

**Title of Session:** National Board Certification Support Group

**Moderator:** Gayle Britt

**Title of File:** 20050425nbc

**Date:** April 25, 2005

Room: On Tap Café

**GayleB:** Is everyone here for info or are some of you candidates?

**KennethR:** Info

**KateCr:** first, what is national board certification?

**ClaudiaG:** info

**BJB2:** May I give a couple housekeeping tips first, Gayle?

**JamiseLe:** info

**GayleB:** sure

**KateCr:** info

**BJB2:** if you're new to Tapped In, please go to the Actions menu in the top right of this chat window and click on DETACH

**BJB2:** this will make your chat window larger and easier to read

**PatriciaLH:** Is this about board certification in ed tech, library science, or ...

**BJB2:** if Gayle shows a url, make sure you hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard to override any pop up blockers

**KennethR:** Okay

**BJB2:** we usually start each Tapped In discussion with introductions. I know you all have a lot of questions for Gayle, but let's do intro's first

**BJB2:** Please tell us where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

**GayleB:** Yes, please.

**PatriciaLH:** I teach middle school math in Troy, MO. I hope to become one of the tech specialists for my district.

**ClaudiaG:** I am Claudia a University of Houston preservice teacher

**KateCr:** I attend the University of Houston in Houston TX and would like to teach 2nd or 3rd grade when I graduate

**KennethR:** Hi I am a grad student from Louisiana.

**KennethR:** attends McNeese State

**PatriciaLH:** I attend Mizzou.

**JamiseLe:** I am interested in National Board Certification in Mathematics

**BJB2** hands the virtual floor over to Gayle

**KennethR:** I am interested in History

**GayleB:** This is exciting. You all are starting your teaching career and I've been teaching for 25 years +

**PatriciaLH:** I am interested in Math or Ed Tech.

**GayleB:** Teachers who achieve National Board certification are certified to teach in most of the 50 states. To begin the process teachers must have taught for three years.

**KateCr:** I would like to know what National Certification is first

**KateCr:** does this include elementary

**GayleB:** And the website is:

**GayleB:** <http://www.nbpts.org/>

**GayleB:** You choose the area you want to get certified in.

**GayleB:** General elementary is one of the categories.

**KennethR:** I would like to teach from 5-8 grade

**GayleB:** For those who teach middle or high school you can go for a single subject such as history

**KennethR:** History or Math

**KateCr:** What are some of the benefits of this certification?

**GayleB:** The early adolescent credential is to teach 11 to 14 year olds.

**KennethR:** Can I teach without being certified

**GayleB:** You can always get certified in your state. One benefit of national cert. is that it is good in most states.

**PatriciaLH:** If I have math certification to 9th grade, can I become NBC in Math?

**KennethR:** Or once I have a Master's Degree, will I still need to get certified

**JamiseLe:** Do the benefits vary state to state?

**ClaudiaG:** How long does it take to get certified?

**GayleB:** You will get the national cert. in addition to your state credential because you must teach for three years.

**PatriciaLH:** Are most states requiring new teacher's to become board certified?

**GayleB:** Yes, Patricia, you would probably want to go for the math certification.

**KateCr:** What steps are involved to become certified?

**GayleB:** The benefits vary from state to state. NB is so highly valued that most states give monetary incentives

**PatriciaLH:** I believe my question was misleading. My goal is to become a high school teacher.

**GayleB:** No one is requiring it (that I know of).

**GayleB:** But many school districts offer a salary increase for those who have it.

**JamiseLe:** I am very sure that the monetary incentives attract many people to try it

**PatriciaLH:** How long of a process is certification? Are extra classes required?

**GayleB:** Yes, but it is very rigorous and I must say the best training I've ever gone through

**KennethR:** What about Louisiana. Do you know if it's a requirement?

**ClaudiaG:** About how long does it take?

**GayleB:** No classes are required. Putting together the portfolio takes over 200 hours and then there is a subject matter assessment

**GayleB:** Many teachers do it in one year.

**JamiseLe:** Kenneth it is not required

**KennethR:** Thanks

**PatriciaLH:** Maybe I should be ecstatic about my district requiring portfolios next year. Do they offer a certification in educational technology?

**GayleB:** It consists of 4 portfolio entries.

**ClaudiaG:** Do I find additional info of the website you posted earlier?

**GayleB:** Yes, Patricia, look at the career one and see if that fits you.

**JamiseLe:** My concern is that once a teacher moves from state to state will the National Board Certification follow?

**GayleB:** Please go to the website for all this information.

**GayleB:** Yes, the certification follows you.

**ClaudiaG:** Thank you

**GayleB:** The portfolio shows evidence of meeting national teaching standards

**KateCr:** What types of items are included in the portfolio?

**GayleB:** In the process of doing the portfolio one looks at his/her own teaching and improves

**KennethR:** Is this a one time thing this certification

**GayleB:** Certification is for 10 years. I've had mine for five, so I'll need to look at renewing in a few years

**GayleB:** Mine is in History

**KennethR:** Thanks, Gayle

**ClaudiaG:** To renew do you just take a test?

**GayleB:** Frankly I haven't looked into it yet.

**PatriciaLH:** Would it be similar to a district portfolio for certification. Do you continually update your portfolio or will you start over from the beginning?

