

Score Release FAQs for First-time, Returning, and Retake Candidates

About Score Release

Q: When will I receive my score results?

A: Score results for the current assessment cycle will be released by December 31. Any change to this date will be communicated. When an exact date is identified, we'll update our website. Monitor the [Score Release](#) page for updates.

Q: At what time, on the day that scores are released, will I be able to access my score report?

A: We anticipate releasing scores by noon, CST on the date specified. At this time, we are unable to be more specific.

Q: How will I receive my score results?

A: Score results will be released via your personal National Board [account](#).

Q: What preparations should I make in advance of score release?

A: Please take the following actions in advance of score release:

1. 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.
2. Verify that your preferred contact information (address, telephone number and email address), and school district information are accurate and up to date.
3. Familiarize yourself with the scoring process by reviewing the [Scoring Guide](#), your certificate-specific *Sample Items and Rubrics* for Component 1, and your certificate-specific [Portfolio Instructions and Rubrics](#).

About Scoring and Scores

Q: How are the components scored?

A: Highly trained assessors, many of whom are National Board Certified Teachers themselves, score your responses on the Component 1 constructed response items and Components 2, 3, and 4 (portfolio components). The National Board's assessors use a rubric score scale that ranges from 0.75 to 4.25 and that has 12 scores. The scale is based on four primary levels of performance (Levels 4, 3, 2, and 1), with plus (+) and minus (–) variations at each level. A score of 2.75 is the lowest rubric score assigned for clear evidence of accomplished teaching practice. A score designation of zero is also possible. Component 1 constructed response items and all retakes are scored independently by two assessors

and the two scores are averaged; portfolio components are randomly selected for double scoring. See [Scoring Guide](#) for more information on how the components are scored.

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.

Q: What is an unweighted score?

A: 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.

Q: What is a weighted scaled score?

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

Q: How is my total weighted scaled score calculated?

A: 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. 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. 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.

Q: How are the assessment center and portfolio sections' unweighted average scores calculated?

A. 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

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

Portfolio Section		
Component Name	Assessment Cycle	Highest Unweighted Score (HUS)
Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction	2016 - 2017	3.125
Component 2 Feedback Statements:		
You may wish to provide more consistent and convincing evidence that demonstrate the appropriate pedagogy to develop individual student's understanding of key concepts.		
You may wish to provide more consistent and convincing evidence that you give appropriate steps to each student.		
Component 3: Teaching Practice and Learning Environment	2016 - 2017	2.750
Component 3 Feedback Statements:		
You may wish to provide more consistent and convincing evidence of insight on your practice.		
Component 4: Effective and Reflective Practitioner	2016 - 2017	2.250
Component 4 Feedback Statements:		
You may wish to provide more consistent and convincing evidence of your ability to plan for the whole, as well as individual students, and to adjust instruction as needed to improve student learning.		
Portfolio Section Average Score:		2.708

About Score Requirements

Q: What are the score requirements for achieving National Board Certification?

A: To achieve National Board Certification you must meet each of three score requirements. Remember, a component score of 2.75 is the lowest unweighted rubric score in the range of clear evidence of accomplished teaching practice. Meeting the section requirements of 1.75 is necessary but does not ensure you will have the scores required to meet the total weighted scaled score requirement of 110.

1. Earning a total weighted scaled score at or above 110.

2. Earning an unweighted average score at or above 1.75 on *Component 1: Content Knowledge* (i.e., the assessment center section).
3. Earning an unweighted average score at or above of 1.75 across *Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction*, *Component 3: Teaching Practice and Learning Environment*, and *Component 4: Effective and Reflective Practitioner* (i.e., the portfolio section).

World Languages only: In addition to the requirements described above, World Languages candidates must also meet the National Board World Languages Standards for language proficiency by providing official American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Speaking and Writing Proficiency Certificates. For information about the ACTFL requirement, please consult the [Guide to National Board Certification](#) or [this FAQ document](#).

Q: What is the performance standard, or total weighted score requirement, for certification?

A: The total weighted scaled score of at least 110 is the performance standard for certification. Candidates need to demonstrate the same overall level of accomplished teaching practice to achieve certification that was required to achieve certification on the previous assessment. However, the score scale changed. On the current assessment, the total weighted scaled score to achieve certification is 110.

