

## **MASTER TEACHER PROGRAM FAQ**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

**Registration Award and Salary Bonus payments are subject to availability of funds.**

#### **How does the current 2-year legislative authorization limitation impact Master Teacher funding?**

- Funding for the Master Teacher Program was authorized for 2015-16 and 2016-17. We hope the program will be continued beyond June 30, 2017. IF NOT, the following applies:
  - Master Teacher Salary bonuses will not be available.
  - No additional registration applications will be accepted after June 30, 2017.

NDE anticipates for those who have registered for all NBPTS components prior to June 30, 2017, that they will be eligible for reimbursement if those components are completed after June 30, 2017, but prior to June 30, 2019. This requires that the applicant has paid the **entire** amount prior to June 30, 2017 and completes the certification process by June 30, 2019.

#### **What are the possible awards under the Nebraska Master Teacher Program?**

- Registration Award to participate in the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification processes
- Annual Salary Bonus for those individuals who hold the NBPTS certification ([www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org))
- Professional designation on a Nebraska Certificate upon successful completion of the NBPTS process

#### **Who qualifies?**

- Nebraska Rule 22 (*Regulations Governing the Master Teacher Program*) implements statutory language which is intended to recognize teachers of high achievement in the teaching profession as evidenced by completion of the National Board for Professional Teaching certification.
- For purposes of Rule 22 and the Master Teacher Program, a teacher is defined as a person who holds a valid certificate to teach in Nebraska, who has been employed as a teacher for at least three years in a public or private school accredited or approved by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), and who continues to be employed as a teacher in such school. This includes School Counselors.
- Individuals who may qualify for Master Teacher Program resources include:
  - Nebraska teachers who hold the NBPTS credential or are seeking to complete the process and who met the employment requirements described in the previous paragraph.
  - Individuals who completed the process while in another state but meet the Nebraska employment requirement described above. You may be asked to provide additional information to NDE to document your credential if it was obtained while you were in another state.

- Individuals who **do not** qualify for Master Teacher Program resources include:
  - Retired teachers
  - National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) who do not have 3 years of teaching in a Nebraska school system and are currently employed as a teacher.
  - Individuals who held the NBPTS Certification at one time, but the certification has expired.
  - Individuals who have moved into full-time administration positions (i.e. no longer reported to NDE as a teacher).
  - Individuals who do not hold the NBPTS credential. Although there are other national credentialing organizations related to educators, the Nebraska Master Teacher Program is directed only to individuals who hold the NBPTS credential.

#### **What certificate areas are eligible for National Board Certification?**

- See the National Board webpage at <http://boardcertifiedteachers.org/certificate-areas>.

#### **How much funding is available?**

- The Nebraska Legislature authorized \$470,000 for each of two years (2015-16 and 2016-17) to support Registration Awards and annual Salary Bonuses. Future authorization is possible, but not assured.

#### **What is National Board Certification and how do I get started?**

- **The NBPTS is a specific certification process managed by the National Board for Professional Teaching. It is important that you visit the NBPTS website to learn more about this optional process for teachers to gain national recognition of their teaching expertise. This is a national credentialing process and is above and beyond Nebraska certification requirements.**
- We recommend that you visit:
  - National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) – [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org)
  - NBPTS Getting Started – [www.boardcertifiedteachers.org](http://www.boardcertifiedteachers.org)
  - For important information about timelines, please refer to Pages 4 and 6 of the *Guide to National Board Certification*  
[http://boardcertifiedteachers.org/sites/default/files/Guide\\_to\\_NB\\_Certification.pdf](http://boardcertifiedteachers.org/sites/default/files/Guide_to_NB_Certification.pdf)

#### **REGISTRATION AWARD:**

The Nebraska Legislature has authorized funding during 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 for reimbursement of the “Total Registration Fees” for NBPTS certification. Funding beyond these two years will be determined in the future.

#### **What is the “Total Registration Fee”?**

- The total registration fee (\$1,975.00) includes the initial NBPTS \$75.00 annual fee and the cost for each of the four components @ \$475.00 each. Total reimbursement for any teacher may not exceed \$1,975.00.

### **How many Registration Awards will be available?**

- There will be up to 40 Registration Awards made available annually. Each year (July 1-June 30) teachers will be considered for the Registration Award on a first-come, first-serve basis upon receipt of their required enrollment documentation. The Master Teacher website will be updated if/when the 40 registration awards have been depleted. You may also contact us at [NDE.adultprograms@nebraska.gov](mailto:NDE.adultprograms@nebraska.gov) to ascertain status of available registration awards.

