

Candidate Reality Checklist

Instructions:

- A. Read each descriptor below
- B. Reflect on how each one matches you **AS A TEACHER**
- C. Rate yourself using the 1 2 3 4 scale in the box below and write that number in the space provided at the left. **BE AS HONEST WITH YOURSELF AS YOU CAN BE.**

Rubric:

- 1 = **Not yet** true of me....sorry, but I have **no evidence** for this **yet**.
2 = **Somewhat** true...I'm **not sure I have evidence** to prove this yet, but I may have some.
3 = **Often true** of me...I **have some evidence** to prove it.
4 = **Very true** of me...I could provide **substantial evidence** to prove it.

Descriptors:

- a) _____ I am intrinsically motivated to seek professional challenges.
- b) _____ I already use practices in my classroom that reflect the 5 Core Propositions.
- c) _____ I am able to create and maintain effective systems of organization.
- d) _____ I seek opportunities for professional growth despite discomfort/anxieties.
- e) _____ I am receptive to critical feedback and am willing to act on advice as appropriate.
- f) _____ I am honest with myself about my strengths as well as my weaknesses.
- g) _____ I am able to write clearly, concisely and convincingly.
- h) _____ I think about my professional practice and make changes as a result.
- i) _____ When I set goals for myself, I persevere through difficulties and see them through.
- j) _____ I have effective strategies for managing stress.
- k) _____ My personal and professional lives are now stable enough for me to focus on my commitment to seek National Board Certification.
- l) _____ I have made significant impact and contributions to my profession.
- m) _____ I have recognized the value of working collaboratively with others and I actively seek opportunities to do so.
- n) _____ I am able and willing to offer constructive criticism to others with sensitivity and fairness.
- o) _____ I am able to laugh at myself.

AM I READY FOR NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION?

A Self-Inquiry Reflection Quiz

Give each question a score from 1 2 3 4 (1 is a strong NO; 4 is a strong YES)

1. I have 300-400 hours of personal time to devote to this process.	1 2 3 4
2. I am a self-starter and self-motivated.	1 2 3 4
3. I view myself as a teacher who sets high standards for myself, and high expectations for my students.	1 2 3 4
4. The Five Core Propositions resonate with me.	1 2 3 4
5. I have significant evidence of the 'Documented Accomplishment Entries' requirements.	1 2 3 4
6. I regularly reflect upon and modify my teaching practice.	1 2 3 4
7. I work well within professional groups.	1 2 3 4
8. I would look forward to sharing my student's work with a group of my peers.	1 2 3 4
9. I would look forward to sharing my written commentaries with a group of my peers.	1 2 3 4
10. I would look forward to sharing my videotapes with my group.	1 2 3 4
11. I welcome the comments of other teachers about my practice.	1 2 3 4
12. I can attend small group meetings.	1 2 3 4
13. I can participate in on-line discussions.	1 2 3 4
14. My friends/family will act as a support system for me.	1 2 3 4
15. I can limit my personal activities to provide the time I will need.	1 2 3 4

16. My current school administration will support my candidacy (emotional support, release time, video equipment, etc.).	1 2 3 4
17. I have a computer and other technical capabilities.	1 2 3 4
18. Give yourself four (4) points for attending an orientation/awareness session.	1 2 3 4
19. I can afford to pay 25% of the application fee (\$575) up front.	1 2 3 4
20. I have the time to complete a 3-credit course during the fall semester and a 3-credit course during the spring semester.	1 2 3 4
21. I have conducted in-service classes and workshops for my colleagues at the national, district and/or school level.	1 2 3 4
22. I have mentored other teachers (ex: student teachers, first-year teachers, etc.).	1 2 3 4
23. I have served on curriculum development committees or other committees at the school and/or district level.	1 2 3 4
24. I have held leadership positions in professional associations at the school, district, state and/or national level.	1 2 3 4
25. I collaborate with other professionals to develop curriculum and/or to plan and deliver instruction.	1 2 3 4
26. I initiate and maintain interactive communications with parents and other adults to further the learning of my students.	1 2 3 4
27. I use a variety of means to encourage two-way communications with parents and other adults to further the learning of my students.	1 2 3 4
28. I make special efforts above and beyond what is normally expected to develop and maintain communication with parents.	1 2 3 4
29. I use a variety of teaching techniques and strategies to meet the varied needs of students in my classroom.	1 2 3 4

30. I strive to ensure that every student in my classroom succeeds.	1 2 3 4
31. I use teaching methodologies consistent with current research and theory about teaching and learning.	1 2 3 4
32. I use an integrated approach to teaching subject matter (for example, the integration of language arts and social studies).	1 2 3 4
33. I use a variety of assessment approaches to determine student needs and establish learning objectives.	1 2 3 4
34. I use a variety of assessment approaches to determine student achievement.	1 2 3 4
35. I use strategies to ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of their learning abilities or cultural background.	1 2 3 4
36. I consciously plan instruction to meet the individual needs of all students.	1 2 3 4
37. My teaching assignment includes ongoing instruction with a group of at least 6-8 students.	1 2 3 4
38. I possess pedagogical and subject matter knowledge in my area of certification i.e. early childhood education, elementary education, English/language arts, art, science, mathematics, etc.).	1 2 3 4
39. I write clearly, logically, and persuasively.	1 2 3 4
40. I reflect on my own teaching to note strengths and needs for improvement.	1 2 3 4
41. I set goals, make plans, and meet deadlines.	1 2 3 4
42. I possess computer skills in word processing and communications including e-mail and accessing the Internet.	1 2 3 4

If you score over 50% with numbers 3 and 4, you are ready to pursue National Board Certification.