

2025-26 Application for National Board Certification Annual Award

Deadline: Applications must be **postmarked by May 1, 2026**.

Overview

The Iowa Department of Education (Department) provides an **annual award of up to \$2,500** for teachers who achieve National Board Certification (NBC).

- The award is available for **up to 10 nonrenewable years, for a maximum total of \$25,000**.
- Annual legislative appropriations are required for continued funding.
- If the number of applicants exceeds available funding, **awards will be prorated** as required by Iowa Code section 256.44(2).

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for the NBC annual award, a teacher **must**:

- Apply for the initial award within one year of becoming eligible.
- Submit an annual application by May 1 each year.
- Be an Iowa-licensed teacher employed by an Iowa public school district, receiving salary as a classroom teacher.
- Hold a valid National Board license.

Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) Districts

Can a National Board Certified teacher receive the annual award while serving in a teacher leadership position?

Yes. NBC teachers may continue receiving the award if they meet Iowa Code section 256.44 requirements. To continue qualifying, teacher leaders must provide instruction to students for part of their duties. Instruction may include:

- Co-teaching
- Demonstration lessons
- Modeling effective teaching strategies and practices

Application Timeline

Application deadline: May 1, 2026

Award payment deadline: The Department must issue payments by June 1 of each fiscal year.

Questions?

Contact:

Tana Mullen, Executive Officer

Email: tana.mullen@iowa.gov

Phone: 515-281-3333

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Deadline: Applications must be **postmarked by May 1, 2026.**

Email and fax submissions are not accepted. Type or print clearly.

Applicant teacher's name: _____

Teacher's Iowa license folder number: _____ National Board Cert #: _____

School district where teacher is employed: _____

School building where teacher teaches: _____

Address of school building: _____

Work phone #: _____ Work Email: _____

Teacher's home address: _____

Personal phone #: _____ Personal Email: _____

Yes ___ No ___ I receive salary compensation from the school district for providing classroom instruction to students in the school district. *(To be eligible, you must receive at least part of your salary for providing classroom instruction.)*

Yes ___ No ___ I have a full-time teaching contract. If no, please indicate the percentage of your contract: _____% *(If your contract is less than full-time, your annual award will be prorated accordingly - e.g., half-time, quarter-time.)*

Yes ___ No ___ I am eligible to receive up to \$950 in final registration fee reimbursement. *(Applies only to those who earned National Board Certification in December 2025 and previously received a registration fee payment.)*

Yes ___ No ___ For educators new to Iowa: Did you receive compensation for National Board Certification from another state?
If yes, state: _____
Amount received: \$ _____

I received certification in 20____. I have _____ year(s) of certification remaining.

Applicant teacher's signature: I understand that my signature gives the Department permission to verify periodically with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) my NBC status. I understand that my signature below supersedes my request for confidentiality indicated on my application to the NBPTS.

Teacher's signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal or superintendent's signature: Required to verify teacher is employed by an Iowa school district and receives salary compensation for providing classroom instruction to students in the school district. TLC District: The teacher meets the requirements specified in Iowa Code 256.44. Specifically, to continue to receive the award a teacher leader's duties must include providing instruction to students (which may include co-teaching, providing demonstration lessons, or modeling effective teaching strategies and practices) for a portion of their time.

Principal or superintendent's signature: _____ Date: _____

Deliver or mail a hard copy of the application to: Tana Mullen, Executive Officer
Iowa Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

Email: tana.mullen@iowa.gov

Annual awards for eligible applicants will be mailed June 1, 2026.