

National Board and COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Candidates and Renewing NBCTs

In response to the pandemic our nation is currently facing and the challenge this creates for many educators, NBPTS has developed a comprehensive plan to address the needs of candidates impacted by school closures. NBCTs, candidates, and support providers can stay up-to-date by following the resources and information offered by NBPTS on their website here: <https://www.nbpts.org/covid-19/>. Prior to looking at this FAQ, please ensure that you have reviewed the guides for candidate options posted on NBPTS's COVID-19 page. NBPTS is also emailing updates to current candidates on a weekly basis. Below are responses to a few frequently asked questions about changes to the current candidate cycle:

For 2019-2020 National Board Candidates

Will I be able to submit Components 2, 3, or 4 on the original submission timeline?

Yes, candidates who have completed components and are ready to submit will be able to continue their candidacy this year. The portfolio submission window opened on April 1.

I plan to submit Components 2, 3, or 4 this year, but I need more time to finish. Will I be allowed additional time for submission?

Yes, NBPTS has extended the portfolio submission and renewal submission window out until June 12.

In addition, for Components 2, 3, and 4, NBPTS has allowed candidates to submit an [exception form](#) in order to submit by October 16. Complete this form no later than April 30.

Am I able to submit my Components 2, 3, or 4 virtually/remotely?

Yes, NBPTS has determined that it is acceptable to submit components with evidence and student work collected electronically. Online teaching does not negate or change the component requirements – please review the [component instructions](#) for more information.



I want or need to submit my Components virtually, but I'm unsure on how to do that. Where might I find guidance?

There are a number of resources for virtual learning, some of which NBPTS has [compiled here](#) and elsewhere on their [COVID-19 webpage](#). Candidates are not limited to a specific platform, so long as what you use is able to meet the requirements for the component you are submitting. If you are choosing the commonly used, free Zoom platform, a few useful [tips can be found here](#). Please also keep in mind [FERPA guidance](#) for handling student information in a remote setting.

NBPTS has posted information on [allowances and exceptions to the submission process](#). Please review these before you create or submit evidence virtually.

What are the requirements to submit video recordings for Component 3 virtually?

The videos should show as much of the class as possible, but it is acceptable to focus on a particular student while he or she is talking. Use a camera angle that includes as many faces of the students in the class as possible.

You and your students must be seen and heard in both videos. It is important for assessors to be able to see and hear you and your students together, your students interacting with each other, your students' reactions to what you are doing, and their engagement in learning.

NBPTS has also clarified that candidates may accept Adult and Student Release forms via email and/or with electronic signature in the event they cannot collect hand-signed physical copies. You must keep National Board Student and Adult Release forms with your records; do not submit them to the National Board.

Video attestation forms do not have to be submitted with a handwritten signature from an administrator. An email from an administrator or electronic signature on the video attestation form will be accepted.

If you are submitting a video featuring a virtual classroom, please notify NBPTS [via web form](#).

There is no way I will be able to submit any Components this year. What options do I have?

NBPTS has confirmed that deferral options will be available to any candidate unable to submit their components due to the impact of COVID-19. Deferral allows an educator to put their candidacy on hold until the next school year. Candidates who choose to defer will have their five-year certification window extended by one year, and their three-year component completion requirement extended to the fourth year of candidacy. Evidence for submission may still be gathered as early as April 2019. Fee payments from 2019-2020, including the \$75 registration fee, will be applied as a waiver when you register for components in the 2020-2021 cycle.



If you determine that it may be easier or better for you to submit one particular component rather than one you are currently registered for, you are able to switch component registration.

Candidates are also allowed to withdraw from individual components or their entire candidacy if submission in the current cycle or next cycle is not possible. You will be provided a full refund for any component registration this year, minus the additional service fee.

In order to request a deferral, change your component registration, or withdrawal, please complete the [exception form](#) by April 30.

What will happen to my Component 1 test center appointment?

If you are completing Component 1 and have an appointment scheduled, you are still able to test as planned. NBPTS has extended the Component 1 testing window to July 15. You can monitor how PearsonVUE is addressing COVID-19 risk and testing site closures in your area and generally through [their website here](#). For those who experience a test site closure, or are unable to schedule an appointment prior to a site closure, NBPTS is working to provide additional testing capacity. If you need to change your test center appointment, please contact [NBPTS Customer Support](#). Please continue to monitor your email for updates.

