

NATIONAL BOARD

for Professional Teaching Standards®

From: Ron Thorpe and Andy Coons, The National Board
To: All NBCTs
Subject: Revisions to the National Board Certification Process

September 12, 2013

Dear First Name:

We are reaching out to share some exciting news. Just as you have proven to be a reflective practitioner, the National Board continually strives to be a reflective organization. In that regard, the National Board Standards are revised on a regular basis. The certification process, however, was last revised in 2001, so it's time to undertake this effort mindful of the many advances in research and practice over the last decade.

Through this process, we believe the profession has an opportunity to define for itself which measures of student learning and teacher effectiveness should be used to determine when a teacher's practice is accomplished, for we know best that every classroom has a different instructional context, that every student is unique, and that teaching is a complex practice. If we as a profession don't make these decisions ourselves, they will be made for us.

The revision is also an opportunity to address barriers within the certification process that have nothing to do with accomplishment in the classroom. Throughout this process, the National Board's Certification Council, Board of Directors and staff will ensure no harm is done to the integrity and rigor that has made National Board Certification the gold standard for the profession. As you know, the certification process requires that teachers provide clear, consistent, and convincing evidence that their practice meets the standards, and that will not change.

Over the years, we've heard about obstacles from many NBCTs and teachers considering certification, and perhaps you found some of these to be hurdles when you pursued certification. These barriers include the cost and the time commitment required to submit all four portfolio entries and complete the assessment center exercises in one year—all while balancing personal and professional responsibilities. In response to this, the revised certification process will allow candidates to set their own pace by paying for and submitting components of the process over time. Also, the total cost of certification will decrease to about \$1,900, with each of the four components costing no more than \$500.

It's worth restating that our principles remain the same, as will the rigor and integrity of National Board Certification. This means the Five Core Propositions, the National Board Standards, and the Architecture of Accomplished Teaching will not change. National Board Standards will

continue to be written by teachers, for teachers. The certification process will continue to rely on performance measures and a peer-review process; the emphasis on reflection and student learning will also remain the same.

We will be engaging with NBCTs across the country throughout the revision process. Make sure you don't miss future updates and opportunities by taking a moment to login to [My Profile](#) and verify your contact information. Don't forget to also stay tuned to our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page to learn more. We'll close with a request that you watch this [short video](#) featuring NBCTs talking about the forthcoming revision.

Best regards,

Ron Thorpe, President & Chief Executive Officer

Andy Coons, NBCT, Chief Operating Officer