

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Department of Human Resources
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Date: March 13, 2014
To: National Board Certification Applicant
From: Kenneth M. Kuyawa, Personnel Officer
Office of Certification

We are pleased that you are interested in the National Board Certification program. We have enclosed some information for your review:

- ❖ ***Questions concerning National Board Certification;***
- ❖ ***Application for Baltimore County Public Schools scholarship funds;***
- ❖ ***Two confidential reference forms with Core Principles.***

Please return your one (1) page Baltimore County Public Schools application and brief but concise essay directly to the, Office of Certification, no later than **April 25, 2014**. Confidential references should be sent directly to, Office of Certification, no later than **April 25, 2014**.

As you consider the Fee Incentive application process, you are reminded that there have been a few changes to the actual National Board Certification process:

- ❖ ***You must have three (3) years of satisfactory teaching experience on a professional certificate.***
- ❖ ***You are responsible for the \$65 application fee.***
- ❖ ***You will begin the National Board Certification process during the 2014-15 school year and must complete it by the 2016-17 school year.***
- ❖ ***Neither MSDE nor BCPS will pay for retakes (portfolio and/or assessment).***

Please feel free to contact Carla Simons, Certification Analyst with questions about the local scholarship process. She can be contacted at csimons@bcps.org or (410)887-4147.

Additionally, you will find valuable information on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards website www.boardcertifiedteachers.org. I would suggest that you peruse this website before making a decision concerning applying for scholarship funds.

You have my best wishes as you pursue National Board Certification!

KMK

National Board Certification Information and Application Packet

What is the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards?

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization governed by a Board of Directors, comprised primarily of classroom teachers. Its purpose is to improve student learning in America's schools by developing a system of advanced, voluntary certification for elementary, middle, and high school teachers. The National Board is establishing rigorous standards and assessments for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.

What is National Board Certification?

National Board Certification is acknowledgment that a teacher is highly accomplished, having met challenging professional teaching standards as evidenced by performance-based assessments. At the present time, there are over 97,000 teachers nationwide who have achieved National Board Certification. Completion of the process is recognized as a valuable professional development experience.

There are 110 National Board Certified Teachers in Baltimore County Public Schools. National Board Certification is valid for 10 years. These certificates may be renewed.

What are the Five Core Propositions? (What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do)

Teachers are committed to students and their learning.

- Teachers recognize individual differences in their students.
- Teachers have an understanding of how students develop and learn.
- Teachers treat students equitably.
- Teachers' missions extend beyond developing the cognitive capacity of their students.

Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.

- Teachers appreciate how knowledge in their subjects is created, organized, and linked to other disciplines.
- Teachers command specialized knowledge of how to convey a subject to students.
- Teachers generate multiple paths to knowledge.

Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.

- Teachers call on multiple methods to meet their goals.
- Teachers orchestrate learning in group settings.
- Teachers place a premium on student engagement.
- Teachers regularly assess student progress.
- Teachers are mindful of their principle objectives.

Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.

- Teachers are continually making difficult choices that test their judgment.
- Teachers seek the advice of others and draw on educational research and scholarship to improve their practice.

Teachers are members of learning communities.

- Teachers contribute to school effectiveness by collaborating with other professionals.
- Teachers work collaboratively with parents.
- Teachers take advantage of community resources.

What is the assessment process for National Board Certification?

The process is currently going through some revisions and candidates starting in the 2014-2015 school year will not be able to complete the process until the 2016-2017 school year as the NBPTS rolls out the new components. There will be a total of four components: Content Knowledge, Differentiation in Instruction, Teaching Practice and Classroom Instruction, and Effective and reflective Practitioner. The first two components: Content Knowledge and Differentiation in Instruction will be completed the first year (2014-2015), with the exception of CTE, World Language and Music. The other components will be rolled out in the two consecutive school years.

Is there financial support statewide as well as locally?

In addition to paying a share of the assessment fee, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in collaboration with colleges, universities, businesses, and teachers' associations, sponsors the Maryland National Board Candidate Support Network. Candidates voluntarily attend monthly meetings on designated Saturdays at specified locations throughout the state. Maryland's National Board Certified Teachers facilitate the monthly meetings which provide candidates structured opportunities to engage in professional conversations about standards and practices. Through the Maryland Candidate Support Network, candidates receive technical, intellectual, logistical, and emotional support as they progress through the assessment process.

In 1999, the General Assembly enacted the Teacher Quality Act. One of the provisions of this act is that the State provide yearly funds for the life of a National Board Certified Teacher certificate. Funding for the 2014-2015 National Board Certificate will be determined by Maryland Legislature.

Who is eligible?

A candidate must hold a baccalaureate degree, have taught successfully for a minimum of three (3) years on a valid professional state teaching certificate at the time of application.

How do I apply for local funds?

Baltimore County Public Schools and the state of Maryland will provide funds for qualified teachers to complete an application for National Board Certification.

To apply for the scholarship funds, a teacher must:

- Have at least three (3) years satisfactory teaching experience on a valid professional teaching certificate; and hold a valid professional Maryland certificate.
- Complete an application.
- Submit a brief but concise essay based on the topic:
 - ❖ *“How My Teaching Aligns With The Five Core Propositions and the Architecture of Accomplished Teaching.”(See attachment.)*
- Provide two confidential, professional references.
- Submit signed and notarized Memorandum of Understanding; Fee Incentive Program.

