



NM NBCT Scholarship FAQs

SY25-26 Application Cycle

Through funding appropriated annually by the NM Legislature, the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) may award up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in grants to *reimburse* the cost of National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) components to eligible

*educators who are seeking NBCT certification or Maintenance of NBCT Certification (MOC) from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (<https://www.nbpts.org/>). Scholarships are awarded annually. NBCT candidates **must** re-apply each year they are working on completion of components (3 years maximum) for the scholarship. Unutilized funds revert back into the scholarship fund for the next scholarship cycle. The **SY25-26 NB Scholarship** application cycle window will open **Monday, April 14th 2025** and remain open until **June 27th, 2025**. Award notifications will be sent during the month of July, by no later than **Thursday, July 31, 2025**. Awardees will be, upon submission of required documentation, reimbursed for components completed from **July 2025 - June 30, 2026** (i.e. SY25 - 26).

An educator is eligible to apply if:

- They are a resident of New Mexico (J1, J2, and H1B visa holders are not eligible) **and**;
- They hold a valid Level 2 or Level 3A NM teaching license (if administrator- NM Educational Administration (Pre K-12); if school counselor- NM School Counselor Pre K-12) **and**;
- They are a full-time teacher of record **or** employed full-time at a New Mexico public school **for the 2025-2026** school year; **and**
- They submit a letter of reference (LOR) from their current principal (in the case of an administrator, a LOR from whomever they directly report to). This letter must include:
 - how you have demonstrated leadership,
 - how you engage and include all students, **and**
 - why you are a good candidate for NBCT.

WHAT MAY THE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS BE USED FOR?

The PED will prioritize awards for candidates seeking initial certification in high needs areas (i.e. STEM, SPED, Bilingual education, TESOL endorsed, or any other area deemed high need- this list adjusts annually based on needs of the state). A small amount may be set aside to support teachers who are in the process of renewing their certification (MOC). Recipients may use the funds to pay the fee for the submission of initial components or the renewal of their certification.

WHAT THE SCHOLARSHIP MAY NOT BE USED FOR?

- Registration fees paid to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- Resubmission of a component that an applicant did not pass during the initial submission.
- Any fees paid for work completed outside the dates/cycle for which the school year an award is received.

Is the scholarship awarded by the NBPT?

No, the scholarship is funded by the New Mexico Legislature and awarded by the PED. The NBPT and more specifically, our state chapter is the organization that offers support and guidance to educators who are completing the process. They have multiple tools in place to assist educators in becoming certified. You can find out more at this link: www.nmnbtctnetwork.com

Is the scholarship for first-time applicants only?

No, however the NMPED will prioritize awards for first time applicants in high need areas.

Are principals/administrators and school counselors also eligible for the New Mexico National Board Certification Scholarship?

Yes, however, they must be currently employed full-time in a New Mexico public school.

Can NBCT achievement be utilized to move from a Level 1 to a Level 2 license or a Level 2 to a Level 3 license?

*Yes. Please visit the [PED Advancement Program Level Micro-Credentials page](#) for more information.

*Level 1 teachers are not eligible for the scholarship unless they have completed 3 years of teaching and will be in their 4th year of teaching during the school year their scholarship cycle covers (see page 1). NBCT is not intended for novice teachers.

I have a new administrator this year and they haven't observed my teaching. May I ask my principal from last year to write my letter of recommendation?

If your current administrator has not had the opportunity to observe your teaching, your application must include a letter from your current administrator **and** your previous administrator.

Does the scholarship apply to teachers who are part of State Supported Education

Programs such as: New Mexico Corrections Department Sequoyah Adolescent, UNM Hospitals, and Juvenile Justice?

Yes. Educators who teach at NM State Supported Schools are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

Does this scholarship cover the entire cost of becoming board certified or just a portion of it?

Teachers may apply to cover the cost of one or all components. According to nbpts.org, each of the four components costs \$475, for a total certification cost of \$1,900. There is a \$75 non refundable registration fee for each year a candidate is completing components. The \$75 registration fee is **NOT** covered by the scholarship. *You are responsible for paying the \$75 registration fee.*

Do I pay for the components and the scholarship reimburses me or does it pay for them up front?

Scholarship awardees will receive instructions for component cost reimbursement via [Region 9 Education Cooperative](#).

Will National Board candidates have to complete all components in one year in order for the scholarship to pay their fees?

No. Teachers should only apply for the scholarship amount they need to cover the components they will purchase and complete during the school year specific to the scholarship cycle (see pg. 1)

May I apply if I have already submitted one or more components?

Yes, but the scholarship cycle for which the applicant applied will only cover components completed during the specified school year (see pg. 1). Past submitted/completed components will **NOT** be eligible for reimbursement.

What happens if my application is not received until after the deadline or is incomplete?

Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be read or scored by the review panel and will not be considered for a scholarship.

May I begin working on the process while I await notification of my scholarship application?

Yes. One may begin working on any or all of the components prior. Do **NOT** submit/pay for/complete components you are planning on having reimbursed through the scholarship until

AFTER you have been awarded the scholarship. Specific instructions will be provided upon notification of award for how to proceed with submitting completed components and the reimbursement process.

Who decides who the scholarship winners are?

A review panel facilitated by the NMPED's Educator Quality Division will read and score the applications.

Who issues the awards?

The NMPED determines who receives the awards and the funds are awarded by Region 9 Education Cooperative on behalf of the NMPED.

Will I hear something even if I don't get a scholarship? When will I hear if I did or didn't receive a scholarship?

Yes. You will be notified whether you receive a scholarship or not. You will be notified no later than July 31.

For support: You may also want to contact your district or charter school's human resources office or your union, for additional NBCT support.

NM NBCT Network- If you receive the scholarship, your name and contact information will be provided to your regional coordinator for support	Katie Lake: President- katrina.lake@nmbctnetwork.com Regional Contact info: https://www.nmbctnetwork.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=22&Itemid=290
Albuquerque Teachers Federation (ATF)	nationalboard@atfunion.org https://atfunion.org/professional-learning/
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)	https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/journeytotopbrochure0607.pdf
National Education NEA	https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/professional-learning/resources/national-board-jump-start
LANL Foundation	Paul LeFrancois, K12 Program Coordinator at the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation. Email: paul@lanlfoundation.org / Phone: 505-428-9109 https://lanlfoundation.org/program/k-12/2022-2023-nbct-network-cohort/

If you have additional questions that are not addressed in this document or on the application form, please submit your question to Educator.Pathways@ped.nm.gov.