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News Release

National Board Certification Stipend Program Reinstated by Gov. Bill Ritter; Scholarship Fund Established

Gov. Bill Ritter announced today the reinstatement of the National Board Certification stipend program with \$1.3 million from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The announcement was one of many funding decisions supporting K-12 education.

The stipend program for teachers began with the passage of House Bill 08-1384. Initially, three years of stipends were planned to encourage teachers to pursue a certificate through the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). However, Senate Bill 09-214 put the stipend award program on hold for one year as one of many statewide budget-balancing steps.

The new \$1.3 million will be disbursed in two phases—the first phase prior to Nov. 2009 for teachers who applied for the stipend in May 2009 and the second for eligible NBPTS teachers in May 2010.

To be eligible, teachers must have earned national board certification and teach from preschool through twelfth grade in a public school. Teachers with part-time schedules may apply for a pro-rated stipend.

Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones thanked Gov. Ritter for support of the national board certification stipends and scholarship program. "It's critical that Colorado advances meaningful, long-term reforms and invests in teachers who strive to meet rigorous national

standards and accept challenging assignments," said Commissioner Jones.

To apply for the stipends to be distributed in May 2010, teachers will complete an application and submit it to their school district along with a copy of their National Board Certification. (An application deadline has not yet been announced.) School counselors are also eligible if they have obtained the NBPTS School Counselor certification.

School districts will submit the lists of qualified applicants to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). CDE will transfer the funds for the stipends to the districts and the districts will be responsible for paying the stipends to the teachers.

Educators who are teaching full time will receive \$1,600. Those teaching in "low" and "unsatisfactory" schools will receive an additional \$3,200 stipend. (The "low" and "unsatisfactory" school ratings were published in School Accountability Reports, the previous system of statewide performance rankings now being replaced by the accreditation system outlined in S.B.09-163.)

Scholarships for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
Gov. Ritter also announced \$200,000 in funding from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund to restore the scholarship program for teachers who are seeking to become certified by the national board.

These will be matching scholarships (\$1,000 from Colorado to match \$1,000 from federal sources) for teachers to help cover the cost of the certification.

Individual teachers who are seeking their certification pay the first \$565 and then apply for the scholarships, which must be refunded if the teacher withdraws from the process.

The scholarship program has supported the certification of hundreds of Colorado teachers. In school year 2005-2006, 76 candidates received scholarships and 39 achieved certification. In 2006-2007, there were 90 scholarships and 54 candidates achieved certification. In school year 2007-2008, there were 86 scholarships and 57 achieved certification. There are 133 candidates from the 2008-09 school year who are waiting to hear if they obtained certification.

To apply for a scholarship, candidates should contact the national board at 1-800-22TEACH or www.nbpts.org. When candidates have

completed the initial paperwork, scholarship forms will be e-mailed to the candidate by CDE for completion. The scholarship forms will be released this week to those who have already applied.

For additional questions, contact Anne Marie Roberts in CDE's Office of Professional Services at roberts_a@cde.state.co.us.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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