

# NATIONAL BOARD

*for Professional Teaching Standards®*

**From: Ron Thorpe and Andy Coons, The National Board**

**To: Not Yet Submitted – Renewal Candidates**

**Subject: Future Revisions to the National Board Certification Process**

**September 12, 2013**

Dear Candidate:

As you pursue renewal of your National Board Certification, we have some news to share. In 2014, the National Board will make revisions to the certification process. We want you to hear from us directly about the reasons for these changes and let you know that *the process for renewal is not changing at this time*. Revisions to the certification process will only apply to first-time candidates beginning in the 2014-2015 cycle. You will continue the renewal process that you started.

## **So, why are we revising the certification process?**

Just as you have proven your commitment to being a reflective practitioner, the National Board continually strives to be a reflective organization, which means National Board Standards are revised on a regular basis. However, this will be the first time since 2001 that the entire certification process has will be revised. We are considering new research in our revisions and aiming to reduce some of the barriers you may have experienced as you went through the process.

Our ultimate goal is to make it possible for more students to learn from Board-Certified teachers.

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.

We know that the profession must define for itself, which measures of student learning and teacher effectiveness should be used to determine when a teacher's practice is accomplished. There have been many advances in research and practice in the past decade, but we as a profession must determine which measures make sense, given that we know that every classroom has a different instructional context, that every student is unique, and that

teaching is a complex practice. Revisions to the certification process will reflect research-based measures selected by the profession.

**What isn't changing?**

Though the process is changing, our principles remain the same. 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.

**What's next?**

Please continue the renewal process. To make sure you don't miss future updates and opportunities, take 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. You can watch a [short video](#) featuring NBCTs talking about the forthcoming revision.

We wish you the best of luck as you continue renewal of your National Board Certification.

Best regards,  
Ron Thorpe, President & Chief Executive Officer  
Andy Coons, NBCT, Chief Operating Officer