



TO: Higher Education Committee
FROM: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*
SUBJECT: National Board for Certification for Teachers Work Group Report

DATE: October 6, 2016

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Mary Ellen Eina*

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

A presentation by the co-directors of the National Board Council of New York State (NBCNY) on the National Board Work Group's report on National Board Certification for Teachers.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For information

Background Information

The National Board Council of New York (NBCNY) is the state affiliate of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). The NBCNY convened a work group in partnership with the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to examine the current state of National Board certification. Currently there are approximately 1,750 New York State teachers who have achieved National Board certification. At this time, there are 451 National Board registered candidates pursuing certification.

The National Board work group consisted of a diverse group of education stakeholders to examine the National Board certification process. Stakeholders were directed to identify opportunities that might raise awareness of teachers to pursue National Board certification. The work group identified four systematic needs around National Board certification and NYS teachers.

The four identified needs are:

1. Increase awareness statewide of the National Board certification process and its impact on teaching and learning.
2. Increase funding for the Albert Shanker grant (see attachment for additional information on this grant), which assists qualified teachers in defraying the costs of National Board certification.
3. Enhance understanding of the National Board process as a voluntary, comprehensive, integrated teacher development system driven by practitioner knowledge, experience, and context.
4. Promote relationships among the National Board network of teachers, P-12 school districts, institutions of higher education and other education stakeholders to strengthen the NBCNY Network and promote collaboration for the professionalization of teaching.

The work group has published a report of their findings from the series of meetings. The report, which can be found on the web at http://media.wix.com/ugd/4b57fc_d2440ce4dbd244dab37edc9321f8adf9.pdf, provides recommendations to build awareness around the benefits of the National Board process to all stakeholder groups and identifies strategies to address these areas. The report promotes capitalization of P-20 partnerships and collaborations.

To date, the states listed below have the following National Board certified teachers:

1. Florida - 13,566
2. Georgia - 2,572
3. Massachusetts - 633
4. Pennsylvania - 1,279
5. California - 6,345
6. North Carolina - 20,677
7. Kentucky - 3,273
8. Washington - 8,461

Related Regents Items

N/A

Attachments

Albert Shanker Grant Background

Through NY Education Law Section 3004-A (attached) and Commissioner's Regulations Part 86.1 (attached), the Albert Shanker grant was established to defray the costs of National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification to eligible New York State public school teachers. The New York State Education Department, through the Albert Shanker Grant, makes funding available to support eligible New York State public school teachers seeking their first National Board Certification.

- National Board Certification is composed of four components. All components must be attempted within a three year period. For information regarding National Board Certification go to <http://www.nbpts.org/policies-and-resources>.
- Candidates for the Albert Shanker Grant must first complete the 2016-2017 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) candidate application online at <https://nbcmsprod.perfrms.com/>. Candidates must also pay the annual NBPTS registration fee and register and pay for the first component.

If a candidate is found eligible for and awarded the Albert Shanker Grant, the New York State Education Department will fund the cost of the remaining three components to National Board. After a candidate completes the National Board process, the candidate will be reimbursed for the cost of his/her first component provided that the candidate did not receive any form of reimbursement for his/her first component from any source.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Albert Shanker Grant, candidates must:

1. be employed as a full-time teacher in a NYS public school;
2. hold a valid New York State teaching certificate;
3. hold tenure in his/her current position;
4. commit to and actually complete the entirety of the initial NBPTS candidacy effort;
5. continue to be employed as a full-time teacher in a New York public school for at least one full school year following completion of the initial grant period;
6. apply for NBPTS certification and pay for the first component selected; and
7. apply for the Albert Shanker Grant.

District Reimbursement

Each eligible teacher's sponsoring school district shall be eligible to receive a direct reimbursement from the department in an amount up to \$500 to cover the cost of supportive services, which may include the cost of hiring a substitute teacher for up to three days or the duration of such eligible teacher's approved leave, whichever is less. To qualify for such a reimbursement, a sponsoring school district must submit a form.

The form and link will be posted on March 1, 2017 on a secure portal. The reimbursement submission period will be from April 1, 2017- June 30, 2017.

As of December 2015, more than 1,750 New York State teachers have been awarded National Board Certification.

Application Process for Albert Shanker grant

The NBPTS determines the registration period for teachers to apply for certification. The current period is April 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017. NBPTS consists of four Components to be completed over the course of three years. Currently, the NBPTS certification process costs \$1,900. Through Section 3004-a of New York State Education Law and Part 86 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Albert Shanker grant provides support funding of up to \$2,500 per candidate to eligible New York State public school teachers seeking their first National Board Certification. The grant is contingent on candidates' continued eligibility as a full-time, certified and tenured, classroom teacher in a New York State public school setting.

