



Vancouver Education Association
VEA National Board Candidate Support Cohort Program
2025-26

VEA provides facilitated support for candidates going through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification process. Candidate support is optional for teachers completing their National Boards; however, teacher candidates who are part of a support program show a significantly higher passing rate.

As part of a cohort, candidates receive support, instruction, and feedback from their trained facilitators who are VEA colleagues. Examples include: “unpacking” the National Board component prompts, finding evidence of National Board standards, and ensuring alignment. Clock hours will be available.

What courses are offered & when do they meet?

Courses Offered	Description	Dates
*Foundations: Introduction to National Board	Required by all OSPI-approved programs and for those receiving OSPI conditional loan**. A close examination and application of two NBPTS foundational documents: The Five Core Propositions, and The Architecture of Accomplished Teaching.	Saturday, Sept 13 VEA Office 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Component One: Content Knowledge	Discussion of certification area standards and analysis of prompt descriptors. Self-assessment of knowledge in content area. Learn about Constructed Response Items and Selected Response Items as well as assessment ethics, procedures, appointments, and general overview of C1.	Tues., Jan 13 Tues., Mar 3 Tues., Mar 24 5:00-7:00 pm
Component Two: Differentiation in Instruction	The Five Core Propositions and the Architecture of Accomplished Teaching will be woven throughout the analysis and study of certification area standards and Component Two instructions. Meetings include time for Q&A, conferencing, drafting, peer review. <i>* The session on the 23rd will meet at VEA</i>	Tues., Sep 23* Tues., Sep 30 Tues., Oct 28 Tues., Dec 16 Tues., Feb 10 5:00-7:30 pm
Component Three: Teaching Practice & Learning Environment	The Five Core Propositions and the Architecture of Accomplished Teaching will be woven throughout the analysis and study of certification area standards and Components Three instructions. Meetings include time for Q&A, conferencing, drafting, peer review, plus video review and analysis.	Tues., Oct 21 Tues., Nov 4 Tues., Jan 6 Tues., Feb 24 Tues., Mar 10 5:00-7:30 pm
Component Four: Effective and Reflective Practitioner	This component requires teacher candidates to gather information from a variety of sources about a group of students; use assessments to effectively plan for and positively impact their students’ learning; and provide evidence of their collaboration with families, the community, and colleagues and of their contributions to learning communities to advance students’ learning and growth. Meetings will include time for Q &A, conferencing, drafting, peer review, and reflection.	Tues., Dec 9 Tues., Jan 27 Tues., Mar 31 Tues., Apr 14 5:00-7:30 pm

WEA Home Stretch: March/April (TBA) Drop Dead Date: papers to facilitators: April 21

Where are cohort meetings held? C1-C4 courses will be held at VSAA in the media center. Foundations course will be held in-person at the VEA office (2509 Broadway St – Vancouver, WA 98663).

What is the cost? Candidates pay a registration fee of \$100 to finalize and confirm their place in the cohort. Candidates also pay support fees based on Components selected. Note that WEA/VEA member prices are lower. To become a VEA member contact cbrown@washingtonea.org. See tables below for costs. Clock hour totals were revised in September 2017 to adhere to the change in WEA criteria.

Course	WEA/VEA Member Cost	Clock Hours (Seat time plus homework)
Component One	\$150	8
Component Two	\$250	16.5
Component Three	\$250	16.5
Component Four	\$250	13
*Foundations	\$100	6

***Foundations Course** is offered for those who did not attend the WEA/OEA Jump Start Program and is a prerequisite for Components One, Two, Three, Four, & for those receiving the OSPI conditional loan. If you attended the WEA Jump Start Program, you do not need to take the Foundations Course.

If a candidate is taking the following combinations, prices are adjusted as follows:

Courses	WEA/VEA Member Cost
Components One, Two & Three	\$525
Components Two, Three & Four	\$600
Components One, Two, Three & Four	\$650

****OSPI Conditional Loan Program** is offered by OSPI to assist teachers in financing the NBPTS fees. See this website for details: [OSPI National Board Conditional Loan](#)

How do I register? To register and reserve a place in the VEA NBCT Candidate Support Program please do the following: Fill out the Survey Monkey at the VEA website <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G623XBY>. This will secure your place in the program and give us the necessary information to place you in a cohort. **PRIORITY DEADLINE: September 26, 2025** Space in the cohort is limited and will be filled in order of submission.