It is important to remember that earning a total weighted scaled score of 110 or higher is just one of the score requirements for achieving certification. There are three score requirements and you must meet each one to achieve certification. The minimum unweighted average score requirement for the assessment center and portfolio sections is 1.75. Remember, a score of 2.75 is the lowest rubric score in the range of clear evidence of accomplished teaching practice. Meeting the section requirements of 1.75 is necessary but does not ensure you will have the scores required to meet the total weighted scaled score requirement of 110.

About Score Reports

Q: What will my score report look like?

A: Your official National Board score report will include your status, whether or not you met each of the three score requirements, your highest scores, and feedback statements, if applicable. We encourage you to review the sample score report in the [Scoring Guide](#). The [Interpreting Your National Board Score Report](#) document may help answer questions you have.

Q: Where on my score report can I see if I achieved certification?

A: At the top center of your score report, the “Your Status” section displays whether or not you achieved National Board Certification, or whether your certification is still in progress. In the [Scoring Guide](#), you will find a table with the four possible statuses, what your status means, and what your next steps are.

Q: How do I know if I met each of the three score requirements?

A: The “Score Requirements” section of your score report will display whether or not you met all three score requirements. Note that your highest scores—whether it is the initial attempt score or a retake score - are used to evaluate whether or not you met all three score requirements. If there is a “Yes” displayed for all three score requirements, you achieved National Board Certification! If you have not attempted or did not earn a valid score on one or more components, N/A will be displayed.

Q: What scores are on my score report?

A: 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, your weighted scaled scores, your assessment center and portfolio section averages, and your 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).

Q: Why is the total weighted scaled score on my score report displayed as N/A?

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.

Q: How should I use the feedback statements on my score report?

A: Feedback statements provide insight about the quality of evidence of accomplished teaching practice in your portfolio components. Feedback statements were developed to reflect the Five Core Propositions. Assessors assign feedback statements to guide you in the areas in which you might want to reevaluate your performance and target areas for improvement.

Feedback statements will help you identify the main areas that need to be strengthened in your retake submission. It’s also recommended the look at the component's scoring rubric to compare the descriptors between the different performance levels and focus on what is required to demonstrate evidence of accomplished practice. Feedback statements appear on your score report if your score is less than 3.75 on a portfolio component. To learn more about feedback statements, review the *Scoring Guide* located on our [Candidate Resources](#) page.

Q: Why do I have a score of “0” on my score report?

A: 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.

Q: Why do I have a score of “NS” on my score report?

A. 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.
 - 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.

Q: What happens to my scores?

A: 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. **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.
- 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.
- 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, 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 from all attempts of an individual component will be used for total score calculation.

Preparing for the Next Assessment Cycle

Q: How do I evaluate my performance?

A: We encourage you to visit the [Scoring Guide's Evaluating Your Performance](#) section to fully understand how to use the rubric to evaluate your performance and to understand how to potentially strengthen your retake portfolio component or response to a constructed response item. This section includes 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.

Q: I scored above the floor score of 1.75, but I still didn't earn certification.

A: Undoubtedly, this can be frustrating. So, let's take a look at what floor scores mean:

First, understand that scores of 1.75 are **not** indicators of accomplished teaching. The unweighted rubric scores range from .75 to 4.25, so 1.75 is low on that score scale. The minimum unweighted score required (aka floor score) on both sections is 1.75 – that's at the lowest level of the 2 score family and means there was limited (verging on little to no) evidence of accomplished practice on that section(s). 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 of accomplished teaching, a candidate has to earn scores in the accomplished range —scores of 2.75 or higher— of the scoring rubric.** And be careful not to confuse unweighted scores (on the scoring rubric) with weighted scores (used to calculate your

total score). Carefully read both pages of "*Score Requirements for Earning National Board Certification*" in the [Scoring Guide](#).

Q: How can I see if my scores are on track to achieve National Board Certification?

A: Aim to earn a 2.75 on each component and each part of Component 1, and work with the [online score calculator](#) to test out how the scores you've earned and the scores you plan to earn affect your total weighted score.

Q: How do I know if I should retake a component(s)?