The application process consists of the following steps:

1. Candidates must first register with NBPTS to purchase one of the four components for certification, (Candidates are responsible for the purchase of the First component of \$475. This amount is reimbursed by NYSED to the candidate once they have achieved or completed the National Board process.)
2. Candidates complete and submit NYSED's online application for the Albert Shanker grant
3. Once Steps 1 and 2 are completed, the candidate must submit copies of their payment for the Application Fee and purchase of the First Component from NBPTS to NYSED, (the copies of receipts may be submitted through email, fax or mail)
4. The candidate's submission requirements are verified by NYSED's Albert Shanker program office
5. Candidates are notified if their submission meets the requirements or if there are issues
6. National Board is sent a list of candidates who will be awarded the grant through a transmittal record with the fund of \$1,425 per candidate indicated on the transmittal
7. Once National Board confirms the transmittal of candidates, NYSED's program office notifies candidates they have received the Albert Shanker grant
8. A credit is authorized for direct payment to candidates' accounts with NBPTS
9. Candidates purchase Components as they wish through NBPTS utilizing the Albert Shanker funds.

The total amount of funding appropriated for the Albert Shanker grant is \$342,000. In the 2015-2016 certification period, 153 candidates received the Albert Shanker grant.

Currently, there are 94 candidates who have received the grant. The application period will close on January 31, 2017, unless funds have been exhausted prior to that date.

8 CRR-NY II C 86 NotesNY-CRR

OFFICIAL COMPILATION OF CODES, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

TITLE 8. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

CHAPTER II. REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER

SUBCHAPTER C. TEACHERS

PART 86. ALBERT SHANKER NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS CERTIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM

8 CRR-NY II C 86 Notes

8 CRR-NY II C 86 Notes

(Statutory authority: Education Law, §§ 207, 3004-a)

86.1 Definitions.

For purposes of Education Law, section 3004-a and of this Part:

(a) *Eligible teacher* shall mean a teacher who:

(1) is currently teaching in a public school in New York State;

(2) holds tenure;

(3) is a graduate of an accredited college or university;

(4) holds a valid New York State teaching certificate or a valid teaching license issued pursuant to law or regulation by the superintendent of schools of the city school district of Buffalo or by the chancellor of the city school district of the City of New York;

(5) was accepted as a certificate candidate by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards on or after April 1, 1999, or has made application to the national board for acceptance as a certificate candidate on or after September 1, 1999; and

(6) has not previously received funding pursuant to Education Law, section 3004-a, the Albert Shanker National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Grant Program.

(b) *Sponsoring school district* shall mean a public school district or board of cooperative educational services (BOCES) which employs an eligible teacher who seeks national board certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and which approves such eligible teacher's leave to seek such certification.

86.2 Application.

Eligible teachers seeking a grant pursuant to Education Law, section 3004-a and this Part shall submit an application in a form provided by the commissioner. Such application shall include the following:

(a) documentation that the applicant is an eligible teacher, which may include a written statement signed by an officer of the sponsoring school district verifying that the applicant is employed as a tenured teacher by such sponsoring district; and

(b) documentation that the applicant has properly submitted a completed application for national board certification to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards between April 1, 1999 and June 30, 2000, inclusive, and that such applicant meets the national board's eligibility criteria.

86.3 Processing and approval of applications.

Applications for grant awards received by the department from eligible teachers shall be evaluated and processed by the department in the following manner:

(a) An eligible teacher who, between April 1, 1999 and November 30, 1999, inclusive, submits a properly completed application to the department and a properly completed application for national board certification to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, shall be awarded a grant pursuant to Education Law, section 3004-a and this Part, to the extent that funds are available, in the order in which his or her application is received by the department. If an eligible teacher's application to the national board is made prior to such teacher's application to the department, as indicated by postmark or other proof of delivery, the department shall consider such earlier date as the date of receipt by the department for evaluation and approval purposes.

(b) An eligible teacher who, between December 1, 1999 and June 30, 2000, inclusive, submits a properly completed application to the department and a properly completed application for national board certification to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, shall be a candidate to receive a grant award pursuant to Education Law, section 3004-a and this Part. If the number of candidates does not exceed the availability of funds, all such candidates shall be awarded a grant pursuant to Education Law, section 3004-a and this Part. If the number of candidates exceeds the availability of funds, the department shall conduct a lottery of all such candidates on July 1, 2000. All candidates selected by such lottery shall be awarded a grant pursuant to Education Law, section 3004-a and this Part to the extent that funds are available.

