

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement | HB 18 – National Board certification

HB 18 represents a commitment from the legislature to elevate the prestige of the teaching profession in Alaska.

National Board certification is reserved for educators who voluntarily undertake, and successfully complete, a rigorous certification process administered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The certification process is recognized as an invaluable learning experience for educators that also results in improved student outcomes. In Alaska and across the country, National Board certification is considered the gold standard of professional development for teachers.

Certification by the National Board is an indicator of teacher quality. Many studies have concluded that National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) are more effective in the classroom and that students of NBCTs have better academic achievement.

By displaying in public schools the name of each NBCT who teaches at that school, HB 18 creates a halo around this superlative certification, imparts upon the community and school the value of NBCTs, and celebrates the hard-earned accomplishments of NBCTs.

HB 18 also sets the goal that four percent of public school teachers in Alaska will be National Board certified by 2026 — which would nearly double the current number of NBCTs in Alaska and nearly increase by a factor of six the number of NBCTs in classrooms.