



January 29, 2020

Senator Shelly Hughes
Vice Chair Senate Education Committee
State Capitol Room 30
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hughes,

Thank you for introducing Senate Bill 113 (SB 113) to highlight Alaska's National Board Certified Teachers in their schools and to establish the goal of having more Nationally Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) in Alaska. We are pleased to offer our support for SB 113 and contribute to the policy discussion around educator excellence.

As you know, National Board Certification (NBC) is an advanced certification that goes beyond Alaska licensure and is considered by educators to be a true mark of excellence. It is recognized as the teaching profession's highest credential. A growing body of research links NBC with improved student success and outcomes.

The certification process is self-reflective, exhaustive, methodical, and challenging. Educators meticulously analyze their own work and find the process to be instrumental in improving their classroom practices. Earning National Board Certification requires a significant investment of time and financial resources by educators. Generally, it costs educators at least \$2000 to earn their NBC and the certification lasts 5 years.

NBC is a widely accepted form of performance based pay. In Washington State, NBC teachers earn an additional \$5397 annually and can earn an additional \$5000 for working in a high needs school. At least 25 other states offer financial remuneration for NBC teachers who have invested the time, money, and dedication required to earn this distinction.

In addition, NBC could help Alaska address our recruitment and retention crisis. According to the Institute of Social and Economic Research, teacher turnover is more than 30% in many rural districts. In other states, Florida, Ohio and South Carolina, NBC has proven to be a tool in keeping excellent educators in the profession. NBCT's are also teacher leaders who help to mentor the early career teachers who are most likely to leave the profession.

NEA-Alaska is proud to support initiatives to elevate the teaching profession and to encourage more educators to earn their NBC. Every year we offer multiple intensive one-week institutes open to all of our members to support their efforts to earn NBC. We also provide specific member trainings around the state based on member interest.

We are grateful for the opportunity to talk more about NBC and how excellent educators are a critical component to student success.

Sincerely,

Tim Parker
President, NEA-Alaska