(c) An eligible teacher who, on or after July 1, 2000, submits a properly completed application to the department and a properly completed application for national board certification to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, may be eligible to receive a grant award pursuant to Education Law, section 3004-a and this Part, to the extent that funds are available, subject to the following procedures:

(1) An eligible teacher who, between July 1st and November 30th, inclusive, submits a properly completed application to the department and a properly completed application for national board certification to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, shall be awarded a grant pursuant to Education Law, section 3004-a and this Part, to the extent that funds are available, in the order in which his or her application is received by the department.

(2) An eligible teacher who, between December 1st and June 30th of the next succeeding year, inclusive, submits a properly completed application to the department and a properly completed application for national board certification to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, shall be a candidate to receive a grant award pursuant to Education Law, section 3004-a and this Part. The department shall conduct a lottery of all such candidates on July 1st of the next succeeding year. All candidates selected by such lottery shall be awarded a grant pursuant to Education Law, section 3004-a and this Part to the extent that funds are available.

86.4 Allocation of grant awards.

Pursuant to Education Law, section 3004-a and this Part, a grant in an amount of up to \$2,500 shall be made available from the Albert Shanker National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Grant Program to each eligible teacher and sponsoring school district, as follows:

(a) Each eligible teacher who is awarded a grant shall receive an amount up to \$2,500 to defray the unreimbursed expenses of certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

(b) From such \$2,500 grant, each eligible teacher's sponsoring school district shall be eligible to receive a direct reimbursement from the department in an amount up to \$500 to cover the cost of supportive services, which may include the cost of hiring a substitute teacher for up to three days or the duration of such eligible teacher's approved leave, whichever is less. To qualify for such reimbursement, a sponsoring school district must submit an affirmation of support and a statement of expenditures, in a form prescribed by the commissioner.

86.5 Repayment obligations.

(a) An eligible teacher who receives a grant award pursuant to Education Law, section 3004-a and this Part shall be liable for repayment of such grant to the department if such eligible teacher:

(1) does not complete the process; or

(2) completes the process, but does not teach in a New York State public school for at least one full year after achieving National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification.

(b) Repayment of the grant is not required:

(1) if the certification process is not completed or if the eligible teacher fails to teach for one full year after completion due to his or her death, disability or other extenuating circumstances including, but not limited to, a personal or family-related crisis or tragedy which, in the opinion of the commissioner or the Board of Regents, renders such eligible teacher incapable of completing his or her obligations; or

(2) if the eligible teacher completes the process but does not achieve certification.

NY Education Law 3004-A—National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Grant Program

1. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law, the commissioner shall establish the Albert Shanker national board for professional teaching standards certification grant program, to be used by the department to defray any costs incurred by an eligible teacher, as that term is described in subdivision two of this section and his or her sponsoring school district, where such eligible teacher seeks national board certification from the national board for professional teacher standards.

2. As used in this section, "eligible teacher" shall mean a New York state tenured public school teacher who:

(a) is currently teaching in New York state;

(b) has graduated from an accredited college or university; and

(c) holds a valid New York state teaching certificate.

3. Under the provisions of this section and subject to the filing requirement described in subdivision four of this section, a grant in an amount of up to two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) shall be made available from the Albert Shanker national board for professional teaching standards certification grant program to each eligible teacher to defray the expenses of certification by the national board for professional teaching standards. Such sum may include the direct reimbursement by the

department to the eligible teacher's sponsoring school district from the total grant award to cover the cost of hiring a substitute teacher for up to three days or the duration of such eligible teacher's approved leave, whichever is less.

4. The commissioner shall be responsible for promulgating any regulations necessary to effectuate the provisions of this section, including:

(a) establishing within the department an application form and filing deadline requirements to be utilized by eligible teachers applying for the Albert Shanker national board for professional teaching standards grant program;

(b) establishing a mechanism for processing and approving applications within the department;

(c) establishing a mechanism to allocate grant awards to approved eligible teachers; and

(d) establishing a mechanism to reimburse sponsoring school districts for up to three days of approved leave as described in subdivision three of this section.

5. An eligible teacher for whom the state pays a participation fee shall be liable for repayment of the grant to the department if such eligible teacher:

(a) does not complete the process; or

(b) completes the process, but does not teach in a New York state public school for at least one full year after achieving national board for professional teaching standards certification.

6. Repayment of the grant is not required:

(a) if the certification process is not completed or if the eligible teacher fails to teach for one full year after completion due to his or her death or disability or some other extenuating circumstances as may be recognized by the board of regents; or

(b) if the eligible teacher completes the process but does not achieve certification.