NEA’s National Board Jump Start

What is NEA’s National Board Jump Start?

In 2002, the Washington Education Association asked National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) who supported candidates through National Board Certification the following question: “If you had the luxury of several days to work with new candidates before they started the process, what would be most helpful to them?” In response, Jump Start was born. Today, the three-day training runs in over 40 NEA and AFT affiliates across the country. The NEA member benefit continues to be a NBCT designed and led program.

What does Jump Start offer and who is it for?

Jump Start is early support for those who have registered as candidates with the National Board and have selected their certificate area. It is the first piece in a continuum of professional learning; one that ideally includes year-long candidate support. Jump Start’s core beliefs and structure dovetail with the philosophy behind the National Board’s Professional Learning Facilitator (PLF) materials. Jump Start is candidate centered, builds a professional learning community, and focuses on the skills, knowledge, dispositions, and strategies needed to be successful in the National Board Certification process. We believe candidates are masters of their own National Board journey.

What does NEA provide to Jump Start sites?

NEA provides NBCT-developed materials, training and other opportunities to develop their expertise around the program and adult learning theory, strategies for NEA member engagement, access to additional NEA resources and opportunities that support teachers in their practice, professional advocacy, and membership in a national network of like-minded colleagues—all free of charge to affiliates.

Who can offer Jump Start?

Any NEA or AFT affiliate can sign on to become a Jump Start site. Affiliates may choose to offer Jump Start in collaboration with local partners and may use and adapt materials to best support their candidates based on local context and goals.

What is required to become a Jump Start site?

To become a Jump Start site, an affiliate agrees to the parameters NEA has established to define the program which are captured in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). For example, a site agrees to support two NBCTs to lead the program, as well as to send them to one of our development opportunities, to participate in our collaborative NEA edcommunity, to collect and share data, etc.

When are trainings offered?

In 2018, trainings will be offered in the East and Midwest in the spring and in the West in the summer. We are working towards a model whereby there would be a designated training site in each of NEA’s regions.

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NEA NATIONAL BOARD JUMP START ACADEMY

Overview
NEA National Board Jump Start is a comprehensive seminar designed to provide National Board candidates important information about the certification process, time to examine component and Assessment Center requirements, the opportunity to plan how to meet requirements, and time to collaborate, gather resources and information needed to pursue certification — all in a supportive, constructive, and collegial environment.

Foundations
Body of Knowledge: Delve into the National Board’s essential ideas about what teachers should know and be able to do: Five Core Propositions, Architecture of Accomplished Teaching and National Board Content area standards, and connect these ideas to your teaching practice.

Component 1
Content Knowledge: Learn what is expected for this component and strategies to identify possible assessment center exercise items. In this academy, you will begin to determine your content knowledge strengths and gaps, identify resources and develop a study plan.

Component 2
Differentiation in Instruction: Determine what is expected for this component using National Board content area component directions, standards and scoring rubrics and identify resources for developing written commentary.

Component 3
Teaching Practice and Learning Environment: This academy introduces candidates to the three focus areas of Component 3: learning environment, student engagement, and sequence of instruction. Candidates will chart the requirements of Component 3, learn how to navigate the component directions, and discuss ways to capture accomplished practice in video evidence.

Component 4
Effective and Reflective Practitioner: Dig into component directions, standards, and scoring rubrics to understand what candidates must do in this component. Learn resources for gaining data and assessment literacy skills.

Foundations in Practice
Foundations in Practice for Component 2, 3 and 4: Collaborate with other candidates to co-construct a menu of effective strategies for differentiation and student work analysis, for data analysis and assessment, for dynamic engagement, for developing and for instructional practices to support your development of Components 2, 3 and 4.

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