

Changes in NBC process reduces cost

By Ann Jarrett, MNEA teaching and learning director

Teachers who complete the process of National Board Certification describe it as the best professional development ever, but the cost and intensity of the process, combined with the daily demands of teaching, once prevented many capable teachers from participating in the process. When Ron Thorpe became the new president and CEO of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, he set a goal to make the process more accessible. The process for National Board Certification changed several times since the founding of NBPTS in 1987 and is changing again.

Like all good educators, the NBPTS studied the data and found that two of the currently required portfolios could be combined, and the number of assessment center exercises could be reduced if some changes were made in other portfolios. The new process reduces the number of portfolios submitted from four to three, beginning in the 2014-2015 cycle. National Board candidates will be able to submit entries one at a time, paying as they go, over a period of up to three years. The cost of each portfolio entry will be about \$500. Combined with an assessment center entry, the total cost of National Board certification will be just under \$2,000.

It takes time to update certification in 25 areas, so the new entries will be rolled out over three years.

2014-15

- assessment center: Content Knowledge
- student work portfolio: Differentiation in Instruction

2015-16

- assessment center: Content Knowledge
- student work portfolio: Differentiation in Instruction
- video portfolio: Teaching Practice and Classroom Environment

2016-17

- assessment center: Content Knowledge
- student work portfolio: Differentiation in Instruction
- video portfolio: Teaching Practice and Classroom Environment
- documented accomplishments portfolio: Effective and Reflective Practitioner

No new candidates will be able to complete certification requirements until 2017. Candidates choose which of the available components they take each year of the

process. After 2017, candidates will be able to complete from between one and four components a year but must complete all four components within three years.

If your district pays a stipend to National Board Certified teachers, consider talking to your local association about negotiating a smaller stipend for successful completion of separate components. This will encourage more people to complete at least one portfolio. The certification process requires teachers to provide clear, concise and convincing evidence of their impact on student learning. Students taught by National Board Certified Teachers consistently see the highest gains in learning.

Missouri school districts can choose to help fund candidate fees, provide mentors and release days to work on entries. These are all allowable uses of professional development monies that are directed by your local professional development committee. Title II and Title I professional development monies can also support National Board work.

The National Board Standards, the Five Core Propositions and the Architecture of Accomplished Teaching are not changing. The process will remain a performance-based, peer-review model focused on content knowledge and commitment to student learning.

Helping students learn is a complicated process that does not lend itself to quick and easy measurements. When NEA and other national groups created the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, all involved knew it would not be simple. The NBPTS developed standards that reflect the cognitive complexity, collaborative nature and expertise-driven work of teachers. Complex skills require complex assessment that must be rigorous to elevate the status, role and voice of educators in shaping the profession.

MNEA NBC ASSISTANCE

Exploring National Board Certification, April 3

MNEA members can learn more about National Board Certification process by participating in the free “Exploring NBC” online training 7 p.m., Thursday, April 3. Register at www.mnea.org, Online Learning.

Jumpstart to National Board Certification

If you plan to apply for National Board Certification in 2014-2015, you are invited to a two-day “Jumpstart” workshop to be held June 21-22. We will focus on the student work portfolio. For more information, go to www.mnea.org/teach/nbc.htm or contact MNEA Teaching and Learning Director Ann Jarrett at Ann.Jarrett@mnea.org or (800) 392-0236.

