



Photo credit: Terry Ashe

**Every child deserves
a great teacher...**

National Board Certified Teachers
Better Teaching, Better Learning, Better Schools

WHAT IS NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION®?

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to identify great teachers — and make them better. While state licensing systems set basic requirements to teach in each state, National Board Certified Teachers have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices.

- Like board-certified doctors and accountants, teachers who achieve National Board Certification have met advanced standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review.
- Certification takes one to three years to achieve and is available nationwide.
- Twenty-five certificates are available for a variety of developmental levels and subjects — including literacy, English, math, science and health education.
- The process includes assessment of subject knowledge, submissions of video recordings of classroom instruction and examples of student work.
- About 40 percent of candidates achieve certification the first year; about 65 percent do so by the end of the three-year cycle.
- All 50 states, the District of Columbia and more than 700 school districts recognize National Board Certification as a mark of distinction.
- Broad support for National Board Certification comes from the federal government, Democratic and Republican governors and legislators, state and local governments and school boards, the nation's two largest teacher unions, higher education, education organizations and classroom teachers.

National Board Certified Teachers consistently receive top honors while representing just over two percent of the nation's teaching population.

Consider this...

- The National Teacher of the Year in 2007, 2006, 2003, 2001 and 1997;
- Nearly a quarter of the 2008 State Teachers of the Year;
- Forty percent of the honorees in the National Teachers Hall of Fame, an award endorsed by every major professional education organization;
- Nearly one-third of the recipients of Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the nation's highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science;
- Winners of numerous highly respected national teaching awards such as the Disney Teacher Awards and the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award; and
- Forty percent of USA TODAY's 2007 All-USA Teacher Team

...are all National Board Certified Teachers.

WHY SHOULD YOU SUPPORT NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION?

Students benefit

- National Board Certified Teachers have proven that they know their subject matter and can successfully teach it.
- National Board Certified Teachers help students find relevance in learning and engage them in the learning process.
- National Board Certified Teachers produce students who are stronger writers and comprehend classroom material better than students of non-certified teachers.

Schools benefit

- National Board Certified Teachers regularly lead efforts to create closer ties among schools and students, families and communities.
- National Board Certified Teachers play a crucial role in mentoring new teachers and helping struggling ones improve.
- National Board Certified Teachers are frequently asked to share their expertise with policymakers and other stakeholders.
- National Board Certified Teachers tend to stay in the profession longer than non-certified teachers.

Our nation benefits

- National Board Certified Teachers offer students the skills necessary to thrive in school and in the workplace — essential factors for our nation's success in the 21st century global economy.
- National Board Certification provides valuable incentives to keep our most accomplished teachers in the classroom.
- National Board Certification raises the bar for teaching and learning and helps create a climate of professionalism and excellence.



Photo credit: Terry Ashe

NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

Photo credit: Teresa Roorback Photography, Everett, Wash.



"The National Board process revolutionizes a teacher's instructional methods to make the teacher a more vital, effective and committed educator. It is due to this belief that I will continue in the role of mentor and recruiter for National Board Certification."

— **Andrea Peterson, NBCT**
2007 National Teacher of the Year

Photo credit: Bill Mills, Montgomery County Public Schools, Md.



"The National Board Certification process was a powerful and worthwhile professional experience. It drastically refined my practice as an educator. It changed my thinking about curriculum."

— **Kimberly Oliver, NBCT**
2006 National Teacher of the Year

BETSY ROGERS, NBCT
2003 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

MICHELE FORMAN, NBCT
2001 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SHARON DRAPER, NBCT
1997 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

For more information about how to support National Board Certification in states, communities and schools, visit the NBPTS Web site at www.nbpts.org or call 1-800-22TEACH.

WHO SUPPORTS NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION?

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

"Teachers in Mississippi tell me that the process of becoming board certified renews their enthusiasm for teaching, improves their performance in the classroom and helps raise the achievement levels of their students." — **Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.)**

"National Board Certification is one of the most significant education reforms in recent years, and it has provided a way for policymakers to recognize and reward accomplished teaching." — **Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.)**

GOVERNORS

"Teachers who pursue this certification have made a commitment to excellence in the classroom. That is good news for all Oklahomans — but especially so for our children." — **Gov. Brad Henry (D-Okla.)**

"I am very, very proud of the Mississippi teachers who have gained their National Board Certification. These teachers have reached a superior achievement, and our school children will only benefit because of their success." — **Gov. Haley Barbour (R-Miss.)**

BUSINESS LEADERS

"As increasing numbers of teachers achieve National Board Certification, more students will experience how a highly qualified teacher can influence their learning and impact the quality of education across this country." — **Edward B. Rust Jr., Chairman and CEO, State Farm Insurance Companies®**

"We must remain steadfast in strengthening science education in this country. In order to do that, it will be necessary to purposefully increase the number of National Board Certified Teachers who teach science to our children." — **David Pulman, President, Global Manufacturing and Supply, GlaxoSmithKline**

EDUCATION OFFICIALS

"National Board Certification is one of the most significant education reforms in recent years. Those who attain National Board Certification are strengthening the teaching profession across the country." — **Gene Wilhoit, Executive Director, Council of Chief State School Officers**

"Washington has developed a system that helps support teachers with the energy and dedication to take on this National Board Certification challenge, and it is paying dividends for our students." — **Terry Bergeson, Superintendent, Public Instruction (Wash.)**

"National Board Certification is really important in terms of tipping the culture of a school and district. While it's great to have a National Board Certified Teacher in every school, I think that sets a very low benchmark. Instead, we want teams of National Board Certified Teachers in every school." — **John E. Deasy, Superintendent, Prince George's County Public Schools (Md.)**

SCHOOL BOARDS

"Teaching is at the heart of education, and one of the most important roles of the school board is to support and encourage the ongoing professional development of teachers. National Board Certification offers a way to significantly strengthen teaching and learning in America's schools." — **Anne L. Bryant, Executive Director, National School Boards Association**

PARENTS

"National Board Certified Teachers have successfully demonstrated that they recognize and support the critical role that parents and the community play in the teaching and learning process." — **Jan Harp Domene, National President, Parent Teacher Association**

REMEMBER THE BEST TEACHER YOU EVER HAD?

The 64,000 National Board Certified Teachers are among the nation's most effective teachers who have demonstrated that they meet the highest teaching standards. National Board Certification is a growing education reform movement with numbers that have more than tripled in the past five years.

NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS

National Board Certification is administered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards® (NBPTS), an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan and non-governmental organization. NBPTS advances the quality of teaching and learning by developing professional standards for accomplished teaching, creating a voluntary system to certify teachers who meet those standards and integrating certified teachers into educational reform efforts.

© 2008 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. All rights reserved. NBPTS, NBCT, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, National Board Certified Teacher, National Board Certification are registered trademarks or service marks of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Other marks are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective organizations.

This project is funded in part with grants from the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation. Through September 2007, NBPTS has been appropriated federal funds of \$167.7 million, of which \$151.9 million was expended. Such amount represents approximately 32 percent of the National Board Certification project. Approximately \$325.6 million (68 percent) of the project's cost was financed by non-federal sources.



National Office

1525 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22209
www.nbpts.org | 1-800-22TEACH

January 2008