**GayleB:** If your portfolio meets the standards you need only do it once.

**GayleB:** You'll be sending in video tapes of your teaching

**GayleB:** You'll be sending in student work with evaluation

**ClaudiaG:** What does the portfolio consist of, sorry if you already answered this?

**PatriciaLH:** Wouldn't it be outdated after ten years?

**GayleB:** It is very clear what is required for each of the four portfolio entries.

**JamiseLe:** So constantly you would be keeping up with materials?

**GayleB:** The national social studies/history teaching standards:

**GayleB:** I. Knowledge of Students

**GayleB:** II. Valuing Diversity

**GayleB:** III. Knowledge of Subject Matter

**GayleB:** IV. Advancing Disciplinary Knowledge and Understanding

**GayleB:** V. Promoting Social Understanding

**GayleB:** VI. Developing Civic Competence

**GayleB:** VIII. Learning Environments

**GayleB:** IX Assessment

**GayleB:** X Reflection

**GayleB:** Each entry shows that these standards are met

**KennethR:** Is this the areas I would have to work with for History I guess

**GayleB:** For an entry the candidate provides clear, consistent, and convincing evidence of meeting the standards

**GayleB:** When you decide to become a candidate one gets a box with all the materials

**KateCr:** Evidence would include video's and student samples with assessments?

**GayleB:** The standards, instructions for each entry, etc.

**ClaudiaG:** Do you have to apply for certification?

**GayleB:** One must give a description, analysis, and reflection for each entry.

**KennethR:** And what is the fee?

**GayleB:** Yes, you have to apply and the fee is \$2300. My district paid my fee.

**GayleB:** There are support groups around the country where people meet together to work through the portfolio and then to study for the test.

**KennethR:** I wish my district pays for mines if I decide to do it

**GayleB:** I work at one that meets at Stanford U.

**JamiseLe:** If you decide to do it then you must really be ready for the price as well as the time required to put it together

**GayleB:** I think it is very useful to do this with someone.

**JamiseLe:** I know a few people who have become NBC in my district

**KennethR:** Do you know of any groups in Louisiana?

**GayleB:** My history group meets and we go over the standards. They bring video tapes and we look at them and talk about where we see the standards being met. It is very useful.

**GayleB:** Everybody's entries are different, but we are all working to understand the same standards so it helps to discuss.

**ClaudiaG:** If I were already teaching, do you think NBC will require a large amount of time?

**KennethR:** Where do you meet?

**GayleB:** For me it took about 200+ hours

**GayleB:** I'm with the support group that meets at Stanford University, but you might do a google search for one in your area

**KateCr:** So just to clarify, are the standards for the portfolios universal, reviewed by an objective arbiter, or some other manner?

**GayleB:** Some people attend the support group sessions for a year before they start the process themselves

**KennethR:** I'll do that

**BJB2:** . o O ( don't forget to mention that there is a support group here in TI also, Gayle )

**JamiseLe:** I will have to do the same

**GayleB:** There is also a support group that meets online in TI

**BJB2:** chuckles...good job!

**ClaudiaG:** This sounds great and there are many support systems!

**KennethR:** Times that they meet on TI

**BJB2:** there is a group room where you can contact Gayle and the group asynch using the threaded discussion board

**JamiseLe:** With all of the support groups then it may not be bad at all

**BJB2:** would you like information on how to join the group?

**ClaudiaG:** That will be great!

**DarrolD:** Yes, please

**KennethR:** Yes I would BJB

**GayleB:** I actually mentored someone teaching at a U.S. school in Egypt!

**BJB2:** click on the SEARCH tab in the top right of your screen

**BJB2:** . o O ( you may need to attach your chat window )

**BJB2:** then click on GROUPS

**GayleB:** He sent me his entries and I read them and wrote back asking questions I had.

**BJB2:** Enter NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

**JamiseLe:** How did it work out for him?

**BJB2:** when you get a match, click on the group name next to the green i

**GayleB:** When a person reads an entry or views a video what we think doesn't matter so we do not give opinions. We put everything against the standards.

