

Greetings,

We have received new information for teachers interested in applying for National Board Certification. All candidates must meet National Board application guidelines (possess a bachelor's degree, possess a professional educator's certificate from the Florida Department of Education, and have completed three years of teaching experience).

Friends of Florida Scholarships

Thanks to an anonymous donor, the National Board has created a scholarship fund, called "Friends of Florida," from which \$1000 scholarships can be granted to a limited number of first-time candidates seeking National Board Certification. Qualified applicants for scholarship monies teach in the state of Florida and are not eligible to receive federally funded fee subsidy money through the State because they do not currently teach in high needs schools (see list below). All interested teachers must complete and submit their candidate application and pay the nonrefundable \$65 processing fee and \$500 initial fee before the scholarship application can be considered. If you submit a scholarship application, you will receive a letter in the mail confirming whether or not you received the scholarship. If you are awarded the scholarship, the \$1000 will be applied directly to your candidate account.

For more detailed information on these scholarships, you may visit http://www.nbpts.org/become_a_candidate/fees_financial_support/scholarships (It's the fourth from the bottom of the list.) or contact Melissa Villareal directly at 888-908-3337 or scholarship_manager@nbpts.org.

The deadline to apply for a "Friends of Florida" Scholarship is **November 30, 2010**; however, the scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and will be available only until funds are exhausted.

The current application fee is \$2500 plus the \$65 registration fee. National Board has a self-payer installment plan that allows applicants to make payments over a period of time. The application directions are:

1. Complete the application at the National Board website: <http://www.nbpts.org>
2. Be certain to choose the option that allows NBPTS to share applicant information with "third parties", as this allows the district and state to verify the applicant's school, degree, and experience.
3. Identify the school district.
4. Pay the non-refundable \$65 registration fee.
5. Pay the non-refundable \$500 initial fee and notify Terri Brown (tabrown@pasco.k12.fl.us) that you have applied.

Federal Subsidies

Federal subsidy monies are available for 5 five) candidates that are teaching at one of the following high need schools designated by the Florida Department of Education: RBCES; CWTES; PES; JMMES; CHES; SRES; GHES; WZES; MPLES; RES; HES; LES; SES; FHES; MGES; NWES; SHES; AES; GSES; CAES; MLES; or JIEC.

There are currently no high schools on this list since school grades for high schools won't be available until November. The names of high schools added to the eligible schools list will be sent out as soon as information is released.

The federal subsidy is \$1250, so candidates that qualify for and receive the federal subsidy will still need to pay \$1250 + \$65 for a total of \$1315.

Applications must be completed by **November 30, 2010**, in order to receive the federal subsidy. Teachers that qualify for this subsidy should complete the first four directions above but **do not pay** the non-refundable \$500 initial fee until directed to do so by an email from the Florida Department of Education with notification that the candidate has received federal funding.

For those interested teachers who have questions, please contact Terri Brown (tabrown@pasco.k12.fl.us).