

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Frequently Asked Questions

When can I officially apply to be a candidate funded by Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)?

Teachers who are interested in receiving FCPS funding are eligible to apply to the National Board between January 1 to November 16, 2007. The application procedures are available on the National Board website (www.nbpts.org). FCPS funding will be provided after July 1, 2007 (Fiscal Year 2008).

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) recommends that you complete the NBPTS Orientation course before you apply online on the National Board website. FCPS will not make any payment until the orientation course has been completed and all required paperwork has been received.

Will FCPS pay for my entire candidacy fee?

Yes, depending on budget availability.

Can I work on my portfolios before I apply officially?

Yes. According to the National Board website, you can use student work during a one year period before your portfolio due date. Since the portfolios are due on March 31, 2008, you may use student work after March 31, 2007. All portfolio instructions and materials are available on the National Board website.

When am I eligible to take the Assessment Center tests?

The Assessment Center window is from July 1, 2007 – June 15, 2008.

What are my obligations to FCPS as a National Board candidate?

Candidates who receive FCPS funding must be employed as a teacher *during the school year that the portfolio and assessment center exercises are **completed and submitted** to National Board*. Teachers who leave FCPS during candidacy must reimburse FCPS for the amount funded.

When will I be notified of the results?

National Board indicates it will make the results available no later than December 31, 2008.

How does FCPS support candidates?

Fairfax County Public Schools offers the National Board Support Seminar course to support teachers pursuing National Board Certification. This 3-credit, 15-session course helps candidates understand the processes required for completing their portfolios and assessment center exercises. Topics include identifying the certificate standards in classroom practice, descriptive, analytical, and reflective writing, utilizing rubrics and scoring guides, and preparation strategies for the assessment center. This course, led by National Board Certified Teachers, will offer support to help specific certificate areas. A Blackboard component will provide online discussion forums for additional candidate discussion.

For more information, contact Gail Ritchie by email at gail.ritchie@fcps.edu or phone at 703-204-3934.