



Educational Quality and Accountability

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■ Media Release

More than 4,000 Teachers Achieve National Board Certification, Profession's Mark of Accomplished Teaching

Results Follow National Poll Showing Broad Public Demand for Certification

In 2014, more than 4,000 teachers nationwide achieved National Board Certification through a performance-based, peer-review process similar to Board certification in medicine. To date, more than 110,000 teachers in all 50 states have achieved the profession's gold standard for accomplished teaching, based on standards—created by teachers, for teachers—that define what teachers should know and be able to do to advance student learning. Oklahoma has a total of 3,096 National Board Certified Teachers.

Board-certified teachers, known as NBCTs, are leading both in and outside of the classroom. A recent survey of NBCTs showed that 54 percent have served or are currently working as team leaders, 36 percent as department chairs and 15 percent as staff developers or instructional coaches. More than three out of four NBCTs have led professional development efforts in their schools. In higher education, 234 NBCTs are serving as full-time faculty and 2,251 have served or are serving as adjunct faculty. On the state level, 116 are serving on a board of education.

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, said: "The medical profession has, over time, developed a strong professional continuum from initial training through advanced practice and board certification. We have an opportunity today in education to take a page from medicine and to build up the teaching profession, giving teachers the rigorous preparation and support they need and the respect they deserve. Board certification plays an important role in this process by setting the standard for advanced practice in teaching."

Lily Eskelsen García, president of the National Education Association, saluted the new NBCTs:

Oklahoma Teachers Achieve National Certification

"National Board Certification is one of many pathways for teachers to be recognized as accomplished practitioners in their profession. It's so much more than a certificate that hangs on a wall or an acronym after a teacher's name. It's a challenging process that allows good teachers to reflect on their practices—what works and what they can improve upon. We salute our members who have invested themselves in this rigorous process and are excited about what it means for the students they serve."

Washington State gained the most NBCTs with 946 teachers achieving in 2014, with 14 percent of the statewide teaching workforce now Board certified. States that experienced the largest growth in their ranks of NBCTs were Wyoming (16 percent), Washington (13 percent) and Hawaii (12 percent). North Carolina continues to lead the nation with 20,611 teachers in the state achieving Board certification to date. Each of these states benefits from strong systems of peer support and mentoring for candidates, state and district incentives for certification, and recognition of the importance of Board certification from union leaders to state legislators. Oklahoma Legislators provide 100 scholarships, through the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (OEQA). OEQA supports new candidates through the process, as well as those going through the retake and renewal process. OEQA reports 22 New NBCTs and 83 Renewed NBCTs.

National Board Certification is available in 25 certificate areas from Pre-K–12th grades. The [National Research Council \(NRC\) of the National Academies](#) published a comprehensive review of the studies to date in 2008 which states "National Board Certification has a positive impact on student achievement, teacher retention and professional development."