

# NATIONAL BOARD

*for Professional Teaching Standards®*

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

**To: Not Yet Submitted – First Time Candidates**

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

**September 12, 2013**

Dear Candidate:

We are writing to you because you are registered as a first time candidate for National Board Certification and we have some news to share. National Board is revising the certification process beginning next year, and we want to make sure that you are aware of these important changes. The revisions will not change the meaning of National Board Certification nor the standard of practice required to be recognized as an accomplished teacher.

## **What's changing?**

Just as we are asking you to be reflective in your practice as you pursue National Board Certification, the National Board continually strives to be a reflective organization. The revised certification process will consider the latest research on effective teaching over the past decade. It will also provide greater flexibility, efficiency, and access for candidates and reduce the total cost of certification. Specifically:

- Candidates will be able to set their own pace within a longer window and submit the components in any sequence that fits their schedule while maintaining the same level of rigor;
- The total cost of certification will decrease to about \$1,900, with each of four components costing no more than \$500; and
- Candidates will have the option to pay for each component as they are taken.

## **What does this mean for you? You have two options:**

**Option 1: Continue with the process you started.** If you choose this option, you will use the portfolio instructions available to you now, complete the assessment center exercises as described in Assessment at a Glance, and adhere to the 2013-14 Assessment Calendar.

**Option 2: Withdraw your 2013-14 candidate application and start your National Board candidacy when the revised certification process is available.** Please know that if you do this, we anticipate that only two of the four components will be ready in 2014-15, with the remaining components expected to roll out across the two years that follow. **This means that the earliest possible opportunity to achieve National Board Certification under the revised process will be in 2017.** If you choose to withdraw, you may do so through [My](#)

[Profile](#) following the instructions provided in the Guide to National Board Certification on our website. Refunds will only be for payments related to 2013-14 candidacy.

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

National Board Standards are revised on a regular basis. However, this will be the first time since 2001 that our entire certification process will be revised. This is an opportunity for the profession to 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 context, that every student is unique, and that teaching is a complex practice.

Also, we have heard from many teachers about the obstacles and barriers within the process that have nothing to do with accomplishment in the classroom. The revision is our opportunity to address those barriers, such as 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.

### **What is not 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. Certification will remain performance-based and peer-reviewed, with the same emphasis on reflection and student learning.

I encourage you to watch a [short video](#) for more information. Please stay tuned to our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page to learn more and help us spread this exciting news.

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