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News Release

New Round Of Scholarships Available For Teachers Seeking National Board Certification

The Colorado Department of Education's Office of Educator Licensing today announced the availability of a new round of scholarships to support teachers applying for National Board Certification.

The cost of the National Board Certification process is \$2,565 and scholarships are available, using Colorado's ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funds as directed by Gov. Bill Ritter, to cover up to \$2,000 of the total.

The certification cycles start now and candidates will work on their assessments until spring 2011. Candidates find out if they achieved certification in November 2011.

Funding will be available for the first 200 candidates who sign up with National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. Candidates pay the \$565 candidate fees and complete the scholarship application forms for both the federal and state scholarship. Candidates must receive a federal scholarship to be eligible for the state scholarship.

Scholarships are provided on a first-come, first-served basis, but Colorado also reserves the right to fund teachers in low-performing schools first.

The scholarship window is now open; the last day to apply for funding is Dec. 1, 2010, if funds are still available.

Currently, there are nearly 100 candidates working towards national board certification. In the latest announcements in November 2009, 75 candidates became certified and 12 candidates renewed their certification, which is good for 10 years.

Several school districts provide salary increases to those who obtain NBPTS certification.

To apply, teachers should begin by applying with NBPTS (<http://www.nbpts.org/>) and completing all paperwork, including paying the \$565. Candidates must check the box that allows their information to be released to funding agencies. They need to complete the federal scholarship form, then the state scholarship form.

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.

For additional questions, contact Anne Marie Roberts in CDE's Office of Professional Services at roberts_a@cde.state.co.us or visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/NBCT.htm>

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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