

Getting Started on Your National Board Certification Journey



1. Understand the process

National Board Certification is a comprehensive process developed by teachers to recognize, reward, inspire and grow accomplished teachers across America. It is made up of four components and is designed to be flexible, fitting around your personal and professional responsibilities. Read the [National Board Certification: Quick Start and Overview Guide](#) to learn more about the process.



2. Confirm your eligibility & create an account

To pursue certification, you must have:

- A bachelor's degree*
- Three years of classroom or school counselor experience
- A valid state license (or meet the licensure requirements set by your state or school, such as those set by independent schools)

If you are deciding if certification is right for you, create a no-commitment [account](#) with us. This will take less than three minutes to complete and helps us share more resources with you.

- More details on eligibility requirements and the prerequisite for World Language candidates can be found in the [Guide to National Board Certification](#).
- *If you are considering the Career and Technical Education certificate you are required to hold a bachelor's degree only if one is required for your current state license.



3. Know your dates & financial support available

- There are a few key dates you need to be aware of, such as the annual registration deadline for certification.
- View the key dates for the current assessment year [here](#).
- Many states and districts provide financial support for certification. Check what options are available in your [state and deadlines](#) for applications.

Please be aware that local deadlines are often different from the National Board registration deadlines, so be sure to check as soon as possible. There are additional funding sources listed [here](#).



4. Understand your choices & certification timelines

Your area of certification:

- There are 25 different areas you can choose to certify in. It's important you reflect on which area is right for you, as you will be asked to demonstrate and collect evidence related to the certificate you choose to pursue.
- Take a look at the [Choosing the Right Certificate Guide](#) for the 25 different areas.

Your timeline:

- You have the flexibility to work towards certification in a way that suits you and your professional and personal responsibilities. Completing your first attempt of all four components can take as little as one year, or up to three.
- You have up to two retake attempts for each component and have a five-year window to achieve certification.
- Take a look at potential 2 year, or 3-year timelines [here](#).

The four components:

- There are four components you will need to complete and submit for scoring. One is a computer-based assessment, and the remaining three are portfolio entries. You can learn more about [the components](#) here or by accessing [previously recorded webinars](#) on these components.

Your Plan:

- Consider what timeline might work best for you.
- Decide on the order of your component(s). Where do you want to start?



5. Register & pay your registration fee

Once you have made the decision to pursue certification, make sure you [pay your \\$75 registration fee](#) by the deadline. You will need to confirm which certificate area is the right fit for you.



6. Select & pay for your components

- Select and [pay for your chosen components](#) for the current assessment cycle. Remember, components must be completed during the assessment cycle in which they are purchased. You can access the [standards and instructions](#) and start working before you purchase the components.
- Don't forget, you must attempt each of the four components within the first three years of your candidacy, and you have a five-year window in total to attempt retakes and achieve certification.



7. Put everything into practice

Congratulations, you are now well on your way to becoming a Board-certified teacher!

- Make time for yourself and your practice and think about how you can demonstrate and collect the evidence needed for the components you are working on.
- Remember you are not alone; reach out to other teachers, qualified NBCTs, and your family for support on this journey.
- All of your official instructions and guides can be found accessed through [the candidate center](#).
- For further guidance and supports for putting this all into practice, view or download our [National Board Certification: Candidate Resource Guide](#).
- Join us on a future [webinar](#) and listen to some of our [podcast series](#).