A: You will not have all the information you need to definitively know whether you need to retake to achieve certification until you have completed all four components. **Please consider the following:**

- A component score of 2.75 is the lowest rubric score in the range of clear evidence of accomplished teaching practice.
- If you have not met the assessment center section unweighted average score requirement of at least 1.75, you will need to retake one or more parts of Component 1 in an attempt to earn a 1.75 or higher.
- If you have not met the portfolio section unweighted average score requirement of at least 1.75, you will need to retake one or more of the portfolio components. You will not know if you met the portfolio section requirement until you've attempted Components 2, 3, and 4.
- Meeting the section requirements of 1.75 is necessary but does not ensure you will have the scores required to meet the total weighted scaled score requirement of 110.
- You will not know whether you met the total weighted scaled score of 110 until you have attempted and received numeric scores for all four components.
- Consider how to maximize your retake opportunities for meeting or surpassing section average requirements **and** the performance standard of 110. Even if you have met the section average score requirements, if you do not meet the total weighted scaled score requirement of at least 110, you will need to retake one or more parts of Component 1 and/or portfolio components.
- In rare cases, it is possible to earn a total weighted scaled score of at least 110 and not meet one of the section average score requirements.

We encourage you to use the National Board's online score calculator to measure the impact of possible new scores and to help you develop your strategy for retaking components.

For Component 1, candidates have up to two retakes for each part of Component 1 at any time during the five-year window. A score of NS (Not Scorable) counts as an attempt. If you have not met a score requirement and have attempted two retakes related to that score requirement, you will not be allowed to continue the certification process. For example, consider a candidate who has retaken all parts of Component 1 twice in the first three years of his/her candidacy, and on none of the three attempts (including the initial) has he/she met the average section score of at least 1.75. There is no possibility of achieving certification and the candidate should not continue but can start the entire certification process again as a first-time candidate.

For additional information about how to know if/what you need to retake, refer to the *Scoring Guide* located online on our [Candidate Resources page](#).

Q: How do I select my retake components?

A: The [Scoring Guide](#) has a section to guide you as you evaluate your score report and choose which portfolio components and/or parts of Component 1 to retake. Consider how likely it is that your score on a given component/part will improve and use the [online score calculator](#) to calculate how much any individual improved score(s) will affect your total weighted scaled score. You will want to consider a range of factors such as how many points you need to meet score requirements, your strengths, and personal factors. **We encourage you to review sample retake scenarios located in the [Scoring Guide](#).**

Q: How can I improve my performance when I retake components?

A: You may consider starting by reviewing the feedback statement(s) to identify areas where clear and consistent evidence was lacking. Feedback statements were developed to reflect the Five Core Propositions. Use the feedback statements along with the [Five Core Propositions](#) and the Standards and rubric for that component to guide you in the area(s) in which you might want to re-evaluate your performance and strengthen your retake submission. Compare the descriptors between the different levels of the particular component's scoring rubric and focus on what is required to demonstrate evidence of accomplished practice.

Take a look at the National Board Standards for your certificate area and the ones measured in the particular component. As you review your submission, find examples of evidence where your practice demonstrates that you have met the specific standards measured by that component. Candidates are encouraged to use the [online score calculator](#) to measure the impact of possible scores. This hands-on tool can help candidates test out various scenarios to develop a strategy for retaking components. Make sure to use only estimates of reasonable scores according to the scoring rubric. The [Scoring Guide](#) sections "*Evaluating Your Performance*" and "*Preparing for the Next Assessment Cycle*" provides more helpful information on evaluating and improving your performance on each component.

If you plan to retake a component(s), think carefully about which component(s) you feel you can realistically make the most improvement. Because the weight for Component 3 is the largest of the weights, mathematically, a score increase on Component 3, e.g., increasing from 1.75 to 2.75, will result in a larger increase in component and total weighted scaled score than the same increase on Component 2.

Q: What is the maximum number of allowed retake attempts?

A: You have up to two retake attempts for each component, and you can retake at any time during the five-year window; 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.

Q: How do I register to retake?

A: To register, complete the following steps:

- Log in to your National Board [account](#) and pay the \$75 nonrefundable and nontransferable registration fee. (The registration fee must be paid before you can select a component).
- Click “Purchase Component” to select the component(s) you would like to complete.
- Submit payment. Payment can be made at any time prior to the payment deadline.

Prior to registering, we encourage you to review the important dates, deadlines, and policy information contained in the *Guide to National Board Certification*, located on our [Candidate Resources page](#).