



Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy Application Informational Document

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Congratulations on making the decision to seek National Board Certification! The staff at National Board Resource Center is excited that you are engaging in this professional learning opportunity. This document has been created to assist in understanding the process to becoming a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) and expectations of candidacy.

Understanding the National Board First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy Application and Process

Eligible Illinois teachers and counselors will be awarded \$1900.00 by the state of Illinois through the National Board Resource Center (NBRC)/Illinois State University (ISU) with the intent that it is used for the completion and submission of the four components that make up the whole National Board Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS henceforth) process. The fee for each component is \$475.00 for a total value of \$1,900. National Board candidates are expected to pay the annual \$75.00 non-refundable NBPTS registration fee.

Eligibility criteria includes:

- Currently employed as a **full time** teacher or counselor (the subsidy application is not intended for administrators, part-time or retired teachers); Positions such as Curriculum Specialists, Reading Interventionist, Instructional Coaches, etc. are eligible as long as the educator position is based on the district's teacher contract.
- Teach in an Illinois public school;
- Have taught for three years prior to September 2020 (you may be asked by NBRC to provide previous employment documentation if you have worked outside of the state of Illinois or if employment isn't documented correctly in ELIS);
- Hold a valid Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL);
- Hold a valid Illinois Educator Identification License Number (IEIN); and
- Be a first-time applicant who has not used the Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy in past years (Candidates who applied for the state subsidy during a previous year and withdrew within the required timeline, may apply for the 2020-2021 subsidy).

Illinois NB candidates are given a three-year window to complete the National Board Certification process. Illinois Candidates will complete two components during the 2020-2021 cycle (*Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction* **and** *Component 4: Effective and*

Reflective Practitioner). This pertains to first year and second year candidates. First and second year candidates are required to complete and **SUBMIT** for scoring a minimum of one (1) component by the NBPTS submission date of **May 2021** to remain eligible for funding.

Applying for the Illinois National Board First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy

Before you begin the online application for the Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy, it is important that you:

1. Read the resource documents linked under the *Important Dates* section on the NBRC homepage.
2. Complete the *Practice Application* to gain access to informational links and directions which are not available in the online Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy application.
3. Complete the Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy application online at the NBRC website beginning on September 01, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. and no later than October 11, 2020 at midnight. *It is best to use Mozilla, Firefox, Chrome or Safari.*
4. Candidates will be added to the Eligible List that is located on the NBRC website if there are no issues with their application. Allow 5-7 business days for this to happen. If there is an issue with eligibility, you will be emailed and given an opportunity to address if applicable.
5. Final approval will be based on the candidate 1) completing the online Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy application by the October 11th midnight deadline, 2) being on the Eligible List, and 3) completing the NBPTS registration and paying of the non-refundable \$75 NBPTS registration fee by October 18th.

Key Points about the Online Application:

- The red asterisks denote questions that must be answered to proceed.
- This is an application in a survey format.
- You cannot save the application so you must complete it in its entirety during one sitting.
- Once you are done and submit the application, you will not be able to return to the application.

- You will be emailed a copy of your completed application as your receipt, but you may also print it as a backup.

Creating a NBPTS Account and Selecting Components

*Refer to the [Guide to National Board Certification](#) component selection starting on page 25.

- **2020-2021 First-Time Candidates**: will need to first create an account before beginning the NBPTS registration process, registering for specific components or paying the yearly, non-refundable \$75 NBPTS registration fee. This entire registration must be completed by October midnight and is the final step in being approved for the Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy.

- **All Returning (2018-2019 and 2019-2020 cycle)** Candidates MUST first pay the yearly, non-refundable \$75 NBPTS registration fee and release their information to the ‘THIRD PARTY PAYER’ before proceeding to register for additional components. This entire registration must be completed by October 18, 2020 at midnight.

Important to know when registering with NBPTS:

- Do NOT make payment for components to NBPTS when prompted to do so if you are approved to receive the Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy through the NBRC. NBPTS is aware that Illinois will make the payment for the submitted component/s to your account before the NBPTS final payment deadline, February 28, 2021.

