



The National Board Academy

The development of a National Board Academy is based upon three basic assumptions:

1 – National Board Certification is the most respected national program for professional development for teachers. The Masters and/or Doctorate degrees as professional development prove that the teacher is an exceptional student in their content area. National Board Certification as professional development proves that they are an exceptional teacher in their content area.

2 – Teachers need orientation and clear information about National Board Certification so they can make informed decisions as to their participation in the certification process.

3 – A clearly documented program, supported by the school division and the VWC National Board Certification Support Program, will provide the academy participants with mentor support, tuition reimbursement, professional development and the greatest chance for successful National Board Certification.

The National Board Academy would be developed for a specific school division in Region II. The Academy process and classes would begin each spring at the beginning of that academic semester (late January).

National Board Academy Stages (3)

Stage One: PDS-NB1 - Professional Development and Pre-Candidacy for National Board Certification (3 Credit Hours; P/F; Recertification Points) – To be taken in the VWC Spring Semester.

The taking of the PDS-NB1 course will provide **(1)** solid professional development using NBPTS standards and guidelines, **(2)** a chance for participants to review and question the process of National Board Certification and **(3)** the background needed to make an informed, reflective decision as to proceed to the next level of the Academy (or NBCT process).

Stage Two: Take One! Entry (September-March) with Take One! Workshops (PDS-NB4; 1 credit hour each; P/F; taken in VWC Fall and Spring Semesters)

There are four (4) portfolio entries in the National Board Certification process. **Take One!** allows the participant to complete one of these four entries, have it scored, and (if applicable) have a two year window to apply a successful **Take One!** entry toward their full candidacy (when they decide to pursue National Board Certification). The **Take One!** entry has all of the rigors of NBCT candidacy, and, allows the Academy participant to have a taste of the overall demands placed on an NBCT candidate.

Trained SEVA NBCT mentors will provide the facilitation for the Take One! Entry period through the taking of PDS-NB4 and NB5 during both Fall and Spring semesters.

After completing the **Take One!** entry in March, the Academy participant will be ready for full candidacy for National Board Certification.

Stage Three: Full NBCT Candidacy (April - March) with PDS-NB2 (Active Candidate Guided Study - Fall Semester; 2 credit hours; P/F) and PDS-NB5 (Active Candidate Seminar – Spring Semester; 1 credit hour; P/F)

When the Academy participant becomes a full candidate for National Board Certification, the application process and request for VDOE funds could begin in April. The participant could become a full NBCT candidate at that time. After beginning the process over the summer, the participant/candidate will take the **PDS-NB2 - Personalized Professional Growth and National Board Certification (Two Credit Hours; Fall Semester; Recertification Points apply; for NBCT Candidates Only) and PDS-NB5 (Active Candidate Seminar – Spring Semester; Recertification Points apply; for NBCT Candidates Only).**

The final step is to take the **NBPTS Assessment** for their content area in April. The candidate will learn if they have achieved National Board Certification in November or early December of that year.

National Board Academy Success Rate

It is proposed that, since all three of the basic assumptions will be met or exceeded by the Academy, success rates for Take One! or Full Candidacy would be well above the national average.

Trained NBCT mentors provided by the NBPTS-VWC-SEVA Partnership for each candidate throughout the process would enhance the chances for success.

Funding the National Board Academy

Funding for the National Board Academy and its participants comes through professional development monies. Tuition assistance would pay for each step leading to full candidacy.

Since the majority of Collegiate Professional Licensed teachers already have their Masters degree, the choice of using tuition reimbursement funding for professional development will fall mainly on content courses or a doctorate degree. What better use of these professional development monies than to help fund National board Certification.

A Masters and/or Doctorate degree says you are an exceptional student or academician in your field.

National Board Certification says you are an exceptional teacher....and exceptional teachers is what every school division wants.

Full candidacy fees can be partially funded by the NBCT Candidate, NBPTS (if THNI requirements are met), the Virginia Department of Education, and/or the school division.

Timeline for Participation National Board Academy Participants Starting Spring Semester

(Using a Starting Date Example of January 2009)

Stage One - January 2009 through May 2009

**PDS-NB1 - Professional Development and Pre-Candidacy for National Board Certification (Three Credit Hours; Recertification Points apply)
(Spring 2009 Semester)**

(total tuition reimbursement = \$600.00 for one semester)

Stage Two – September 2009 - March 2010

Complete Take One! Entry

(Real Time Applications of NBPTS Professional Development with Existing Classes)

Take VWC PDS-NB4 (Fall 2009)

(total tuition reimbursement = \$400.00 per participant over one semester)

Subsidies for teachers at Title One Schools (\$295.00 of \$395.00 paid by NBPTS)

Take One! Entry Fee paid through tuition reimbursement.

Stage Three – April 2010 - March 2011

Apply for Full NBCT Candidacy (April 2010 – March 2011)

(School division aid for NBCT Application Fee (\$2,500.00) dependent on school division policy)

Take PDS-NB2 (Fall 2010) and PDS-NB5 (Spring 2011)

(total tuition reimbursement = \$600.00 per participant over two semesters)

Complete NBPTS Content Area Assessment (April 2011)

National Board Certification Results (Late November 2011)