

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
Policy for Networks of National Board Certified Teachers and Friends

*Approved by the Board of Directors
June 16, 2001*

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards encourages and supports state, local or regional networks that place National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) at the core of a diverse stakeholder group. Like the National Board itself, it is critical that these networks provide opportunities for a diverse group of educators and stakeholders to come together with a common vision to advocate for accomplished teaching. These networks, working in tandem with the National Board's Teacher Leadership Program, provide a unique opportunity to broaden the National Board's influence and reform education.

Promoting National Board Certified Teacher leadership is envisioned in the National Board's Five Core Propositions for *What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do*. That vision reaches beyond the classroom and values teachers as leaders, as individuals who develop policy, set goals, implement change, take risks, lead by example and work effectively with others to accomplish common objectives. NBPTS expects teachers to seek leadership roles in schools and to be accountable to themselves (both as individuals and as a profession), their students and the broader community.

The National Board and networks should share a common vision; therefore, the National Board requires that the networks meet certain standards. Networks that meet these standards will enjoy certain privileges. The National Board also understands that networks should create programs to meet the unique needs of NBCTs and Friends in the community served by the network. The National Board offers a range of suggested programs and activities, but hopes that networks will adopt those that best suit their local needs.

Standards for Networks of NBCTs and Friends

- The network will develop a mission statement, objectives and activities consistent with the National Board's mission and vision of accomplished teaching.
- The network will include diverse groups of people and members of the community.
- The network will designate a contact person, facilitator or leader who is a National Board Certified Teacher or has a history of working to promote or support National Board Certification and will share contact information with the National Board's office.
- The network will share the National Board's goal of promoting teacher leadership and will work in partnership with the National Board in connecting network participants with teacher leadership opportunities, including helping to recruit candidates, assessors and others needed to bring National Board Certification to scale.
- The network will promote sharing ideas and expertise with the National Board and with other networks.
- The network will share the National Board's commitment to remain a non-partisan organization and will not endorse any political candidates.

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- The network will make the distinction that it is a separate entity and will not claim that it represents the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- The network will demonstrate that it is in compliance with applicable corporate and tax laws for nonprofits.

Privileges for Networks Meeting the Standards

Networks meeting the standards will enjoy the following privileges and services. (Please note: these privileges are provided as examples of the types of support the National Board might offer and are dependent upon funding.)

- Permission to use the name, (State/Region, Etc.) Network of NBCTs and Friends
- Permission to use the Networks logo (*to be developed*)
- Access to a list serve or electronic discussion group for network coordinators
- An opportunity for the network to meet during the Annual NBCT Meeting
- Technical support from the National Board which may include:
 - An exchange of network development materials
 - Opportunities to apply for mini-grants as funding is available
 - A communications vehicle that can be customized for network participants
 - Lists and contact information of NBCTs and Friends in the area

Suggested Activities and Strategies

The following list offers suggested activities and strategies for networks centered on three main objectives: 1) **Create a professional community**, 2) **Provide service to the teaching profession** and 3) **Contribute to the knowledge base of teaching**.

The National Board understands that each state, community or region has different needs and the following list of activities is intended only as a starting point. The National Board looks forward to an exchange between networks of additional activities and strategies to achieve these objectives.

Create a professional community

- Provide a forum for educators and others to engage in meaningful conversations about accomplished teaching.
- Provide opportunities for National Board Certified Teachers and other teachers to engage in discussion about teaching strategies, lesson planning, technology, etc.
- Create dialogue about school renewal issues, such as strengthening relationships between institutions of higher education and preK-12 schools, and exploring effective mentoring practices for new teachers, etc.

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- Build a professional school community where everyone is committed to accomplished teaching as defined by the National Board's five core propositions for *What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do*.

Provide service to the profession

- Create greater awareness of the National Board and its work by hosting meetings, reaching out to stakeholders, giving presentations and other outreach activities.
- Recruit candidates for National Board Certification.
- Support candidates seeking National Board Certification.
- Support and promote policy that offers incentives and support for National Board Certified Teachers and National Board Certification.
- Recruit assessors for National Board Certification.
- Work with schools of education to support and teach new teachers.
- Mentor teachers.
- Work with teacher unions and other professional and specialty organizations to promote National Board Certification.

Contribute to the knowledge base of teaching

- Publish articles and/or books about accomplished teaching.
- Conduct action research related to effective teaching practice and improved student learning.
- Offer local meetings, seminars and conferences where best practices are shared.

Reporting Requirements

The network will submit an annual report to the National Board demonstrating that it continues to meet the Standards for Networks of National Board Certified Teachers and Friends.