

A Distinction that Matters:

*What Parents
Should Know About
National Board
Certification®*



**Is Your Child's
Teacher a National
Board Certified
Teacher?**



National Board for
**PROFESSIONAL
TEACHING
STANDARDS®**

National Board Certified Teachers Promote...

Better Teaching, Better Learning, Better Schools

While all of us look for symbols of quality among professionals, such as a CPA to do our taxes and board-certified physicians to care for our families, how do you know if your child's teacher has met high and rigorous standards in the teaching profession? National Board Certification offers a way for accomplished teachers to be assessed and recognized, and a way for parents to know their child's teacher has met high and rigorous standards.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) believes the single most important action the nation can take to improve schools is to strengthen teaching. NBPTS develops high and rigorous standards for accomplished teachers, and thousands of teachers across the country have demonstrated that they meet those standards by achieving National Board Certification®.

National Board Certified Teachers:

- Are a mark of quality in the classroom;
- Have met the highest standards set by the teaching profession;
- Elevate teaching to the same professional level as medicine and law; and
- Have demonstrated dedication to student learning.

Many children and parents have benefited from the quality instruction National Board Certified Teachers provide to their students.

"When my daughter had Sharon Parker as a teacher she improved as a student. Her intensity increased, her expectations for herself increased and I saw my daughter work harder than she had for other teachers. I attribute this to the fact Sharon Parker is a National Board Certified Teacher."

– Bill LeGrand

Parent
Warsaw, Ky.

What Do Teachers Have to Do to Achieve National Board Certification?

National Board Certification is a yearlong process requiring teachers to demonstrate their knowledge and skills as professional educators. Each candidate's performance is individually examined by trained teachers and assessed against the highest standards set by teachers in the profession.

The National Board Certification process requires teachers to:

- Complete four portfolio entries, three of which are classroom-based and include videotapes that document the candidate's teaching practice and examples of student work. The videos and student work are supported by commentaries about the goals and purposes of instruction, analysis about what occurred and the effectiveness of the practice, and the rationale for the candidate's professional judgement. The fourth entry requires candidates to demonstrate their work with students' families and their community and collaboration with the professional community.
- Answer six assessment center prompts (each allowing 30 minutes for response) that are designed to elicit knowledge of subject matter content.

National Board Certification Keeps Quality Teachers in the Classroom

All of us know of that one teacher who has made a difference in our child's life. A teacher who was not only creative and hardworking, but also had that special ability to reach his or her students and make the average lessons come alive. But, because of low pay

and lack of recognition, many good teachers are drawn away from teaching into administration and other fields. National Board Certification can help keep good teachers in the classroom by providing recognition for their teaching ability and, in many cases, financially compensating them.



Does National Board Certification Really Recognize Accomplished Teaching?

Yes, according to research conducted by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. NBCTs significantly outperformed their peers on 11 out of 13 key dimensions of generally recognized measures of good teaching.

For example, NBCTs were better at: understanding why students succeed and fail on a given academic task, engaging students without overwhelming them, anticipating difficulties students might have with new concepts, and improvising when faced with the unexpected.

In addition to evaluating the teachers against the 13 dimensions, researchers examined samples of student work in classes taught by NBCTs and teachers who had sought National Board Certification but

hadn't achieved it. Almost three-fourths of the work samples collected from students taught by NBCTs in the study reflected a high level of comprehension of the concepts being taught, compared to three in 10 of the work samples of students taught by teachers who hadn't achieved National Board Certification.

Based on student work samples, the study's authors declared that National Board Certification "is identifying and certifying teachers who are producing students who differ in profound and important ways from those taught by non-certified teachers."

"The process of achieving National Board Certification required me to re-examine my current teaching practices to ensure maximum student learning in all areas of the curriculum. National Board Certification has enabled me to perform to the best of my ability."

– **Sue Bentz**, NBCT, Middle Childhood/Generalist, Pittsburgh, Pa.

NBPTS Standards for Accomplished Teaching

NBCTs are committed to students and their learning and actively include parents and other caregivers in the day-to-day education of each student. This commitment to family involvement is clearly stated in each of the 20 standards documents written by teachers and other education experts and produced by NBPTS to describe what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do in their respective fields. The following excerpts from NBPTS Standards describe accomplished teaching. Isn't this what you want for your child?

Accomplished Teachers

Know their Students:

"They (accomplished teachers) enhance their understanding of students through discussions with family members, other teachers, school counselors, special education teachers, and other educational and administrative staff." (*Standard I, World Languages Other Than English Standards*)

Accomplished Teachers Know their Fields:

"Accomplished teachers draw on their

knowledge of subject matter and curriculum to make sound decisions about what is important for students to learn within and across the subject areas of the middle childhood curriculum." (*Standard II, Middle Childhood/Generalist Standards*)

Accomplished Teachers Know How to Assess Student Learning:

"Accomplished teachers prepare reports of their evaluations that clearly

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NBPTS Standards for Accomplished Teaching

communicate to parents, other teachers, and administrators the kind and quality of progress that students are making.”
(Standard XIII, Early Adolescence/English Language Arts Standards)

Accomplished Teachers Practice Equity and Fairness:

“Accomplished teachers model and promote behavior appropriate in a diverse society by showing respect for and valuing all members of their communities and by having high expectations that their students will treat one another fairly and with dignity.”
(Standard IX, Physical Education Standards)

What Parents Can Do To Help:

- Encourage an outstanding teacher to pursue National Board Certification;
- Work with your PTA to pay the fee for National Board Certification and recognize teachers who go through the process;
- Encourage your school board to support National Board Certification and recognize those who go through the process;
- Encourage teachers to use the NBPTS Standards
- Offer to help a candidate for National Board Certification go through the process by assisting in videotaping the classroom (a requirement for certification); and
- Host a recognition event with your child. Parents say it helps their children realize that learning never ends, even for teachers.

This project is funded in part with grants from the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation. Through September 2001, NBPTS has been appropriated federal funds of \$109.3 million, representing approximately 51 percent of the National Board Certification project. More than \$106.3 million (49 percent) of

the project's cost will be financed by non-governmental sources. The contents of this brochure were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal government.

ISBN 999-8056-99-3



Accomplished Teachers Create Effective Learning Environments:

“Creating engaging, aesthetically rich learning environments that stimulate student inquiry and creativity is essential to the success of art education.”
(Standard VIII, Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Art Standards)

Accomplished Teachers Develop Partnerships with Families:

“Accomplished teachers understand and value the distinctive role of parents and guardians, and they continually seek opportunities to build strong partnerships with them.”
(Standard XI, Social Studies–History Standards)

“Mr. Abdullah, a National Board Certified Teacher, inspired my son Charles to do better in class and to be a leader.”

– **Cynthia Brumfield**, Parent, Chicago, Ill.

To find out more about how you can help encourage teachers to pursue National Board Certification, please contact the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards at **1-800-22TEACH** or at www.nbpts.org.

NBPTS is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan, non-governmental organization.

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