- Make sure that you click **SUBMIT ORDER** for each component that you select. This will put your selected components in a ‘Submitted’ status. ‘Submitted’ is the status right before payment.

- Illinois candidates are to ONLY **SUBMIT** for Component 2 and Component 4.

- Make sure that you understand the [NB CERTIFICATE](#) you select and that it is the correct certificate. Verify the age of the students before making the final selection. There will be a \$75 fee to switch your certificate at a later date. Selecting the incorrect certificate and missing the February 28, 2021, deadline to switch your certificate will jeopardize your candidacy.

- You MUST release your information to a ‘**Third Party Payer**’ each time you pay the yearly, nonrefundable \$75 NBPTS registration fee. Illinois is the ‘Third Party Payer’ and a payment can only be made to your account IF you release your information.

- It is **your** responsibility to **MONITOR** your account regularly.

National Board Component Registration - Understanding the four statuses.

- *Incomplete:* You began the registration process, but did not complete all the necessary fields. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) cannot make a payment.
- *Submitted:* You have completed all the necessary steps leading up to the payment, but have not yet paid for the component. NBRC/ISBE will make the payment for the submitted components before the NBPTS payment deadline *provided* you have completed all steps in the NBPTS registration process as well as the NBRC application process.
- *Purchased:* You have successfully registered for the component/s and the component/s have been paid for. ISBE would have made the payment by the NBPTS payment deadline.
- *Withdraw:* You selected the component and ISBE paid for the component, then you withdrew. You must withdraw before the NBRC deadline, February 28, 2021 to avoid repayment of the Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy. OR, you selected the component and ISBE has not yet paid for the component. You must still withdraw before the NBRC deadline, February 28, 2021 to prevent ISBE from making the payment and to avoid repayment of the Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy.

Understanding Withdrawals, Refunds, and How to Avoid Penalties

The NBPTS offers two options for managing your candidacy, component withdrawal and registration withdrawal. These options are:

Component Withdrawal

You are expected to complete all components for which you register during the assessment cycle in which the component is purchased. If you are unable to complete a component, you can withdraw the component through your NBPTS account prior to the NBRC February 28, 2021, withdrawal deadline by clicking “Service Requests” from the left-hand navigation menu.

The State of IL will only pay for a component once. If you do not submit work for a paid component OR withdraw by the NBRC February 28, 2021, withdrawal deadline **you will be responsible to pay for the component the next time you attempt to complete the component.**

Registration Withdrawal

If circumstances require you to end your candidacy, you can withdraw your entire registration. By withdrawing your entire registration, you are cancelling your candidacy and will be required to apply anew if you later wish to continue the pursuit of certification.

If you are a first-time candidate and have not completed a component(s): (i.e. you have not submitted a component or tested at the assessment center), you can withdraw your registration through your NBPTS account prior to the withdrawal deadline by clicking “Service Requests” from the left-hand navigation menu. **Note:** You must first withdraw all currently purchased components before you will be permitted to withdraw your entire registration (see Component Withdrawal). You must withdraw by the NBRC February 28, 2021, withdrawal deadline to ensure any unused funds are returned to the State and to avoid any penalties.

If you are a returning candidate: If you have completed one or more components in a previous cycle (i.e., you submitted a component or tested at the assessment center), you can withdraw your registration by contacting our Customer Support team – this service is not available online. Please fill out the NBPTS web form located on the [Contact Us](#) page of the NBPTS website. Please use the form for [customer support](#). If you use the web form, be sure to include the reason that you are withdrawing and specify that you are an Illinois candidate. You must withdraw by the NBRC February 28, 2021, withdrawal deadline to ensure any unused funds are returned to the State and to avoid any penalties. **Note:** You must first withdraw all currently purchased components before you will be permitted to withdraw your entire registration (see Component Withdrawal).

