

Considering National Board Certification



NBC Standards
NBC standards are based on the five core propositions:

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.

Susan B. Hall

What is national board certification (NBC)? NBC is achieved upon successful completion of a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize effective and accomplished teachers who meet high standards based on what teachers should know and be able to do. Certification is available nationwide for most pre-kindergarten to twelfth-grade teachers.

Views from Certified Art Teachers

If you take the time to read professional journals, you probably already meet all the requirements. The questions that remain are: Why choose this professional development opportunity, what is expected of you during the process, and what are the intrinsic and extrinsic benefits of it?

Why Choose NBC?

One high-school teacher expounded, “Hands down, it made me a better teacher—more engaging delivery methods, constant self-evaluation of what works versus what’s not working; more contemporary issues; more technology in the classroom; more interest and involvement in community-related activities; more project-based lessons; keener involvement with parents.”

Patricia, another secondary teacher added, “I believe that getting your NBC raises your awareness as a teacher and your relationship with your students, other teachers, and curriculum. It has opened doors for me as a professional, and has made me feel good about myself and my teaching.”

Expectations

Keri, a special-needs art teacher addresses expectations during the process, “NBC was a very realistic process: I was already doing the things I needed to showcase for the portfolio and writings. The process definitely made me heighten my awareness of why I was doing things, and it also made me realize that I was doing the right things and it was showing in my students’ successes.”

Most candidates simply need to document and expand upon high standards and activities they practice daily, using specific NBC directions and requirements. Referring to the standards, Anderson, a high-school teacher, echoes, “They are a reality of everyday teaching that we may not have been

aware of because of the number of students that cross our paths daily. The standards made me aware (key word) of things I should be aware of that may have been lost in the everyday shuffle!”

Benefits

When weighing the pluses and minuses of attempting NBC, consider the following: You may save money on shopping excursions or gain weight from lack of exercise, but you will ultimately expand your mind and increase your options and income. Furthermore, you will be able to justify to yourself (and everyone else) that not only did you earn NBC, but also any and all other rewards you garner for your efforts! So as Keri, the special-needs art teacher proclaims, “Go for it! It is difficult but worth it in the end!”

Getting your NBC raises your awareness as a teacher and your relationship with your students, other teachers, and curriculum.

Susan B. Hall is a national board certified media specialist at Griffin Elementary in Hollywood, Florida. susan.hall@browardschools.com

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