



Colorado Department of Education – Communications Office  
201 East Colfax Ave.  
Room 207  
Denver, CO 80203  
Phone: 303-866-3898  
Fax: 303-866-6938

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## **News Release**

### ***Nearly 400 National Board Certified Teachers In Colorado Receive Stipend Awards***

The Colorado Department of Education today announced it has issued \$704,883 in teaching stipends to 381 teachers who have earned certification through the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

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.”

Teachers eligible to apply for stipends may work in public school districts, charter schools or through Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). The 381 teachers that received the stipends represent 43 districts, one BOCES and the Charter School Institute.

“Excellent teachers make a profound difference in the lives of children and young people,” said Nancy Shakowski, regional outreach director for the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. “The national board believes that quality teaching is the key to student success. Every student in every classroom deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and excel with a National Board Certified Teacher. National Board Certified Teachers should be valued, recognized and rewarded for their expertise and positive impact on student achievement.”

The school districts with the largest number of NBCTs applying for stipends this year are Cherry Creek School District (73); Boulder Valley School District RE-2 (58); Denver Public Schools (53); Douglas County School District RE-1 (41); Mesa County Valley School District 51 (24) and Colorado Springs School District 11 (21).

A second additional stipend of up to \$3,200 is being awarded for teachers in schools that received low or unsatisfactory ratings on the 2007 school accountability report. Of the 381 teachers, 53 will receive an additional stipend.

To qualify for these additional monies, eligible teachers must have been employed to teach in a Colorado public school district in grades K-12. If a teacher is less than full-time, the stipend is pro-rated.

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.

According to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, National Board Certified Teachers are assuming leadership roles in schools and districts across the nation – serving as mentors, facilitating professional development and leading education reform efforts.

Due to budget deficits, the stipends are being funded with a portion of Colorado's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Because Colorado had more newly certified teachers than anticipated last year, each stipend will be slightly reduced to allow for all eligible candidates to receive a stipend.

For more information about the stipends, contact Anne Marie Roberts in the Office of Professional Services at [roberts\\_a@cde.state.co.us](mailto: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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