



New Mexico NBCT Scholarship FAQs

During the 2020 Legislative Session House Bill 102 was passed creating the National Board Certification Scholarship Act. This act created a **one-year fund** to support teachers who are new candidates to the [National Board for Professional Teaching Standards](#) (NBPTS) certification process.

APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be a current New Mexico resident, and
- Hold a valid Level 2 or Level 3A New Mexico teaching license, and
- Be a teacher of record for the 2020-2021 school year, in a New Mexico public school, public charter school, or state supported school, and
- Be an initial applicant to the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification process

WHAT CAN THE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS BE USED FOR?

- First time submission of any new component for initial certification with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

WHAT THE SCHOLARSHIP MAY **NOT** BE USED FOR?

- Registration fees paid to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- Resubmission of a component that an applicant did not pass during the initial submission
- Application fees associated with advancing your license
- Any fees paid for work completed outside the dates for which an award is received

FAQs

Is the scholarship for first-time applicants only?

Yes, the scholarship is for initial applicants to the process.

Are principals/administrators also eligible for the New Mexico National Board Certification Scholarship?

Yes. However, they must be first time applicants and currently employed as a teacher of record in a New Mexico public school or charter school.

Can National Board Certification be used to move from a Level 1 to a Level 2 license?

Yes. National Board Certification replaces the dossier for educators who are advancing from Level 1 to Level 2 licensure as well as replacing the dossier and a master's degree for educators advancing from Level 2 to Level 3A licensure.

Does the National Board Certification take the place of the NES or Praxis assessments?

Yes. The National Board Certification does take the place of some endorsement tests, as well as some tests for initial licensure for educators who already hold another teaching license.

I have already registered and paid for the spring 2021 submission deadline, am I eligible for reimbursement with this scholarship?

Yes, if you are awarded a scholarship you may use the funds for any costs you incur once you receive the award. The scholarship will not cover costs incurred prior to the date you receive the scholarship. (Example: If a candidate has paid for any component before September 2020, the scholarship does not reimburse any costs.)

I have a new administrator this year and they haven't observed my teaching, may I ask my principal from last year to write my letter of recommendation?

Your application must include a letter from your current administrator and must contain a letter from your previous administrator if your current administrator hasn't had the opportunity to observe your teaching.

Does the scholarship apply to teachers who are part of State Supported Education Programs such as: New Mexico Corrections Department Sequoyah Adolescent, UNM Hospitals, and Juvenile Justice?

Yes. Educators who teach at NM State Supported Schools are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

Does this scholarship count toward components that have already been paid for, even though I am waiting for my results in December 2020?

No, the scholarship will not cover costs incurred prior to the date you receive the scholarship.

Does this scholarship cover the entire cost of the becoming board certified or just a portion of it? Do I pay for the components and the scholarship reimburses me or does it pay for them up front?

Awardees must submit a minimum of one component to be eligible for reimbursement. Please keep in mind funds will not cover costs incurred prior to the date you receive the scholarship. If you are selected you will receive instructions for having your costs reimbursed. Recipients will not receive a check for the full amount of the scholarship they will receive funds through reimbursement.

Are scholarships available to teachers who have to renew their National Board Certification / Maintenance of Certification?

No. This scholarship is for first time applicants only, not for renewal or maintenance fees.

I worked towards certification with National Boards in 2019, is there any opportunity for reimbursement of those costs?

No. House Bill 102 was passed during the 2020 Legislative Session, therefore the scholarship awards are only available for costs incurred during this fiscal year, once a scholarship is awarded.

When should I apply, after successfully completing a Component, after passing all four Components, or while awaiting results?

The application window is open from September, 2020 - January 15, 2021. All applications during this time will be considered. Please keep in mind, funds will not cover costs incurred prior to the date you receive the scholarship.

Will National Board candidates have to do all the components of the portfolio in one year in order for the scholarship to pay their fees?

No. Awardees must submit a minimum of one component to be eligible for reimbursement. Please keep in mind funds will not cover costs incurred prior to the date you receive the scholarship.

May I apply if I have already submitted one or more components?

Yes, however, please keep in mind funds will not cover costs incurred prior to the date you receive the scholarship.

What happens if my application is not received until after the deadline or is incomplete?

Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be read or scored by the review panel and will not be considered for a scholarship.

Do I qualify for the scholarship if I would be going from a Level 2 teaching license to a level 3A?

Yes. Applicants must hold a Level 2 or higher New Mexico teaching license.

Are there any expenses related to NBCT that I am responsible for if I get a scholarship?

Yes. You are responsible for paying the \$75.00 registration fee.

May I begin working on the process while I await notification of my scholarship application?

Yes. You may begin working on any or all of the components. However if you do not receive the scholarship, you will be responsible for the required costs. Also, please keep in mind funds will not cover costs incurred prior to the date you receive the scholarship.

Who decides who the scholarship winners are?

A review panel facilitated by the NMPED's Educator Quality Division and including at least one educator who holds a current National Board Certification, will read and score the applications.

Will I hear something even if I don't get a scholarship?

Yes. You will be notified whether you receive a scholarship or not.

When will I hear if I did or didn't receive a scholarship?

You will be notified no later than February 15, 2021 by email.

If I am awarded a scholarship, will I actually receive a check?

If you are selected you will receive instructions for having your costs reimbursed. Recipients will not receive a check for the full amount of the scholarship they will receive funds through reimbursement.

If I get the scholarship, where can I find support for this process?

The New Mexico National Board Certified Teacher Network provides support to New Mexico candidates. If you receive the scholarship, your name and contact information will be provided to your regional coordinator for support; contact information can be found [here](#). You may also want to contact your district or charter school's human resources office or your union, for additional NBCT support.

[If you have additional questions that are not addressed in this document or on the application form, please submit your question to rebecca.elicio@state.nm.us].