

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION





What is the National Board Certification?

The National Board was established as the profession's vehicle for defining and recognizing accomplished teaching. National Board Standards are created by teachers, for teachers, as is National Board Certification, a voluntary process to certify teachers against those standards.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Established in 1987, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is an independent, nonprofit organization to advance accomplished teaching for all students.

The founding mission for the National Board is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by:

- Maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do;
- Providing a national voluntary system to certify teachers who meet these standards;
- Advocating related education reforms to integrate National Board Certification in American education and to capitalize on the expertise of National Board Certified Teachers.



[Check our website](#)

Maryland

Advancing Accomplished Teaching

Through National Board Certification, teachers demonstrate that their teaching meets the profession's highest standards for accomplished practice through a rigorous, peer-reviewed, and performance-based process, similar to professional certification in fields such as medicine. In achieving National Board Certification, teachers prove their ability to advance student learning and achievement. More than a decade of [research](#) confirms that National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) positively impact student learning.

Statistics for Maryland

Candidates and NBCTs in 2025					
	Total Candidates in 2024-25	New NBCTs	NBCTs who Maintained	NBCTs Ever Certified*	NBCTs with Active Certifications**
Total	17,742	5,254	3,477	146,733	66,176
MD	4,189	1,435	157	6,943	5,494
Rank	1	1	7	7	

NBCTs* in Maryland			
	NBCTs of Color	NBCTs in Title 1 Schools	NBCT in STEM Certification Areas
MD	1,195	2,072	2,833

Top Five School Districts	
By new NBCTs	By 2024-25 candidates
Montgomery County Public Schools (271)	Prince George's County Public Schools (764)
Howard County Public School System (179)	Montgomery County Public Schools (707)
Anne Arundel County Public Schools (157)	Howard County Public School System (395)
Prince George's County Public Schools (147)	Anne Arundel County Public Schools (394)
Baltimore County Public Schools (123)	Baltimore County Public Schools (363)

Source: Based on NBCT self-reported data as of January 26, 2026.

*Ever certified is inclusive of all who have achieved National Board Certification, including certifications that have lapsed and those that are still active.

**Active Certifications are NBCTs who have a certification that is not lapsed.



Cecil 2024-25

73 Active NBC's

28 New NBCs

95 Candidates
(includes 28 new NBCs)



FIVE CORE PROPOSITIONS

Proposition 1

Teachers are committed to students and their learning.

Proposition 2

Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects.

Proposition 3

Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.

Proposition 4

Teachers think systemically about their practice and learn from experience.

Proposition 5

Teachers are members of learning communities.



NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

LICENSED TEACHER

Teachers must hold a Professional Teaching License.

3 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Candidates must hold a valid teaching license for each of the three years verified for employment requirement. Teachers cannot earn an NBC Certification until after the third year of teaching.

TIME

Candidates need to have the time to devote to the components. Most candidates report an average of 10 hours per week devoted to the process.

The Four Components

Required Components	What do I have to do?	Scoring
<p>Component 1 Content Knowledge Assessment</p>	<p>Computer-based 4 sections 1 Selected Response 3 Constructed Responses</p>	<p>40% of Final Portfolio Score</p>
<p>Component 2 Differentiation in Instruction</p>	<p>Student work samples to demonstrate growth over time with written commentary analysis</p>	<p>15% of Final Portfolio Score</p>
<p>Component 3 Teaching Practice and Learning Environment</p>	<p>2 video recordings 1 whole group setting, 1 small group with written commentary analysis</p>	<p>30% of Final Portfolio Score</p>
<p>Component 4 Effective and Reflective Practitioner</p>	<p>Identification of professional and student learning needs, highlighting work with assessment practices for impact on student growth including written commentary</p>	<p>15% of Final Portfolio Score</p>

*****World Language Candidates ONLY*****

Required to complete additional proficiency testing (OPI, WPT) and achieve a rating of Advanced Low.

WHICH CERTIFICATION IS RIGHT FOR ME?

