

National Board Certification and Maryland's Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

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What is the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards?

Every student deserves to be taught by an accomplished teacher.

Established in 1987, the National Board provides the nation's voluntary advanced certification for teachers.

The National Board is an independent, nonprofit organization that has been established as the profession's vehicle for defining and recognizing accomplished teaching.

Founding Mission

Advance the quality of teaching and learning by:

- Maintaining **high and rigorous standards** for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do;
- Providing a national voluntary system **certifying teachers who meet these standards**;
- **Advocating related education reforms** to integrate National Board Certification in American education and to capitalize on the expertise of National Board Certified Teachers.

The Teacher's Career Continuum



“...within the culture of each profession there is the expectation that all of its practitioners will be accomplished and that they will arrive at that level of skill and knowledge by following essentially the same path that their colleagues followed. In many ways, the path is not a neutral agent of the profession, it is an integral part of the preparation and what it means to be a member of the profession. Such universality is necessary because the **authority of any professional comes** not from what the individual knows and is able to do but **from what the collective knows and is able to do.**”

-Ron Thorpe, [*Sustaining the Teaching Profession*](#)

Public Polling Data



81% of Americans believe teachers should achieve Board certification beyond licensure as it is in other professions.

2014 PDK/Gallup Poll

Board Certification: By the Numbers

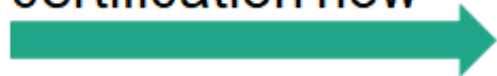


122,000+ teachers
have achieved
Board certification



More than 50% of
NBCTs teach in
high-needs schools

18,000+ teachers
are pursuing Board
certification now



700+ schools have > 5
teachers pursuing Board
certification collaboratively

A Revised Assessment

A more flexible, accessible and affordable process, marked by:

- 4 components that can be taken in any order
 - Component 1: Content Knowledge
 - Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction
 - Component 3: Teaching Practice and Learning Environment
 - Component 4: Effective and Reflective Practitioner
- Up to 3 years to submit all four components and 5 years to complete any retakes
- The cost was reduced from \$2500 to \$1900

Supports for Candidates

Supports for candidates help teachers access, complete, and achieve Board certification:

- Professional learning facilitators who are NBCTs
- Cohorts to connect with other candidates
- Programming to unpack and apply the certification process to their classroom
- Release time
- Facilities and technology access

91% of teachers who engage in candidate support report improving their instructional practices

Systems of Candidate Support

States may structure candidate support programs through:

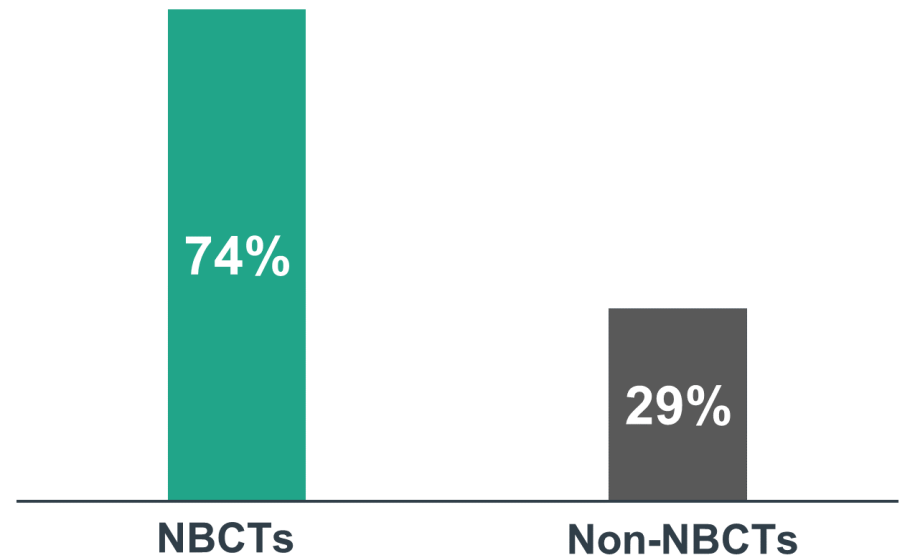
- School districts
- Institutions of higher education
- Teachers' associations
- Non-profit partners