APPLICATION FOR NBC LOCAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

DIRECTIONS FOR APPLICANT: Please complete the information on this form. Give one of the two (2) accompanying reference forms to your current principal and the other reference form to an individual in a leadership position (assistant principal) who has observed you teaching and is thoroughly familiar with your teaching skills. Please submit this form with your essay response.

Name of Applicant	Position	Email Address
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School/Address/Zip Code

Home Address/Zip Code

Work Telephone Number

Home Telephone Number

Name of Reference	Position	Location	Work Telephone
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Name of Reference	Position	Location	Work Telephone
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PLEASE PRINT THE NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATE FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING.
(THE LIST OF ELIGIBLE CERTIFICATES IS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.)

Once the Office of Certification confirms that you are eligible for the application stipend, you may apply on-line to www.boardcertifiedteachers.org after July 1, 2014. Upon receipt of your NBPTS "candidate code," please forward that information to kkuyawa@bcps.org.

All application materials must be returned by **April 25, 2014** directly to:

Kenneth M. Kuyawa, Personnel Officer

Office of Certification, Department of Human Resources

6901 Charles Street, Greenwood Campus, Building E

Towson, Maryland 21204

Phone (410-887-4147)

NBPTS offers the following 25 certificate areas that cover 16 subject areas and are classified into seven student age categories. As a candidate you can opt for a generalist certificate or one that is subject specific.

Certificates Currently Available

Art

Early and Middle Childhood

Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood

Career and Technical Education*

Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood

English as a New Language

Early and Middle Childhood

Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood

English Language Arts

Early Adolescence

Adolescence and Young Adulthood

Exceptional Needs Specialist

Early Childhood through Young Adulthood

Generalist

Early Childhood

Middle Childhood

Health

Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood

Library Media

Early Childhood through Young Adulthood

Literacy: Reading – Language Arts

Early and Middle Childhood

Mathematics

Early Adolescence
Adolescence and Young Adulthood

Music*

Early and Middle Childhood
Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood

Physical Education

Early and Middle Childhood
Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood

School Counseling

Early Childhood through Young Adulthood

Science

Early Adolescence
Adolescence and Young Adulthood

Social Studies – History

Early Adolescence
Adolescence and Young Adulthood

World Languages Other than English*

Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood

***Note: Due to the ongoing revision of the Career and Technical Education (CTE), candidates for the CTE certificate will begin the new process in 2015- 16. The World Language (WL) and Music Content Knowledge component will be delayed until 2015-16 but Differentiation in Instruction will be available in 2014-15.**

Age Categories

Early Childhood (Ages 3-8)
Middle Childhood (Ages 7-12)
Early & Middle Childhood (Ages 3-12)
Early Childhood through Young Adulthood (Ages 3-18+)
Early Adolescence (Ages 11-15)
Adolescence and Young Adulthood (Ages 14-18+)
Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood (Ages 11-18+)

REFERENCE SHEET (CONFIDENTIAL)
FIVE CORE PROPOSITIONS
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards seeks to identify and recognize teachers who effectively enhance student learning and demonstrate the high level of knowledge, skills, dispositions, and commitments reflected in the following five core propositions, including indicators.

- 1. Teachers are committed to students and their learning.**
 - Teachers recognize individual differences in their students.
 - Teachers have an understanding of how students develop and learn.
 - Teachers treat students equitably.
 - Teachers' missions extend beyond developing the cognitive capacity of their students.

- 2. Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.**
 - Teachers appreciate how knowledge in their subjects is created, organized, and linked to other disciplines.
 - Teachers command specialized knowledge of how to convey a subject to students.
 - Teachers generate multiple paths to knowledge.

- 3. Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.**
 - Teachers call on multiple methods to meet their goals.
 - Teachers orchestrate learning in group settings.
 - Teachers place a premium on student engagement.
 - Teachers regularly assess student progress.
 - Teachers are mindful of their principal objectives.

- 4. Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.**
 - Teachers are continually making difficult choices that test their judgment.
 - Teachers seek the advice of others and draw on educational research and scholarship to improve their practice.

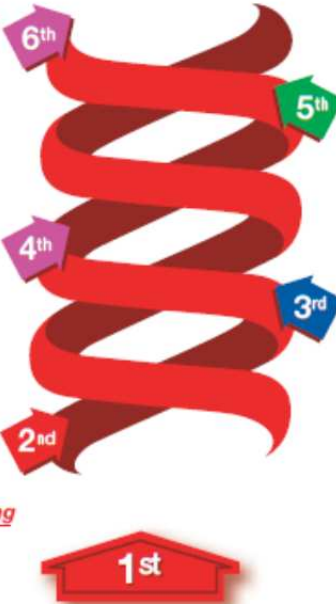
- 5. Teachers are members of learning communities.**
 - Teachers contribute to school effectiveness by collaborating with other professionals.
 - Teachers work collaboratively with parents.
 - Teachers take advantage of community resources.

The Architecture of Accomplished Teaching: What is underneath the surface?

Set new high and worthwhile goals that are appropriate for these students at this time

Evaluate student learning in light of the goals and the instruction

Set high, worthwhile goals appropriate for these students, at this time, in this setting








Your Students - Who are they? Where are they now? What do they need and in what order do they need it? Where should I begin?

Reflect on student learning, the effectiveness of the instructional design, particular concerns, and issues

Implement instruction designed to attain those goals

Five Core Propositions

-  Teachers are committed to students and their learning
-  Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students
-  Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning
-  Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience
-  Teachers are members of learning communities