

**NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS
NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION**

**Department of Education
Teacher Application for Candidate Subsidy Program**

Deadline: October 31, 2011 Postmark

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant's Name (Please Print) _____ Social Security Number _____

Applicant's Home Address _____ City, State _____ Zipcode+4 _____ Home Telephone _____

Applicant's School District _____ School Telephone _____

School District's Address _____ City, State _____ Zipcode+4 _____

Applicant's Email Address: _____

Which National Board Certificate are you seeking? _____

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Candidate Application Number:

I hereby affirm that:

1. I hold a baccalaureate degree;
2. I hold a current South Dakota teaching certificate;
3. I have taught for a minimum of three years (or as a school counselor if applying for the ECYA/School Counseling certificate);
4. I am currently teaching pre-k through 12 students; and,
5. I have or will submit my National Board Certification application with the \$65 processing fee and will pay the \$500 initial application fee by October 31, 2011.

Applicant's Signature

Date

By accepting participation in the Candidate Subsidy Program, I agree to complete the National Board Certification process. I understand that I am responsible for paying the balance of the \$2,500 application fee not covered by the subsidy award. If I am selected to participate in the Candidate Subsidy Program, the subsidy will be credited to my account at the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Applicant's Signature

Date

The National Board's work is guided by five core propositions that state what the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards values and believes should be honored in teaching. Please provide examples of what you are presently doing that demonstrates how you are meeting these core propositions. Your response to these five propositions should not exceed two single spaced, typed pages.

1. Teachers are committed to students and their learning.

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

3. Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.

4. Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.

5. Teachers are members of learning communities.

Teacher Application for Candidate Subsidy Program

National Board Certification is a process administered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). NBPTS is an independent, non-profit organization that offers a certificate to teachers who demonstrate knowledge and skills through a challenging set of assessments. The NBPTS organization includes teachers and other education stakeholders working to advance the teaching profession and improve student learning.

The National Board Certification offered by NBPTS is geared to teachers who seek higher levels of professional growth and a process to critically examine their teaching practice against high, rigorous standards. The standards measure what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.

Obtaining National Board Certification is a rigorous process including a two-part assessment based on standards and reflecting varied aspects of teaching. The process includes development of a portfolio completed in the candidate's classroom that includes student work, videotapes and other teaching artifacts. The assessment center exercises complement the portfolio and are organized around challenging teaching issues. Work on the National Board Certification process takes the better part of a school year.

National Board Certificates are now available in several education fields and several assessment calendars. Eligible teachers for National Board Certification must hold a baccalaureate degree, have taught for at least three years and held a valid state teaching certificate for those three years.

The Candidate Subsidy Program helps financially support the application fee for teachers who participate in National Board Certification. Funds for the subsidy program are provided by the U.S. Congress through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The South Dakota Department of Education (DOE) has been approved to administer the candidate subsidy in South Dakota. These funds will be used to subsidize the application fees of teacher candidates in the 2011-2012 school year in an amount between \$500 and \$1,000. This award will assist in covering a portion of the \$2,500 application fee. The exact amount of each candidate's subsidy will be provided to the candidate in writing at the time the award is made.

Further information is included in the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' Guide to National Board Certification.

National Board Certification Procedure

Subsidy Application Deadline

Postmarked by October 31, 2011.

Complete Subsidy Application Packet

1. Pages 1 and 2 of the “Teacher Application for Candidate Subsidy Program.” These pages include candidate information and the five core propositions.
2. Letters from the applicant’s administrator(s) (superintendent or principal) verifying the applicant’s employment for three years.

Where to Send the Complete Subsidy Application Packet

Department of Education
Office of Accreditation and Teacher Quality
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Commitment of Successful Subsidy Candidates

1. A personal financial commitment towards the candidate application fee. Applicants can make this a personal obligation or work to secure the funds through assistance from the school district, local businesses and organizations or other types of fundraising.* To participate in the 2011-2012 National Board Certification process, at least \$500 must be paid by October 31, 2011, and the remainder of the fee is due by January 31, 2012 or no later than March 15, 2012 if you participate in the Extended Payment Plan.
2. Complete a portfolio.
3. Complete a single-day assessment process.
4. Work on the National Board Certification process takes the better part of a school year. Candidates report spending over 200 hours developing their portfolios and about 120 hours on the assessment process.

*Candidates should be aware of South Dakota law regarding National Board Certification. A copy of the law is attached.

Procedure

1. The Teacher Application for Candidate Subsidy Program will be available May 1, 2011.
2. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance into the subsidy program.
3. The National Board Certification application can be found at www.nbpts.org.

South Dakota Codified Law 13-42-26

13-42-26 Certification by National Board for Professional Teaching Standards--Reimbursement for fees--Stipend for certified teachers--Adoption of rules.

The legislation to make payment for National Board Certification stipends optional failed. Thus the language still stands as it did previously. Although the rules are still in place, without the appropriation, there will be no payment. As per SDCL 4-8-4, if a statute is passed which requires the expenditure of money, but the Legislature has failed to make the necessary appropriation to fund the expenditure, the department may not use any other funds to pay the obligation.

The Department of Education shall establish a program to reimburse public school teachers for the application and processing fee for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification process. The reimbursement shall include any federal funds that may be available through a candidate subsidy program. The reimbursement shall be paid upon receipt of documentation that the teacher successfully completed all certification requirements and was awarded the credential.

In addition to the reimbursement provided pursuant to this section, a teacher who teaches in a public school and who has obtained certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards shall receive a payment of two thousand dollars per year for five years. The stipend shall be paid as follows:

- (1) One thousand dollars from the Department of Education;
- (2) One thousand dollars from the school district where the teacher is employed.

Once the first five years is complete, the school district that employs the teacher may opt to continue payments during the period of the next five years. If, during that period, the school district pays the teacher a stipend, the Department of Education shall also pay the teacher a stipend equal to the amount offered by the school district, up to a maximum of one thousand dollars. However, the department is not required to pay a teacher a stipend pursuant to this section during years six to ten unless the school district employing the teacher opts to pay a stipend.

The Board of Education shall adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 1-26, to establish guidelines necessary to implement the program.