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## **News Release**

### ***Seventy-Five More Teachers Now Hold National Board Certification In Colorado***

Seventy-five Colorado teachers achieved National Board Certification in 2009, according to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

That surge represents a 19 percent increase in the total number of teachers holding national board certifications in just one year.

"National Board Certified Teachers are making a positive impact in our schools," said Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones. "As we continue to grow the number of these educator-leaders throughout our state, especially in schools where they are needed the most, we will positively change the culture of learning in classrooms, schools and districts."

Colorado ranks 22nd among all states in the number of teachers achieving board certification this year and ranks 27th in the total number of National Board Certified Teachers, or NBCTs, over time (478).

In Colorado, teachers who earn this certification receive a \$1,600 stipend, created through House Bill 08-1384 during the 2007 legislative session. Those stipends were placed on a one-year hiatus as a budget-balancing step by the Colorado State Legislature earlier this year, but Gov. Bill Ritter announced their reinstatement in late September with \$1.3 million from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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

Colorado NBCTs joined nearly 82,000 teachers who have achieved National Board Certification.

The number of NBCTs nationally has more than doubled in the past five years (from more than 40,000 in 2004 to more than 82,000 in 2009).

More than half of all NBCTs teach in Title I-eligible schools, as reported by National Center for Education Statistics.

Colorado's top five school districts in terms of the cumulative total of NBCTs (based on where teachers currently work) are Cherry Creek Schools (67), Boulder Valley School District (58), Denver Public Schools (53), Douglas County School District (46) and Mesa Valley County School District 51 (29).

National Board Certification is a widely respected model of pay-for-performance and is supported by teachers and administrators nationwide. More than two-thirds of the states provide salary incentives and cover the cost for teachers who pursue and achieve this advanced credential. The Colorado State Legislature provides a \$1,000 scholarship match to the amount of the federal scholarship to individuals seeking certification.

For more information regarding National Board Certification and teacher stipends, contact Anne Marie Roberts in the Office of Professional Services at 303-866-6648 or [roberts\\_a@cde.state.co.us](mailto:roberts_a@cde.state.co.us)

For more information on NBPTS, visit <http://www.nbpts.org/>

**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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