

# NATIONAL BOARD

*for Professional Teaching Standards®*

Subject: COVID-19 Impact on National Board Certification and Renewal

We hope you and your loved ones are healthy and you are able to stay connected to your community during this difficult time.

The National Board has created a dedicated page addressing the COVID-19 situation, highlighting recent announcements as well as virtual events, resources, and supports for teachers. We are monitoring the situation daily, and relevant information for candidates will be published weekly, here: <https://www.nbpts.org/covid-19/>.

We have received inquiries from thousands of candidates, both first-time certification and renewal, sharing the impact of COVID-19 on their candidacy and asking how we are adjusting the National Board assessment process in response. Most candidates are asking for an extended submission deadline. Others are making specific requests related to their unique circumstances. We are working hard to evaluate the many scenarios candidates are navigating and contemplating several potential policy changes. As you can imagine, this work is labor intensive considering the ever-evolving situation, so we are asking for your patience and grace as we work through the intricacies of this unique situation to do what is right.

As of today, we are able to share the following statements about changes being considered. The following statements apply to all candidates, whether pursuing initial certification or certification renewal:

- **If you have completed components** and are ready to submit during the upcoming submission window, your candidacy will continue this year. We will open the submission window as planned on April 1st. We will receive, process, and score your material.
- **If you are scheduled to complete Component 1: Content Knowledge**, monitor your emails from Pearson VUE for updates regarding your scheduled appointment. We are closely monitoring national and regional impacts on testing centers and assessing the potential to extend the testing deadline, currently scheduled for June 15th, or to provide other solutions.
- **If you are in the process of completing components**, know we are planning to extend the submission deadline for portfolio material. We are still in the process of establishing the revised deadline beyond the currently scheduled deadline of May 13. This extension would apply to all portfolio materials submitted online:
  - Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction
  - Component 3: Teaching Practice and Learning Environment
  - Component 4: Effective and Reflective Practitioner
  - Renewal: Profile of Professional Growth
- **If you are a current candidate and can no longer complete** your component(s) or candidacy this year, know we are in the process of developing

solutions for your circumstance. As soon as possible, we will provide further direction on what action you need to take.

We will communicate with more specificity next Monday, March 30. Currently, we are ensuring that any policy changes will uphold the quality standards that you expect. For example, before we can implement any process changes, we must convene a meeting of our Technical Advisory Group – an advisory board that helps oversee the assessment’s validity – to ensure the assessment retains its fairness and reliability for all teachers. Every aspect of the governance of Board certification is *by teachers, for teachers*, and we are committed to being responsive to your needs in this unprecedented time.

Finally, many teachers are making a sudden transition to teaching in a virtual learning environment. We are committed to providing support for this transition, especially in the context of the Board certification and Renewal processes. If you are working to adapt to a virtual learning environment, our upcoming webinars (and replays of any that have already been held) may be of interest. [See here](#) for a full list.

Notably, on Thursday, March 26 at 4:30pm ET, we will host a webinar specifically for candidates that will be delivered by expert candidate support providers. [Free registration required](#) -- or watch on [Facebook Live](#). All replay materials will also be [published here](#). We will continue to provide more supports in light of this monumental shift for teachers.

As educators, we are navigating unprecedented circumstances. We are deeply grateful for our steadfast and stalwart community of teachers who have shown nothing short of deep commitment to students, communities, and to the Five Core Propositions at the heart of the National Board Certification process. We are well aware of the challenges in the current environment, and we assure you that as further decisions are made, we will keep what is best for teachers and students at the forefront.

We will send an additional email on Monday, March 30 -- and please view our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [COVID-19 page](#).

Together,

Peggy Brookins, NBCT, President and CEO, and the full National Board Team