**National Board Certification –**

**Take a Look at What’s New**

Linda McGhee Julie Miller

Physical Education Teacher Physical Education Teacher

Las Lomitas School Mount Diablo Unified School District

Atherton, CA Concord, CA

[lmcghee@llesd.org](mailto:lmcghee@llesd.org) [millerjm@mdusd.org](mailto:millerjm@mdusd.org)

**WHAT? National Board Certification** is a voluntary program teachers go through to demonstrate that they are accomplished teachers. It is a symbol of professional teaching excellence and was developed for teachers by teachers. It is performance based and peer reviewed. Board Certification is offered on a voluntary basis and complements, not replaces, state licensing. Current state licensing sets entry-level standards for beginning teachers, while National Board Certification establishes advanced standards for experienced teachers.

*The* ***National Board’s mission*** *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 certifying teachers who meet these standards, and*

*◗ advocating related education reforms to integrate National Board Certification in American education and to capitalize on the expertise of National Board Certified Teachers.*

**WHY?**  There are many reasons to certify. National Board Certification…..

1. ….demonstrates to you and others that you are an accomplished teacher.
2. ….helps to build our profession.
3. ….is paid for by some districts. Other financial incentives may be offered once you are certified. Scholarship money is available.
4. ….is a highly reflective process which helps you grow as a physical educator.
5. ….is a pathway to recognition across the nation because of the rigorous standards that are met.
6. ….opens the door to leadership.
7. ….distinguishes more effective teachers with respect to student achievement as established through research. (See *boardcertifiedteachers.org* website for specific research data.)

The process is based on these **5 CORE PROPOSITIONS**:

1. Teachers are committed to students and their learning.
2. Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.
3. Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.
4. Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.
5. Teachers are members of learning communities.

There are National Board Physical Education Standards that inform and guide your analysis and reflection as an accomplished teacher and as a candidate working towards certification. (*boardcertifiedteachers.org/certificate-areas*)

**REVISIONS:** The certification process is being revised as we speak.

(See specific revisions on *boardcertifiedteachers.org/resources*.)

**SUPPORT:**

**Stanford National Board Resource Center**: Stanford offers a hands-on support program for teachers going through the NB certification process. It “provides information about National Board certification, offers candidacy support, and advocates for advancing quality teaching through certification.” The program is staffed by Board certified teachers, meets monthly and offers immense support and education for this process as well as offering graduate units. The support program is also offered via web conferencing.

**Board Certified Teachers:** You will find a community of Board Certified teachers who are supportive, willing to answer questions and provide encouragement and support. In California there are currently 107 Nationally Board Certified Physical Educators, 75 teachers working with ages 11-18+ and 32 teachers working with ages 3-12.

**NBPTS Resources:**

[www.NBPTS.org](http://www.nbpts.org) – website for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

[www.boardcertifiedteachers.org](http://www.boardcertifiedteachers.org) – candidate application, state-specific information and resources

<https://nbrc.stanford.edu> - Stanford support program

[www.cultofpedagogy.com/nbct](http://www.cultofpedagogy.com/nbct) - a blog describing one teacher’s journey to board certification

[www.teachers.net/mentors/NBPTS/posts.html](http://www.teachers.net/mentors/NBPTS/posts.html) - chat board for teachers going through the certification process