For 2019-2020 Renewing NBCTs

Will I be able to submit my Renewal PPG on the original submission timeline?

Yes, NBCTs who have completed renewal requirements and are ready to submit will be able to continue their submission this year. The submission window opened on April 1.

I plan to submit my Renewal PPG, but I need more time to finish. Will I be allowed additional time for submission?

Yes, NBPTS has extended the renewal submission window out until June 12.

In addition, renewal candidates may fill out an [exception form](#) in order to submit by October 16. Complete this form no later than April 30.

There is no way I will be able to submit my Renewal PPG this year. What options do I have?

NBPTS has confirmed that deferral options will be available to any NBCT unable to submit their renewal due to the impact of COVID-19. Deferral allows a NBCT to put their candidacy on hold until the next school year so they can submit in the 2020-2021 cycle. Renewing NBCTs



who planned to submit in 2019-2020 but defer to 2020-2021 will still have an opportunity to extend their certificate by 10 years and not be placed on the 5-year renewal process.

NBCTs in their 9th/19th year who defer will have their certificate expiration date extended to 2021. Upon successful renewal, your certificate expiration date will be extended to 2030.

NBCTs in their 8th/18th year who defer will, upon successful renewal, have their expiration date extended to 2031. Evidence gathered as early as September 1 of your 8th/18th year of certification may be submitted.

Those who do not successfully renew in 2020-2021 will have an additional opportunity to complete Maintenance of Certification (MOC) in 2021-2022. In this case, expiration dates will be extended to 2022 and, upon successful renewal, extend the expiration date to 2027.

NBCTs are also allowed to withdraw their renewal candidacy at a full refund minus the registration fee. Please note that if you choose to withdraw and your certificate was set to expire in 2020, the expiration date will not be extended and you will need to start your candidacy anew in order to regain NBCT status. 8th/18th year NBCTs who withdraw will be required to complete the 5-year MOC in 2021.

In order to request a deferral or withdrawal, please complete the [exception form](#) by April 30.

[Additional Information for Candidates and NBCTs](#)

I am an educator interested in pursuing National Board Certification in 2020-2021. Will I still be able to register this year?

The registration window for 2020-2021, which was scheduled to open in April, will be delayed. At this time, NBPTS has not provided new dates for the registration window. Those dates will be communicated as soon as they become available.

How will scoring be affected by the 2019-2020 exception options?

Candidates or NBCTs who submit this year, by June 12 for Components 2, 3, and 4 or renewal PPG, and by June 15 for Component 1, will receive scores on or before December 31, 2020.

Candidates or NBCTs who submit portfolio components or PPG in October may have scores delayed beyond December 31, 2020, but will be provided before registration ends for the 2020-2021 cycle.

Candidates or NBCTs who defer to the 2021 cycle will receive scores on or before December 31, 2021.



How will the school closures in WA affect my NBCT bonus?

Washington's NBCT bonus remains intact for 2019-2020 school year. Eligible NBCTs will receive bonuses for 2019-2020 when funds are apportioned to districts this July (district timelines for when bonuses are awarded may vary – full payment must happen no later than August 31). School closures will have no impact on the full-time equivalent experience proration of the additional "High Poverty Schools" bonus.

NBCTs who were set to expire in 2020, but have deferred their renewal to 2021, will have expiration dates extended to 2021 and thus be potentially eligible to receive bonuses in July of 2021. It is highly important that you make your school district aware of your extended certification date so that they correctly report this information to OSPI. Bonus eligibility data is driven by district annual personnel reporting.

Candidates who submit components for scoring in the extended October 16 submission window and achieve certification will receive the same 40 percent bonus reduction as all first-year NBCTs, regardless of the potential delay in score release.

I received a third party payment/OSPI's conditional loan. How will the exception options affect these funds?

Funds awarded toward component purchases in the 2019-2020 cycle can be applied in the 2020-2021 cycle if a candidate chooses to defer. Please notify your third party payer if you plan to defer your candidacy to ensure your extension is accounted for. If a candidate withdraws or does not utilize the funds in the 2020-2021 cycle, they will be returned to the third party.

If you have additional questions not addressed in this FAQ or by NBPTS, please reach out to OSPI's National Board Program Specialist, Steven Mueller, at Steven.Mueller@k12.wa.us

