



## New Mexico NBCT Scholarship FAQs

Through funding appropriated annually by the NM Legislature, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) is able to award up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) in grants to eligible teachers who are seeking certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (<https://www.nbpts.org/>). Scholarships are awarded annually; awards for the 2021-2022 school year will be reimbursed for components paid for and completed prior to June 17, 2022.

A teacher is eligible to apply if:

- They are a resident of New Mexico (J1, J2, and H1B visa holders are not eligible) and; They hold a valid level 2 or level 3A NM teaching license; and
- They are a full time teacher of record at a New Mexico public school in the 2021-2022 school year; and
- They submit a letter of reference from their current principal

### WHAT MAY THE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS BE USED FOR?

The Department will prioritize awards for candidates seeking initial certification, in high needs areas, however a small amount may be set aside to support teachers who are in the process of renewing their certification. Recipients may use the funds to pay the fee for the submission of initial components or the renewal of their certification.

### 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
- Any fees paid for work completed outside the dates for which an award is received.

**Applications will be accepted from May 20, 2021 – June 11, 2021**

**Award notifications will be sent by July 31, 2021**

**I am trying to open the NBCT Scholarship Application form and cannot open the application, instead I see an error message: "Uploading files is not permitted when data loss prevention is enabled for your domain." How do I correct this?**

The network server you are using may be blocking your ability to access or upload documents. If attempting to apply from work or on a work device, either contact your employer IT department for technical assistance or do the following:

- 1) Forward the link to a personal email (do not use your work Google account), 2) Make sure you are on a wireless network and a computer not associated with your work account, and 3) Use Chrome as your browser.

**This scholarship is awarded by the National Board for Professional Teaching, right?**

No, the scholarship is funded by the New Mexico Legislature and awarded by the NMPED. The National Board for Professional Teaching is the organization that offers support and guidance to educators who are completing the process. They have multiple tools in place to assist educators in becoming certified. You can find out more at this link: [www.nmnbtctnetwork.com](http://www.nmnbtctnetwork.com)

**Is the scholarship for first-time applicants only?**

No, however the NMPED will prioritize awards for first time applicants in high need areas.

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

Yes, however, they must be currently employed as a teacher of record in a New Mexico public 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 or replaces 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. Please email **EQ.NationalBoards@state.nm.us** for additional details.

**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?**

If your current administrator has not had the opportunity to observe your teaching, your application must include a letter from your current administrator **and** your previous administrator.

**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.

**Are School Counselors eligible for the New Mexico National Board Certification Scholarship?**

Yes, school counselors are eligible as long as they are employed as a full-time counselor during the 2021-22 school year.

**Does this scholarship cover the entire cost of becoming board certified or just a portion of it?**

Teachers may apply to cover the cost of one or all components. Please keep in mind reimbursement will only be covered for components that were purchased and completed between July 1, 2021 and June 17, 2022.

**Do I pay for the components and the scholarship reimburses me or does it pay for them up front?**

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?**

Yes. This scholarship may have a small amount set aside to support teachers who are in the process of renewing their certification.

**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. Teachers should only apply for the scholarship amount they need to cover the components they will purchase and complete between July 1, 2021 and June 17, 2022.

**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.

**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. In addition, 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.

**Who issues the awards?**

The NMPED determines who receives the awards and the funds are awarded by Region IX Education Cooperative on behalf of the NMPED.

**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 July 31, 2021.

**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 by Region IX Education Cooperative.

**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 may 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.

**What does the letter of recommendation from the administrator need to include?**

This letter must include the how you have demonstrated leadership, how you engage all students, and why you are a good candidate for National Board Certification.

**I received the NM National Board Scholarship last year, and I work at the same district and school and I have the same principal/administrator for SY21-22. Will my principal/administrator need to submit a new letter for this scholarship?**

Yes, your principal/administrator will need to provide a letter reflecting the new scholarship year (date). This is also to ensure that your administrator is aware of and is supporting you in your pursuit of the National Boards Certification.

***[If you have additional questions that are not addressed in this document or on the application form, please submit your question to [EQ.NationalBoards@state.nm.us](mailto:EQ.NationalBoards@state.nm.us)].***