CERTIFICATE					
DISCIPLINE	DEVELOPMENTAL LEVEL	STUDENT AGE RANGE			
		3-8	7-12	11-15	14-18+
Art	Early and Middle Childhood	●	●		
	Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood			●	●
Career and Technical Education	Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood			●	●
English as a New Language	Early and Middle Childhood	●	●		
	Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood			●	●
English Language Arts	Early Adolescence			●	
	Adolescence and Young Adulthood				●
Exceptional Needs Specialist	Early Childhood through Young Adulthood	●	●	●	●
Generalist	Early Childhood	●			
	Middle Childhood		●		
Health Education	Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood			●	●
Library Media	Early Childhood through Young Adulthood	●	●	●	●
Literacy: Reading-Language Arts	Early and Middle Childhood	●	●		
Mathematics	Early Adolescence			●	
	Adolescence and Young Adulthood				●
Music	Early and Middle Childhood	●	●		
	Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood			●	●
Physical Education	Early and Middle Childhood	●	●		
	Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood			●	●
School Counseling	Early Childhood through Young Adulthood	●	●	●	●
Science	Early Adolescence			●	
	Adolescence and Young Adulthood				●
Social Studies-History	Early Adolescence			●	
	Adolescence and Young Adulthood				●
World Languages	Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood			●	●



HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET CERTIFIED?

Initial Certification

- 5 year window
- All components must be submitted in first 3 years
- 2 years for retakes, if needed

Maintenance of Certification

- Renew every 5 years
- Can start one year prior to expiration
- Allows for a retake year before certification expires
- If certification expires, you must start all over again like the initial certification.
- Only 2 components to complete in your original area of certification
- Renewal Certificate Period begins when the previous certificate expires.

*NBC Certification expires every 5 years

SUPPORT FOR **✦ CANDIDATES**

- **Monthly Saturday Meetings**
- **In-Building Support (if available)**
- **Mentors and Readers available upon request**
- **Professional Leave to work on components**
- **Graduate level college courses to guide you through the process (earn master's level credits and NBC component support) Tuition Reimbursement**
- **ATLAS - Online database of accomplished teaching**
- **Schoology Course filled with resources**
- **FAQ**

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CREDITS

Certified and MOC

6 credits
(90 hours)

Do not Certify

Submitted all 4 components
3 credits (45 hours)

Is there a salary increase for a National Board Certification?

