

NATIONAL BOARD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CERTIFICATION: The Journey to Accomplished Teaching

BY BETSY GILES, NBCT
TONIA HOLMES-SUTTON, Ed.D, NBCT

Clark County Education Association (CCEA) is a union of educators committed to elevating the education profession. Its support of the National Board Certification Professional Learning Program (NBPLP) is evidence of that commitment. It is the aim of the CCEA National Board Professional Learning Program, in partnership with Clark County School District (CCSD), National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), and University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) to increase access to National Board Certification in Clark County; particularly within CCSD's highest-need school settings, by growing the existing state support system and establishing National Board Professional Development Schools.

The National Board Professional Learning Program currently consists of seven traditional cohorts and ten National Board Professional Development (NBPD) School sites. The National Board Professional Development Schools program is funded by the Nevada Department of Education's Great Teaching and Leading Grant. The strategic priorities of National Board Certification professional development addresses educational concerns regarding *recruitment, selection, and retention; Nevada Educator Performance Framework (NEPF) implementation; and leadership training and development* while emphasizing improvement of instruction, professional practice, and student outcomes. These aims align with local district strategic imperatives and state educational goals of academic excellence, increased student achievement, improved learning, and accomplished teaching.

Each of the ten National Board Professional Development School sites has a cohort which consists of five to ten candidates of diverse certification areas, pursuing National Board Certification. The cohorts are supported by a site-based leadership team, comprised of a site administrator, a trained National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) facilitator, and a teacher-liaison, who collaborate and communicate with one another to ensure that the necessary supports are in place to assist candidates in impacting teaching and learning throughout the National Board journey using the National Board Standards as a common language.

The NBPD Schools cohorts are provided benefits that include twenty-four (24) hours of on-site professional development, a grant scholarship for one National Board component for each candidate, an additional component grant scholarship for the assigned teacher-liaison, access to National Board Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) and Clark County Education Association (CCEA) training documents, NBCT peer support, and online support.

The traditional National Board Certification cohorts meet throughout the Las Vegas Valley, Henderson, and North Las Vegas and are developed by specific certification areas (i.e. Literacy, ELA, World Languages, Social Studies, STEM, and Specialists' areas). Traditional, large group

meetings are held twice a month at the Nevada State Education Association (NSEA) offices in Las Vegas, focusing on the components of the certification process. Additionally, candidates are afforded the opportunity to meet in small group cohorts, where they receive personalized coaching and instruction.

Traditional and National Board Professional Development Schools cohorts provide learning opportunities that emphasize a demonstration and reflection of accomplished teaching and improved student learning. Committed to addressing the challenge of ensuring equitable access to excellent educators, the CCEA National Board Professional Learning Program is positioned to positively impact over 200 educators and nearly 3,300 students during the 2015-2016 school year. Join us on our National Board Certification journey to excellence in education. Visit CCEA at www.ccea-nv.org for additional information regarding pursuit of National Board Certification.

About the Authors

Betsy Giles, is a National Board Certified Teacher, and the Clark County Education Association (CCEA) National Board Program Director; Nevada National Board Network

Tonia Holmes-Sutton, Ed.D., is a National Board Certified Teacher and the NBPTS NT3 Director for Clark County, Nevada; Nevada National Board Network. She also serves as a TeachStrong Ambassador, Nevada State BOE member, and a WestEd Board of Directors member.

About Clark County Education Association (CCEA)

The Clark County Education Association is a union of educators committed to elevating the education profession, ensuring safe and just working conditions, and economic security for educators, through collective advocacy for the advancement of free, universal, quality public education. For more information, visit <http://www.ccea-nv.org>



Clark County Education Association
4230 McLeod Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121-5126