### **What documentation is required to enroll for the Registration Award?**

- The Master Teacher Registration Award Enrollment Form which can be accessed at: [www.education.ne.gov/EducatorPrep/TopPages/MasterTeach.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/EducatorPrep/TopPages/MasterTeach.html) and proof of payment of the NBPTS initial fee and at least one component fee are required for enrollment. NBPTS registrations prior to July 1, 2015 are not eligible for reimbursement.

### **When is the Registration Award Enrollment Form due to NDE?**

- To qualify as one of the 40 individuals eligible for the Registration Award a teacher must enroll with NDE within one year of initial application to NBPTS by submitting the required enrollment documentation. No funds will be reimbursed until the individual has paid the total amount (\$1975) of NBPTS registration fees.

### **Do I need to pay the entire \$1,975.00 to qualify for any reimbursement?**

- Yes. You cannot receive any reimbursement funds until you have paid NBPTS the total registration fees. Registration Awards are subject to availability of funds.

### **How is the Registration Award paid?**

- To request reimbursement of one-half of the total fees (\$987.50) prior to completion of the NBPTS process, the enrolled teacher must provide documentation of payment of the total registration fees (\$1975.00). The balance (\$987.50) of the total registration fees will be reimbursed upon notification that the enrolled teacher has been awarded the national recognition, if funds are available.

### **When will I receive reimbursement award payments?**

- Teachers who are approved by NDE to receive Registration Awards will receive a check approximately four to six weeks from receipt of proof by NDE that the individual has completed payment of the total NBPTS registration fees or that the national recognition has been awarded. It is the individuals' responsibility to submit documentation to NDE.

### **Is there a fee associated with the additional prerequisite for World Language Candidates?**

- World Language candidates for NBPTS certification are required to obtain American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) certification at the required level. In partnership with ACTFL, NBPTS will provide each World Language candidate who registered in the 2014-15, 2015-16 or 2016-17 cycle with one free attempt of both the Oral Proficiency Interview Advanced Level Check (OPIc) and Writing Proficiency Test Advanced Level Check (WPT). NDE will not reimburse for ACTFL assessments during those registration cycles. For more information see [http://boardcertifiedteachers.org/sites/default/files/WL\\_Candidates\\_Prerequisite\\_FAQ.pdf](http://boardcertifiedteachers.org/sites/default/files/WL_Candidates_Prerequisite_FAQ.pdf)

## ANNUAL SALARY BONUS

### **What are the requirements to qualify for the Salary Bonus?**

- To qualify for the Salary Bonus, the teacher must hold current NBPTS credentials and meet employment requirements in a Nebraska public or nonpublic accredited or approved school.
- An application form can be accessed at:  
[www.education.ne.gov/EducatorPrep/TopPages/MasterTeach.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/EducatorPrep/TopPages/MasterTeach.html)

### **Who pays the Salary Bonus?**

- The annual salary bonus is paid directly to the teacher from NDE.

### **What is the amount of the annual Salary Bonus I will qualify for?**

- You may qualify for up to \$5,000 annually. The actual amount is dependent on the number of qualified applicants and funds available. If the number of teachers qualifying for the bonus exceeds the available funds, bonuses will be reduced such that each teacher receives the same bonus amount. The Nebraska Legislature has authorized funding for annual salary bonuses for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. Funding beyond these two years will be determined in the future.

### **What is the deadline for application?**

- The application deadline to receive the salary bonus is January 15, 2017 for the 2016-17 academic year. Qualified applicants will receive payment of the bonus after March 1, 2017.

### **Who is responsible for taxes on the bonus?**

- Taxes on the Salary Bonus are the recipient's responsibility and the State of Nebraska will send a Miscellaneous Income 1099-Form to each recipient.

## MASTER TEACHER DESIGNATION

### **How will this impact my teaching certificate?**

- Upon award of the NBPTS credential, the teacher will be eligible for a Nebraska Professional Teaching Certificate. Information about this process will be provided upon notification that you have completed the NBPTS certification process.

Additional Questions should be directed to:

- Sharon Katt, Adult Program Services, [sharon.katt@nebraska.gov](mailto:sharon.katt@nebraska.gov)