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News Release

New Teaching Stipend Awards Teachers with National Board Certification

The Colorado Department of Education today announced it will issue \$1,600 teaching stipends to teachers who have earned certification through the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

Eligible teachers may work in school districts, charter schools or through Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

The stipends were created through House Bill 08-1384 during the 2007 legislative session. The legislation stated that National Board Certified Teachers “advance the quality of teaching and learning by maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.”

A second and additional stipend is being awarded for teachers in schools that received low or unsatisfactory ratings on the previous year’s school accountability report.

“CDE is proud to be able to administer and allocate these funds to deserving teachers,” said Jami Goetz, Professional Services and Licensing Executive Director. “The real heroes here are the legislators for recognizing National Board Certification as a nationally accepted sign of quality in the teaching profession.”

The deadline for teacher applications is Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009. To qualify, eligible teachers must be employed to teach in a Colorado public school district in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade. If a teacher is less than full-time, the stipend will be pro-rated.

Individual districts will collect the applications and verify the information. For educators in low or unsatisfactory schools, an additional \$3,200 stipend will be added to the \$1,600 stipend. The money will be transferred to the districts and BOCES in April and to teachers after Friday, May 1, 2009. Funding is available for three years. Teachers who obtain certification during a school year are eligible the following year for stipend funds.

To receive National Board Certification, teachers must demonstrate competency in national content and teaching ability. The certification process can take between one to three years to complete and includes both assessments and a portfolio submission. The certification application costs \$2,500. Scholarships are available to cover a portion of the fee.

Stipend applications can be found at
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/NBCT.htm>

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