**BJB2:** you should see an ID page for the group with a place to join the group at the top of the page

**JamiseLe:** ok I understand

**GayleB:** He will know in November! That's the other part...you have to wait for the results.

**ClaudiaG:** The standards serve as a rubric

**GayleB:** Yes!

**JamiseLe:** That is a long time

**GayleB:** The group I just mentored submitted their portfolios by March 30

**GayleB:** They will take the test by June 30 and will find out results by Nov. 30

**KateCr:** Is the test similar to the state certification tests?

**GayleB:** There is a window now. So if any of you are ready I think you can start now.

**DarrolD:** Gayle, so how much time will you be mentoring him?

**ClaudiaG:** Is the test based on the standards?

**DarrolD:** ok

**GayleB:** Test is on content and how you would teach it.

**JamiseLe:** They will not even know by the start of next school

**GayleB:** My group has been studying all of world hist. and American history

**JamiseLe:** When will their monetary incentives begin?

**GayleB:** The year I certified my salary increase was retroactive to September. It is up to the district.

**DarrolD:** Gayle, how much time difference would be saved if you were there in Egypt, instead of over the internet?

**DarrolD:** Any?

**GayleB:** I hesitate to say this but at the time I received cert. the state of California was giving a \$10,000 incentive!

**KateCr:** Does being a mentor require more certification than merely receiving your NBC?

**ClaudiaG:** WOW!

**GayleB:** Darrol, That's an interesting question that I do not know the answer to.

**JamiseLe:** My state will never pay me that much.

**DarrolD:** You are right Jamise

**GayleB:** No, but I love being a mentor, because I learn so much from the teachers I work with.

**GayleB:** It is staff development to me.

**GayleB:** They all have great ideas etc.

**KateCr:** what does a mentor do?

**GayleB:** I proofread their portfolio entries.

**KennethR:** Do you apply some of this in your actual training of others, Gayle

**GayleB:** Go over the meaning of the standards

**KennethR:** okay

**GayleB:** View the videos, look at rubrics, etc.

**KateCr:** Do you proofread for grammar, content, or conformity with the expectations and requirements of the NBC review body?

**GayleB:** Yes, Kenneth I do apply this to others.

**GayleB:** All of it.

**KennethR:** okay

**KateCr:** What do you typically hope to find in a particular portfolio entry?

**GayleB:** Evidence of meeting the teaching standard

**GayleB:** Teachers describe their lesson, analyze their teaching, and reflect on how they might make changes.

**ClaudiaG:** It's like a self evaluation

**DarrolD:** Gayle, are there any particular common mistakes that people make on their portfolios that you see often?

**GayleB:** There is a page limit and sometimes a person will spend 8 of 12 pages just describing the lesson

**GayleB:** So I might have the person go through their 8 pages marking where they described, analyzed, or reflected.

**GayleB:** Then the person begins to see that they need to edit the description and add more analysis.

**GayleB:** I never tell anyone what to do

**KennethR:** Do you proofread it again for them after corrections are done?

**GayleB:** We just look at what is required and people self evaluate

**GayleB:** If they want I do proofread again.

**GayleB:** I benefited from this process so much that I set up eportfolios based on NB in my classroom

**KennethR:** Do you have to send them back for a third time for mistakes

**DarrolD:** Gayle, are there any particular common mistakes that people make on their portfolios that you can mention?

**KateCr:** Do you find that the self-analysis carries an inherent regional difference manifest themselves in different approaches and biases which teachers apply as they attempt to convey concepts and ideas to students of a like-minded community?

**GayleB:** I decided if I learned so much the students would too and it has been a fabulous learning experience

**GayleB:** Kate, we go through bias training as do the NB assessors.

**KateCr:** In the bias training, what are some of the most pronounced nuances of the different regions?

**GayleB:** When I see something being taught in a way that I would not teach it that is not the point

**GayleB:** Everything must be held against the standards not my or anyone's biases

**KateCr:** So what would you tell a teacher from Kansas submitting a portfolio entry detailing her attempts to explain Creationism to her students?

**GayleB:** I would say that the assessors reading the portfolio are from all parts of the country

**GayleB:** And that she should be sure to explain well and follow the standards

**KateCr:** Would you tell her that the politically charged nature of her topic may negatively impact the results of her evaluation?

**GayleB:** Kate, it isn't supposed to, but it would be discussed

**GayleB:** Teachers choose which lessons to submit

**BJB2** looks at the clock on the wall and reminds Gayle that the hour is almost up.

**GayleB:** Great discussion, Everyone!

**BJB2** . o O ( the next NBC Support group will meet on May 23 at 8pm EDT)

**GayleB:** I sure hope you'll all consider becoming an NB candidate

**KennethR:** Thanks, especially for me, my 1st time at it

**DarrolD:** Thank you, I will attempt to make the next NBC meeting

**ClaudiaG:** I sure did! Thank you for all the info!

**KennethR:** Thanks, Gayle

**DarrolD:** on time, that is

**KateCr:** Thank you!

**BJB2:** Thanks, Gayle. This was great!

**BJB2:** Don't forget to join the NBC group so you'll get a reminder of the next session

**BJB2** . o O ( if Gayle remembers to post it )

**GayleB:** Bye for now. See you next month.