

ADVICE TO NATIONAL BOARD CANDIDATES

1. Become very familiar with a computer. Buy your own if possible.
2. Try not to get involved in time-consuming organizations, clubs, or sponsorships. Plan for this change ahead of time.
3. Think of the process as taking two graduate-level classes simultaneously.
4. Answer the questions the NBPTS asks throughout the process. Have others read the questions for their interpretation.
5. Purposefully schedule in time for your family, exercise, church or other religious organizations, friends, and social engagements.
6. Focus all your writing around the standards. Read, read, and re-read them so that you become familiar with the language.
7. Use the wording from the standards in writing your commentaries.
8. Start or join a candidate support group immediately. Use this group to discuss, interpret, understand, and gain different perspectives on the requirements.
9. If necessary, connect with a local education department of a university. They will have experts in certificate areas or in the age range of a particular certificate.
10. Stay current with the latest research, journals, or publications. Use this research to back up your reasons for doing activities and for your reflections.
11. Prepare a timeline for completion. Build in some leeway in the middle and at the end. Try to stay within the guidelines.
12. Call the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards as often as needed: 1-800-22-TEACH.
13. Visit the website [www.nbpts.org] and use information posted. If you have a question, post it on the website.
14. Although the National Board says you can go through the process after completing three years of teaching, teachers who have experienced the process strongly recommend at least five years of teaching experience in the area in which you are seeking certification. You need to have a wealth of teaching strategies, and know WHY you use them.
15. Share what you are doing with others. Tell colleagues, your principal, your parents your community, and especially your family so that they can all share and support you.
16. Be flexible and realize that you will revise constantly.
17. You may hit a block on one entry. Put it aside and work on another one. When you go back to it, you'll find it easier.
18. Maintain a positive attitude. **YOU CAN DO THIS.**
19. Remember, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.