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## SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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**Randy I. Dorn** Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

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April 23, 2010

Action Required  
Due Date: May 21, 2010  
 Informational

### MEMORANDUM NO. 030-10M DISTRICT AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

**TO:** Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School Building Principals

**FROM:** Randy I. Dorn, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:** Collegial and Financial Support for Washington National Board Certification Candidates

**CONTACT:** Michaela Miller, National Board Certification Coordinator  
(360)725-6119, [michaela.miller@k12.wa.us](mailto:michaela.miller@k12.wa.us),  
Agency TTY (360)664-3631

The Washington Initiative for National Board Teacher Certification supports Washington teachers who pursue advanced certification with the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). One such support is a conditional loan that will cover \$2,000 of the \$2,500 application fee for candidates interested in pursuing their candidacy alongside colleagues with mentoring from NBPTS-certified teachers and other facilitators trained by the initiative. Candidates receiving the upfront conditional loan will then have that \$2000 taken out of their first bonus check upon certification. If a conditional loan recipient fails to certify after three years, or withdraws from the process they will be required to repay the conditional loan to the state.

The NBPTS certificate attests that a National Board Certified Teacher is accomplished in his or her practice, makes sound professional judgments about student learning, and acts effectively on those judgments. Washington State has 3,975 teachers who have achieved this honor.

The Governor initiated and the Legislature funded a \$5,000 bonus for National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) beginning in the 2007–2008 school year.

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Policymakers also enacted a second \$5,000 bonus for NBCTs who teach in challenging schools. Challenging schools are designated as those schools with at least 70 percent of elementary students, 60 percent of middle school students, and 50 percent of high school students eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL) as reported through Core Student Record Systems (CSRS). The legislative language can be found at HB 2262 and SHB 1128 (operating budget).

The NBPTS certification process involves a demonstration of the candidate's teaching practice as measured against high and rigorous standards described in the five core propositions of the NBPTS. Candidates participate in a two-part assessment. The **portfolio** includes student work, videotapes, and other artifacts completed in the candidate's classroom, along with reflections on what occurred and rationale for one's effectiveness of practice and professional judgment. This work will take the better part of a school year. The **assessment center** exercises involve timed narrative responses to six prompts focused on content knowledge and are organized around challenging teaching issues. Teachers report that the process takes 200–400 hours to complete.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is working with universities, districts, and other partners to provide candidate support. Candidates awarded conditional loans will pay an additional fee as a contribution towards the cost of support, in addition to their share of the NBPTS application fee. Credits and clock hours will be available for an additional fee. Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title-II Part A funds may be used for NBPTS application fees and candidate support where National Board Certification is part of a local instructional improvement strategy.

Each conditional loan applicant must submit a letter of support from a school or district administrator, and, wherever possible, specify resources (time, money, equipment, expertise) the school or district will devote to the candidate's success. A list of the types of support previous candidates found most helpful are provided in Attachment C.

Applications are due on-line by 5:00pm on **May 21, 2010** via OSPI's Education Data System (EDS). The link to the application can be found on our website: [www.k12.wa.us/cert/nbpts](http://www.k12.wa.us/cert/nbpts). Additional information regarding the application process and the Conditional Loan Overview document are attached for your information.

Please assist us by disseminating this information to potential applicants as soon as possible. We appreciate your help spreading the word about this opportunity. School Board members, building and district administrators, and the broader school community should know the value of National Board Certification, so

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they can urge teacher participation and provide candidate support. A Powerpoint slide presentation has also been posted to the OSPI website for your convenience. In addition, we have a network of National Board Certified Teachers available to do presentations about the process and its benefits.

Additional information about the Washington Initiative for National Board Teacher Certification is posted at our website: [www.k12.wa.us/cert/nbpts](http://www.k12.wa.us/cert/nbpts). More information about the certification process, including copies of the standards and portfolio requirements, for each of the twenty-five certificate areas can be found on the National Board website at: [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org).

If you have questions, call Michaela Miller at 877-833-0931 (toll-free) or 360-725-6119. You may also send questions via email to [michaela.miller@k12.wa.us](mailto:michaela.miller@k12.wa.us).

#### K-12 EDUCATION

Alan Burke, Ed.D  
Deputy Superintendent

#### DISTRICT AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Janell Newman  
Assistant Superintendent

RD:mm:cd

Attachment A: NBCT Conditional Loan Application Process and Timeline

Attachment B: National Board Conditional Loan Overview

Attachment C: Suggested Support Options