification a candidate must earn scores in the accomplished range —scores of 2.75 or higher— of the scoring rubric. For more information, see the [Scoring Guide](#).

We encourage you to use the National Board's [score calculator](#) to measure the impact of possible new scores and to plan your strategy for retaking components. The score calculator is located online and as part of your score report.

16. Can I request a rescore or have my score reviewed?

The National Board's scoring process is designed to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Each component is evaluated by trained assessors using rigorous standards, and multiple quality controls built into the system to ensure reliability. Because of this, the National Board does not offer rescoring or re-evaluation of submissions.

If you would like to confirm that your score was reported as intended, or if you believe you may qualify for reconsideration under the National Board's appeal policy, two services are available:

1. Score Verification

This service ensures that your component materials were successfully transmitted and received for scoring, and that the score shown on your report matches the score assigned during the scoring process.

- **Fee:** \$75 per component
- **Deadline:** Within 30 days of score release
- **How to Request:** Log in to your National Board account, go to **My Journey**, then select the **Services** tab and click **Score Verification Service**.

Note: Score verification does not involve a reevaluation of your work, does not check the content of your uploads, and does not provide additional feedback. It is not a rescoring service.

Response continued on next page

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

2. Appeals

Appeals are available only in rare cases where a candidate can demonstrate “**good cause**”—typically involving a procedural issue or problem with the assessment process. The types of circumstances that qualify are extremely limited.

Importantly, a candidate will **not** establish good cause by stating that they—or others—believe the scores received do not accurately reflect the quality of their performance or teaching abilities.

- **Fee:** \$500
- **Deadline:** Within 60 days of score release
- **How to Submit:** Mail documentation and payment to
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
Attn: Certification Appeals
1525 Wilson Blvd., Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22209

Before submitting an appeal, we strongly encourage you to review the Guide to National Board Certification for a list of situations that do **not** qualify as good cause.

Preparing for the Next Assessment Cycle and Retaking

17. What steps should I take to evaluate my performance?

We encourage you to visit the [Scoring Guide's](#) Evaluating Your Performance section and watch [Understand your Score and Feedback Statements](#). These resources will help you understand how to use the rubric to evaluate your performance and strengthen your retake portfolio component or response to a constructed response item. You will find guiding questions to follow when evaluating your performance, information to help you understand the strengths and weaknesses of your performance, and how to use your feedback statements.

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

18. How do I know if I should retake a component, and how do I decide which one(s)?

You won't have all the information you need to make retake decisions until you've completed all four components. Once you've received your scores, consider the following:

- If your **assessment center section average** (Component 1) is below **1.75**, you'll need to retake one or more parts of Component 1.
- If your **portfolio section average** (Components 2–4) is below **1.75**, you'll need to retake one or more of those components.
- Even if you meet both section averages, you must also earn a **total weighted scaled score of at least 110** to achieve certification.
- In rare cases, a candidate may meet the total score requirement but not meet one of the section averages—both must be met.

To help decide **which components to retake**, start by reviewing your feedback statements and score report. Focus on areas where clear and consistent evidence of accomplished practice was lacking. Use the [Scoring Guide](#) and [score calculator](#) to:

- Estimate how much a new score could impact your total weighted score.
- Compare rubric descriptors to identify where improvement is most realistic.
- Consider your strengths, time, and available resources.

Tip: Because Component 3 carries the highest weight, improving your score on that component may have a greater impact than the same increase on another component.

For sample scenarios and additional guidance, refer to the Evaluating Your Performance section of the [Scoring Guide](#).

19. How many times can I retake a component?

The National Board offers candidates multiple chances to improve their scores during the five-year certification window.

Response continued on next page

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

While there are limits on the number of retake attempts, the policy is designed to give you flexibility in planning your path to certification.

- You have up to two retake attempts for each of the four parts of Component 1.
- You have up to two retake attempts each for Components 2-4.
- 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, keep in mind you only have a three-year window to initially attempt each of the four components and a five-year window within which certification can be achieved.

20. If I choose to retake, can I submit the same video and/or student work or assessment data?

No. Candidates are expected to submit new material when retaking components.

Analysis and reflection aspects of your teaching practice in the Written Commentary must be completely new and original, not identical or amended versions from any component previously submitted. Similarly, the student work samples, assessment data, and video recordings contained in a retake component must be completely new and original and have occurred within the 12 months preceding the opening of the ePortfolio Submission Window, not identical or amended versions from any component previously submitted. Descriptive aspects of your lesson or assignment in the Written Commentary and some forms associated with the component may remain the same because you may use the same lesson or assignment you previously submitted.

If you do not adhere to these rules, you will receive a not scorable "NS" for the component on your score report.

Please review the "Rules Governing your Retake Submission" in the [General Portfolio Instructions](#) (located in the [Candidate Center](#)) for more information.

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

21. What happens if my retake score is lower than my initial score?

Your highest numeric score—whether it is the initial attempt score or a retake score—is used to compute your total weighted scaled score. National Board will automatically bank all of your component scores during your five-year candidacy window, as you work toward certification.

22. How do I register and purchase my retake selections?

Retaking components is a straightforward process, but there are a few important steps to follow:

1. Log in to your National Board [account](#) and pay the \$75 non refundable and non transferable registration fee. This must be completed before you can select any components.
2. Click “Purchase Component” to choose the component(s) you want to retake.
 - You may retake each **part of Component 1** and **Components 2-4** up to **two times** during the five-year window.
 - A score of NS (Not Scorable) counts as an attempt.
 - Important: If you plan to retake any part of **Component 1**, you must purchase **all parts you intend to retake at the same time**. You cannot add additional parts later in the same cycle.
3. Submit payment. You can pay at any time before the payment deadline.

Before registering, we recommend reviewing the important dates, deadlines, and policy information in the [Guide to National Board Certification](#).

NBCT Status Verification

23. I achieved certification; when will I receive my certificate?

Your NBCT certificate will be shipped to you in March following score release and will be printed with the preferred name in your National Board account.

Response continued on next page

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

You will have two weeks following score release to confirm the name. To check or update it, follow these steps:

1. [Log in to your National Board account](#) and click the My Profile link in the left-hand menu.
2. Click the Update Profile link in the upper right-hand corner.
3. Make sure the name entered in the Preferred Name for Certificate box is accurate. If you make changes, you will need to click the Save Changes button at the bottom of the page to save your changes.

Also, please take a moment to confirm your preferred mailing and email addresses are up to date. We'll ship your certificate to the preferred mailing address listed in your account.

24. How can I provide my district with verification of my status as an NBCT before my certificate arrives?

There are several ways to verify your status as an NBCT:

1. Download a verification letter or a copy of your NBCT certificate from your National Board [account](#) under **My Journey > Certification Progress**.
 - **Note:** If you recently updated your **Preferred Name for Certificate** field, please allow up to **24 hours** for the change to appear on your downloadable documents.
2. Print your certification details from the **My Certifications page** in your National Board [account](#).
3. Access NBCT data via the [NBCT Directory](#) located on the National Board's [website](#). The directory is typically updated within a few days after score release.
4. Visit our [#TeamNBCT](#) page for a social media toolkit you can use to share your accomplishment.

Score Release FAQs

First-time and Returning Candidates

25. Where can I find achievement data for my district or state?

You can find NBCT achievement data by visiting the [TeamNBCT](#) page on the National Board's website. This page includes maps, rankings, and other data showing the number of newly certified and maintained NBCTs by state and district.

Note: Data is typically updated in January, following the annual score release.