1. Print and complete the Registration Form from under the “Documents” tab of the VEA website (www.vancouverea.org) or directly from [NBCT Candidate Cohort Registration - Vancouver Education Association](#) **No refunds after the second cohort class.** Participants will be charged for any sessions that occur prior to notification of withdrawal.
2. Submit the registration form with the \$100 registration fee to secure your place in a cohort. You may bring payment for the support fees to your first support meeting or call the VEA office for credit card processing and/or for payment options. Checks are made out to Vancouver Education Association. Mail to: 2509 Broadway -Vancouver, WA 98663 Attn: Cindy Brown

Please note that you must register with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and pay their fees in addition to participating in the VEA National Board Candidate Support Program. We strongly suggest downloading the standards for your certificate area and reading them before committing to this process.

We're excited to be working with you this year as you undertake this powerful, professional work!

Warm regards,

Jamie Anderson VEA President

VEA National Board Candidate Support Program Coordinator - janderson@washingtonea.org

Menu of VEA, WEA, and OSPI 2025-26 National Board Candidate Support Options

(Refer to calendar below for important dates)

If a candidate signs up for the National Board process between June 2025 and August 2026, at a minimum, they will have access to the following types of support:

- OSPI Conditional Loan (must apply – first come, first served)
- WEA Jump Start* (offered by Washington Education Association)
- VEA Foundations (or attendance at WEA Jump Start*)
- VEA Cohort Support for C1, C2, C3, C4 (offered by Vancouver Education Association)
- WEA Homestretch* (offered by Washington Education Association)

If a candidate signs up for the National Board process between September 2025 and November 2026, at a minimum, they will have access to the following types of support:

- OSPI Conditional Loan (must apply – first come, first served)
- VEA Foundations (or attendance at WEA Jump Start*)
- VEA Cohort Support for C1, C2, C3, C4 (offered by Vancouver Education Association)
- WEA Homestretch* (offered by Washington Education Association)

If a candidate signs up for the National Board process between December 2025 and January 2026, at a minimum, they will have access to the following types of support:

- VEA C1 and C2* (C2 begins January 10)
- OSPI C1 and Foundations online (available to those in rural/remote areas and offered by OSPI)
- WEA Homestretch* (offered by Washington Education Association)

If a candidate signs up for the National Board process between January 2025 and the registration deadline, at a minimum, they will have access to the following types of support:

- VEA C1 and C2* (C2 begins January 10)
- OSPI C1 and Foundations online (available to those in rural/remote areas and offered by OSPI)
- WEA Homestretch* (offered by Washington Education Association)

**Additional fees apply*

National Board Registration Window	May 22 2025–February 28, 2026
NB Fee Payment (\$75) Deadline	February 28, 2026
Component Selection (includes payment of component fees)	February 28, 2026
Change of Certificate and/or Specialty Area	March 20, 2026
Change of Component Selection	February 28, 2026
Withdrawal Deadline	February 28, 2026
Component 1 Scheduling Window Open	January 15, 2026
Component 1: Content Knowledge Testing Window	March 1–June 15, 2026
ePortfolio Submission Window (For Components 2 , 3, and 4)	April 1–May 16, 2026
2026 Score Release	December 5, 2026
Third party Payer Funding Deadline	February 6, 2026
Third party Payer Designation Deadline	February 20, 2026

Helpful Links

National Boards: registration and important information

[National Board Certification](#)-- Information/registration for the National Board assessment process. You need to register and pay the NB assessment fees to become a National Board Candidate (this is a separate fee from the VEA NB Candidate Support program).

National Boards: Certification and Candidate Center: [NBPTS Main Site Candidate Center](#). [Create a National Board account](#) to learn the latest National Board candidate news.

OSPI: Certification questions

[National Board Certification and Washington State Teaching Certificate | OSPI](#) - For teachers whose certificates are due to expire, this is a look at how the NBCT process fits with renewal. There is a link to communicate questions to OSPI.

OSPI Financial Assistance

[OSPI National Board Conditional Loan](#) -- For teachers seeking financial assistance with the fees for National Board.

WEA: Jump Start & Homestretch

[Certification | Washington Education Association](#)

This is where you register for Jump Start, WEA's excellent preparation event for the NBCT process. Jump Start participants get the Foundations course required for the conditional loan process as well as great tips for managing resources and materials throughout the process.

Guide to National Board Certification (with important dates and deadlines)

[Guide to National Board Certification](#)