



## The National Board Academy

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

- 1 – National Board Certification is the best possible professional development a school division can offer its teachers.**
- 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 NBPTS-VWC-SEVA Partnership, 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 fall at the beginning of the academic semester. Participants would not be required to complete other school division professional development workshops or in-services while in the Academy.

### National Board Academy Stages (3)

**Stage One: PDS-NB1 - Professional Development and Pre-Candidacy for National Board Certification (Three Credit Hours; Recertification Points apply) – To be taken in the Spring Semester (VWC Spring Semester – January through May).**

Course Description: This course is for individuals who are currently teaching in a classroom setting. Teachers are introduced to the mission, goals, and processes of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. At the same time they explore and determine their levels of interest in seeking National Board Certification. While the course encourages teachers to seek National Board Certification, it also serves as an opportunity for teachers to critically consider strategies to improve their teaching and to impact student learning. Teachers investigate and demonstrate “best teaching practices” across their specific curricula and grade level (K-12) through the use of professional journals and reference materials, production of a professional reading report, designing and executing a content improvement plan, videotaping a lesson, implementing new differentiated instructional strategies, and creating an essay about the video-taped lesson with learning strategy implementation using descriptive, analytical and reflective writing.

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)**

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 (if 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 NBCT mentors will be available for all participants through the NBPTS-VWC-SEVA Partnership.

After completing the **Take One** entry, the Academy participant will be able to make an informed, reflective decision as to proceed to the next level of the Academy (or process).

## **Stage Three: Full NBCT Candidacy (April - March) with PDS-NB2 (Guided Study - Fall Semester)**

If the Academy participant elects to become 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; Recertification Points apply; for NBCT Candidates Only)**

**PDS-NB2 Course Description:** A guided study centered on a personal professional development program working from an overview of the candidate process and guided by the mission, goals, and processes of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Teachers investigate “best teaching practices” across the curricula and grade levels, K-12. Major topics are the portfolio requirements and assessment center exercises, including video taping your class for NBPTS review, descriptive, analytical and reflective writing styles, NBPTS Assessment Center Exercises and collected student work samples are covered. In addition, many skills such as questioning, differentiated instructional strategies and portfolio maintenance are developed and revised.

This course is followed by an offering of four workshops (as a one-credit course) that allow the candidates to meet with their PDS-NB2 professor to revisit and review their portfolio entries, video tapes, etc. The workshop meetings will be spaced out over a four month period....leading to the submission of their NBCT Candidate materials to NBPTS at the end of March.

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 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.

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

# **Timeline for Participation for Academy Participants Starting Spring Semester**

(Using a Starting Date Example of January 2008)

## **Stage One - January 2008 through May 2008**

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

## **Stage Two – September 2008 through March 2009**

### **Complete Take One Entry**

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

## **Stage Three – April 2009 through March 2010**

**Full NBCT Candidacy (April 2009 – March 2010)  
with**

**PDS-NB2 - Personalized Professional Growth and National Board  
Certification (Fall Semester 2009)**

**Complete NBPTS Content Area Assessment (April 2010)**

**National Board Certification Results (Late November 2010)**