Withdrawing by the NBRC February 28, 2021, withdrawal deadline will direct any unused Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy funds back to Illinois to be used by other teachers. You will not be reimbursed for the non-refundable and nontransferable \$75 NBPTS registration fee or any service fees. If you do not submit a component by the NBPTS Submission Date of **May 2021**, and you did NOT withdraw by the NBRC February 28, 2021, withdrawal deadline, you may be required to repay Illinois the amount of the Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy that was paid towards your NBPTS Account but NOT used as intended. For example: You “**SUBMIT**” for two components $\$475 \times 2 = \950 . Illinois, in good faith, “**PURCHASES**” the two components and makes the \$950 payment to NBPTS for these two components with the agreement that you are completing and submitting the two components for scoring, per the agreement included in the Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy

application. You do not submit either component and therefore may be required to repay the \$950 to Illinois. You will also be responsible in contacting NBPTS and requesting that all ‘unused’ funds be returned to Illinois.

Candidate Support

A Candidate Support Registration message will be emailed to all approved candidates. Candidates teaching in Chicago have the option of attending support sessions provided by the CTU Quest Center. Contact Lynn Cherkasky-Davis at lynncherkasky-davis@ctuf.org for more information. **OR** Candidates teaching in Chicago have the option to take part in any of the candidate support programs offered through the Illinois National Board Resource Center (NBRC). *These two options are not intended to be combined.*

Face to-Face candidate cohorts (outside of Chicago) will be located strategically throughout the state for face-to-face meetings. This support starts in September 2020 and ends in May 2021 and is provided through twelve, two-hour sessions. Face-to-face cohorts may be based in a National Board Professional Development School OR in collaboration with a hosting Regional Office of Education.

Online candidate support is being offered through the NBRC. This system uses the ZOOM platform and is in real time with a NBCT facilitator. This support starts in September 2020 and ends in May 2021 and is provided through twelve, two-hour sessions.

The National Board facilitators are paid for the support they provide to candidates. Just like teaching a class, they must prepare ahead of time, facilitate the cohort and reply to follow-up questions and discussions. **ONLY** the candidates who plan to attend the sessions should register for these services. Those who are not in compliance with regular attendance will be dropped from the cohort.

Important Dates and Deadlines

<p>WHAT TO DO as found in the <i>Guide to National Board Certification</i> TBA((TBA)</p>	<p>NBPTS DATES as found in the <i>Guide to National Board Certification</i></p>	<p>What does this mean for <u>Illinois</u> Candidates?</p>
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NBPTS Registration and \$75 payment	October 11, 2020 To October 18, 2020 (midnight) (for Illinois candidates)	ALL Illinois candidates are expected to register with NBPTS and pay the yearly, non-refundable \$75 registration fee to NBPTS by October 18 at midnight.
NBPTS Payment Deadline for components.	February 28, 2021	Illinois will make all component payments to your account before the February 28, 2021 payment deadline. The payment will only be made to components that have a status of 'SUBMIT' for payment. Monitor your account to make sure that your components are in a 'SUBMIT' status. Accounts that are INCOMPLETE will not be paid.
Change of Certificate and/or Specialty Area	February 28, 2021	Regularly monitor your account and make sure your certificate is correct. IF it is not correct, this is the final date to make changes to your certificate.
Change of Component Selection	February 28, 2021	If you selected the incorrect component, this is the final date to make changes or additions.
ePortfolio Submission Window	April – May 2021	Final date to submit your component/s to NBPTS for scoring will be in May 2021. Please check with NBPTS for the exact date in May 2021.

Withdrawal Deadline	February 28, 2021	NBRC final date to withdraw and have the funds returned to Illinois.
Component 1: Content Knowledge Testing Window	March – June 2021	Component 1: Content Knowledge Testing Window[BM1]
Scores Released	On or before December 31, 2021	You will receive the scores for each component on or before December 31, 2021.

Contact Information

The National Board Resource Center (NBRC) is located at Illinois State University (ISU) in Normal, IL, and manages the National Board Subsidy Program for the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). This program includes the application and approval process for the Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy in addition to serving as the Third-Party support provider for Illinois NB candidates going through the NBPTS process. The phone number for the NBRC is 309-438-1835 and the website is <http://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu>.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is a national organization and it is located in Arlington, VA. Teachers and counselors register as candidates at the NBPTS Board Certified Teachers website and pay the yearly, non-refundable \$75 NBPTS registration fee. NBPTS provides information and directions about candidacy and the NB process. The phone number for NBPTS is 1-800-22TEACH.