



National Board Certified Teacher Frequently Asked Questions

- **What does it mean to be National Board certified?** A National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) has demonstrated standards-based evidence of accomplished practice based on the five core propositions of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). These propositions are as follows:
 - (1) commitment to students and their learning
 - (2) knowledge of the subject taught and how to teach the subject
 - (3) managing and monitoring student learning
 - (4) systematic reflection and learning from the experience
 - (5) being members of learning communitiesCertification is obtained through the NBPTS.
- **What do I have to do to become a NBCT?** You must meet all certification requirements as set forth by the NBPTS. Certification includes completing four components consisting of three portfolio entries and a computer-based assessment. Go to the NBPTS website <https://www.nbpts.org/> for all information.
- **Can I renew my NBCT certification?** Yes. Certification is renewed every five years for anyone newly certified after 2017. Beginning in 2021, 10-year existing certificates that are expiring may be maintained at five-year intervals.
- **Can anyone become a NBCT?** You must meet the eligibility requirements of NBPTS. Go to the NBPTS website <https://www.nbpts.org/> to read all eligibility requirements.
- **How do I begin the process?** Go to the NBPTS website <https://www.nbpts.org/> to read about the certification process and creating an account.
- **How long do I have to complete certification?**
 - All four components must be submitted within the first three years of candidacy.
 - If all components are not passed during the first three years, NBPTS allows an additional two years in which to achieve certification.
 - If a candidate is state-funded, all components must be submitted within the first year of candidacy and certification achieved within three years.
- **Is there funding support for an NBCT candidate?** Yes. However, all funding is contingent upon the availability of funds. There are two ways to apply for state funding:
 - (1) A person may apply to the Arkansas Department of Education for state funding **prior** to beginning the certification process.
 - (2) If a person has already begun the process (registered and purchased a component), he/she may apply for reimbursement of **one** component and state funding for the **remaining (3)** components. All criteria must be met in the NBCT rules in section 4.4 in order to apply for

reimbursement. Reimbursement and funding is contingent upon the NBCT advisory committee recommendation and state board approval.

- **Anyone receiving state funding must submit all components within the current certification cycle.**

- **How do I apply for state funding?**

- First, attend a NBCT orientation meeting in the spring. The schedule is posted in March on the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) website on the NBCT webpage.
<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/educator%20effectiveness/educator-support-development/national-board-certified-teachers-nbct>
- Second, complete a state funding application obtained on the NBCT webpage from the ADE website.
- Third, submit all required documentation as stated on the funding application.

If applying for reimbursement of one component and funding for the remaining components, complete the reimbursement request form on the ADE website on the NBCT webpage.

- **Is there funding support for renewing my NBCT certification?** No.
- **Is there funding support for retakes?** No.
- **What happens if I receive state funding but do not obtain certification?** A candidate must repay all funds to the ADE within 30 days of receiving official notice from the ADE.
- **What is the amount of bonus I will receive?** NBCT bonus amounts are determined by the previous year poverty status of the school and district in which the educator is employed, the length of time since certification, and the year in which the NBCT began the certification process in accordance of Act 937 of 2017. Bonuses may be \$2,500, \$5,000, or \$10,000 in accordance of Act 937 of 2017.
- **What is the poverty status of my school and district?** Anyone may go to the ADE home page <http://www.arkansased.gov/> and access “My School Info” to find the poverty status of any school and/or district.
- **How long will I receive a bonus?** The number of years a bonus may be received is ten (10) years or five (5) years. The number of years is determined by:
 - the year in which the NBCT certification process began and/or the year of certification, and
 - poverty status of the school and/or district in accordance of Act 937 of 2017.
- **When will I receive my bonus?** Bonus payments are made randomly March through May of each year.