Blueprint for Maryland's Future

Pillar 2: Highly Qualified Teachers and Leaders

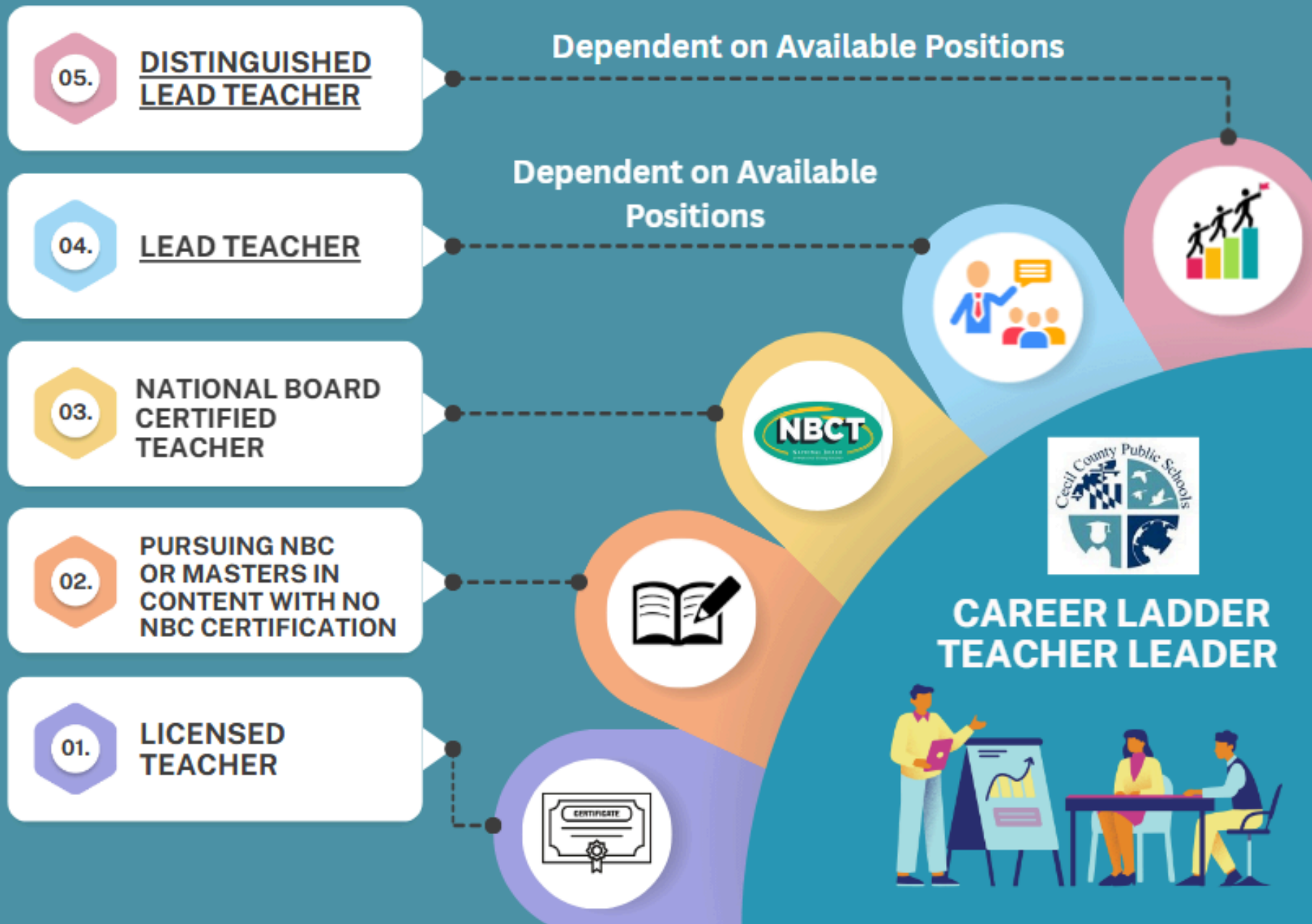
Established the National Board Certification as the Gold Standard for teachers

- Incentivizes teachers to stay in the classroom
- Eligible teachers (60% or more teaching time with students on a daily basis)
- NBC requirement to move up the career ladder to “teacher leader” available positions