Board-Certified Teachers Improve Student Learning

NBCTs Advance Student Academic Outcomes



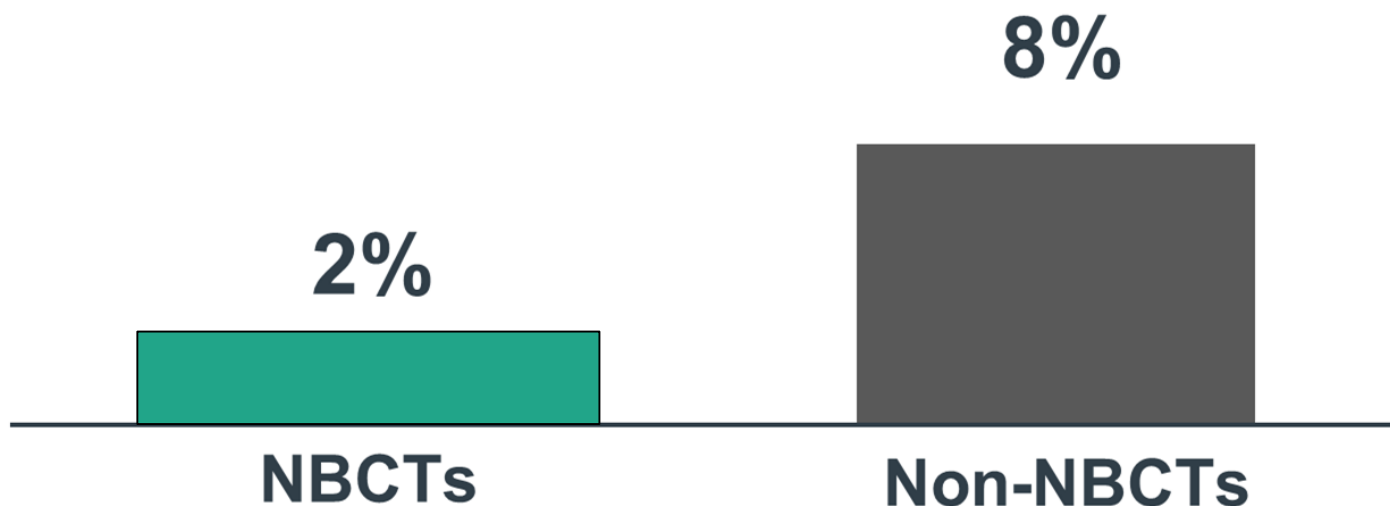
NBCTs Impact Deeper Learning



Cowan & Goldhaber (2015); Smith, Baker, Hattie, & Bond (2008)

Board-Certified Teachers Stay in the Profession

Annual Turnover Rates



Leadership Trajectories

NBCTs exert leadership inside and outside of the classroom

- 88% served on school or district leadership teams
 - 87% delivered professional development
 - 76% became a mentor or coach
 - 69% supervised student teachers
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- Many NBCTs serve in school, district, and state leadership role

The Promise of the Kirwan Commission's Recommendations

The recommendations will elevate the teaching profession by:

- Structuring the work of teachers as professional work, including additional responsibility, authority, status, and compensation tied to increased expertise, including:
 - More rigorous teacher preparation
 - Higher entry standards
 - Increased diversity
 - A PR campaign for the profession
 - Higher pay
 - A professional career ladder

Supporting Implementation

The National Board stands ready to provide:

- Access to dozens of existing tools and resources
- Thought partnership
- Introductions to a national network of policy leaders, candidate support providers, and other National Board leaders across the nation
- Other supports as needed

Questions?