



NBPTS BACKGROUND

Teachers make a difference. Excellent teachers make a profound difference in the lives of children and young people. **The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards® believes that quality teaching is the key to student success.** *Every student in every classroom deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and excel with a National Board Certified Teacher®.*

National Board Certification is administered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan and nongovernmental 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. **Its mission is to establish high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.**

NBPTS was created by educators and policymakers in 1987 in response to two critical reports on the state of education: 1) the 1983 President's Commission on Excellence in Education report, *A Nation At Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform*, and 2) the Carnegie Forum on Education and the Economy's Task Force on Teaching as a Profession report, *A Nation Prepared: Teachers for the 21st Century*.

Today, **more than 55,000 National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) are making a positive difference in the lives of students across the nation.**

GREAT SCHOOLS BEGIN WITH GREAT TEACHERS

NBPTS Sets the Standards for What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do. While state licensing systems set *minimum* requirements to teach in each state, NBPTS offers experienced teachers the professional development opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and practices against high and rigorous standards. As a result of the National Board Certification process, teachers — like professionals in other fields — demonstrate that they meet the highest standards for their profession through a demanding performance assessment.

- All 50 states and more than 700 school districts recognize National Board Certification as a mark of distinction, similar to the way the medical, engineering and accounting professions recognize expertise.
- To achieve National Board Certification, teachers spend one to three years demonstrating what they know and can do through rigorous assessment that includes video recordings of classroom instruction and examples of student work.
- Each National Board Certified Teacher has demonstrated that he or she is highly accomplished in one of 24 certificate areas in subject areas such as, literacy, English, math and science.

NBPTS IMPACTS TEACHER PRACTICE AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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NBPTS has put itself and its certification process to the test. From its inception, NBPTS has sought to understand and measure the impact of its certification process on teachers, students and schools.

- More than 150 studies have examined National Board Certification. The vast majority found NBCTs make a significantly measurable positive impact on teacher performance, student learning, engagement and achievement.
- Research consistently shows that National Board Certification has a positive impact on teacher practice, professional development and areas of school improvement that are critical to raising student achievement.
- Research indicates that teachers who pursue National Board Certification show improvements in their teaching practices, regardless of whether they achieved certification.
- The Bottom Line: Research shows that accomplished teachers improve student achievement. The results are particularly noteworthy among low-income, ethnically diverse and special needs students.

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS ARE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

Although NBCTs represent only about one to two percent of the nation's teaching population, they receive many of the nation's top teaching awards.

The National Teacher of the Year Program is one of the nation's most prestigious honors program and is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers. National Board Certified Teachers represent 24 percent of the 2007 State Teachers of the Year. The last two in a row, and four of the last seven National Teachers of the Year, are National Board Certified.

Forty percent of the honorees in the National Teachers Hall of Fame are National Board Certified Teachers. The organization honors elementary and secondary school teachers and has been endorsed by every major professional education organization.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is the nation's highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science. Thirty-seven percent of the 2005 recipients are National Board Certified Teachers.

National Board Certified Teachers represent 18 percent of the 2006 recipients of the Disney Teacher Award and have been awarded other prestigious national awards, including the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award, USA Today All-USA Teacher Team Award and others.

Broad support for National Board Certification comes from the federal government, Democratic and Republican governors and legislators, state and local school boards, the nation's two largest teacher unions, teacher educators, education organizations, and classroom teachers. As a result of this broad, bipartisan political support, all 50 states and more than 700 school districts, including the District of Columbia, offer some form of incentive and/or legislative or regulatory support for teachers seeking National Board Certification.

The private sector has also provided broad support to expand the reach of National Board Certification. Foundations, corporations and other private entities have determined that efforts to advance professional development for teachers are the keys to achieving a better educational system. These generous donors include, among others, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, State Farm Insurance Companies, The Pew Charitable Trusts, GlaxoSmithKline, Ford Foundation, Procter & Gamble, AT&T, IBM, and Xerox.

Contact Us. For more information on 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.