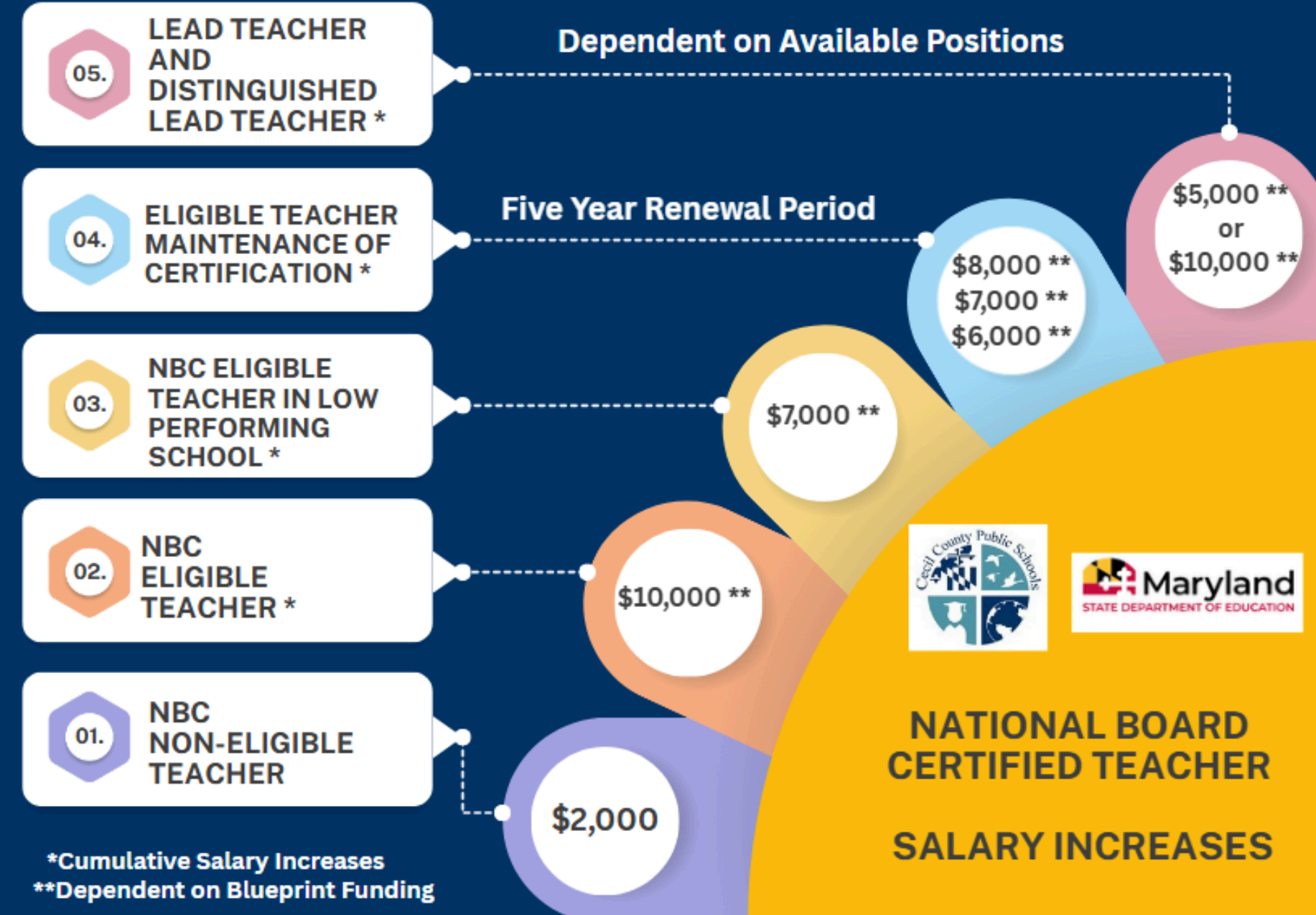


Career Ladder and NBC Salary Increases

Career Ladder - Teacher Leader



NBC Salary Increases





WHAT WILL IT COST?

- **\$75 registration fee - Candidates pay during active submission years**
- Initial Certification Component Fees - \$475 per component
 - MSDE/CCPS fee waiver will cover all component fees.
 - Candidates must have at least three years teaching experience
 - Professionally Licensed Teachers with less than 3 yrs experience can start NBC process before end of year 3, but must pay out of pocket.
- Teachers must meet deadline to be eligible.
- Retakes will be paid once per component.
- Maintenance of Certification (MOC)- \$495 (Fee Waiver)
- One Retake will be funded per MOU.
- World Language has additional requirements that may require fees.

TESTIMONIALS

“This process was the most beneficial and meaningful professional development of my career!”

“This process keeps me actively involved in reflection and has built my capacity as a teacher leader.”

“National Board has helped me learn more about myself and my teaching practice.”



How do I commit for the 2026-27 school year?



STEP 1: Set up a profile on nbpts.org for a candidate ID number. Only needed for new initial candidates.

STEP 2: Submit [CCPS Google Form](#) to reflect your plan for the 2026-27 school year by **September 11, 2026**.

Google Form will collect the following information

1. Candidate ID and school information
2. Components selected for the 2026-27 school year. This includes candidates who are new, continuing, retakes, and MOC.
3. MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) will need to be uploaded to the Google Form.
 - a. MOU only required for initial certification process, Maintenance of Certification, and Retakes.
 - b. The MOU obligates the teacher to pay for component(s) that are not submitted.

National Board Dates and Deadlines

2026–2027

Key NBPTS 2026-2027 Tentative Dates & Deadlines

- **Registration Window:** May 2026 – February 28, 2027.
- **Component Purchase Deadline:** February 28, 2027.
- **Withdrawal Deadline:** February 28, 2027.
- **ePortfolio Submission Window:** Spring 2027 (typically by May).
- **Component 1 Testing Window:** Spring 2027 (typically March – June).