



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 17, 2019

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors  
Local Education Agency Principals  
Nonpublic School Administrators

**FROM:** Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent   
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

**SUBJECT:** National Board Certification

To ensure that every student is taught by an accomplished teacher, it is important to look at opportunities for quality professional growth. The National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) has designed National Board Certification to develop, retain, and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvement in schools nationwide. National Board Certification directly aligns with Goal 3 of the Top 10 in 10 Strategies: "to develop, support, and sustain a high-quality, prepared, and collaborative education workforce."

There are more than 118,000 National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) throughout the nation. In 2017, 36 educators from Michigan achieved Board certification, bringing the total of NBCTs in Michigan to 446. Michigan can ensure that many more students will have access to excellent teachers who can help them achieve their fullest potential by investing in educator development such as National Board Certification.

NBCTs can drive equity and excellence for students, especially in high-need contexts. Research in schools across the nation shows that Board certified teachers produce one to two months of additional learning and support students to learn more deeply.

Districts can help to develop, support, and elevate Michigan's teaching workforce by encouraging the pursuit of Board certification. Some strategies include:

- Promote National Board Certification to teachers who have demonstrated their excellence in the classroom.
- Offer to support teachers through the National Board Certification process.

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- Leverage the expertise of Board certified teachers in your district to serve in leadership roles and on advisory councils.
- Recognize NBCTs at the local level making the community aware of their accomplishments.
- Recommend Board certified teachers to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) for different recognition programs, such as Michigan Teacher of the Year, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), and the Michigan Talent Pool.
- Create salary incentives for Board certified teachers. This not only helps to increase the number of NBCTs, but also strengthens the retention of effective teachers.

To assist in the process to increase the number of NBCTs in Michigan, the NBPTS is excited to offer a few new developments, including the National Board assessment being more affordable and flexible than ever. The renewal process for NBCT certificates is also being revised to align with and elevate state licensure requirements. Furthermore, the National Board's Career and Technical Education (CTE) standards and certification requirements were also revised, making it possible for industry experts to be recognized as accomplished educators.

To find out more about National Board Certified Teachers or to access resources in their Advocacy Toolkit, go to <https://www.nbpts.org/policy>. For teachers seeking National Board Certification, go directly to <https://www.nbpts.org/>. If you have further questions, please address them to the Office of Educator Excellence at [mde-evals@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-evals@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance