

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is committed to providing assessment updates for candidates affected by COVID-19. Below you will find several updates that will prove beneficial for National Board candidates.

Choosing an Option

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, NBPTS has revised their assessment due dates and provided opportunities for candidates to switch a component, withdraw or defer a component. The deadline for choosing an option has been extended to **May 7**. You may view a series of options for initial [National Board candidates](#), and for [Renewal candidates](#) and clarifications on the [portfolio submission requirements during COVID-19](#). Please review the material carefully to determine the best choice(s) for your situation. If you plan to submit material in October 2020, defer to 2020-21, switch a component, or withdraw, you must submit the [COVID-19 exception request form](#) by May 7.

If you have already submitted an exception form and would like to change your selected option, you may do so until May 7. If you have already submitted an exception form, National Board will reach out to you soon. Changes will be reflected in your account after May 7.

Component 1 Testing Options

National Board will be extending the testing date for Component 1 until October 17 for all candidates due to the COVID-19 crisis. [Click here](#) for more information.

If you have already submitted the COVID-19 Exception Form to defer or withdraw Component 1 and now want to complete testing by the new extended deadline, please [resubmit the form](#) by May 7 and select the “No change or component not purchased” option. Submitting a new form will override your previous selection(s).

The National Board is committed to being equitable and providing testing capacity for candidates in the event of additional site closures and/or delayed testing. At this time, Pearson VUE testing centers are scheduled to reopen on May 31 in most areas. Where sites can open May 1, they will be at reduced capacity due to social distancing requirements. If your appointment is cancelled, you will receive an automated email from NBPTS, with instruction about how to reschedule.

If your appointment has not been cancelled but you would like to test after July 15, you will need to have your authorization extended before you will be permitted to schedule for a later date. As a reminder, if you test after July 15, you will not receive scores in December. If you want a later test date, you will need to complete the following steps.

- **Step 1:** Cancel your current appointment by contacting Pearson VUE [online](#) or by phone at 1-888-288-3028. (Pearson VUE cannot extend your authorization and will ask you to contact National Board Customer Support after your appointment has been cancelled.)
- **Step 2:** After you have successfully cancelled your appointment, contact National Board Customer Support [online](#) or by phone at 1-800-22TEACH to have your authorization

extended to October 17. It will take 2-3 business days for the reauthorization to be processed.

Please keep in mind that site availability and capacity is based on current social distancing guidelines in each area, meaning test center capacity is somewhat limited. **If you have an appointment scheduled, you are encouraged to keep it.**

Deferring, Withdrawing, and Your Uploaded Portfolio Files

If you have elected to defer or withdraw your portfolio component and have already uploaded files to the ePortfolio site, **you will need to remove any uploaded material prior to April 30, 2020.** Your materials that remain uploaded will not be scored and will not be made available to you on the site in the future. If you are deferring un next cycle, you can upload your materials when that submission window opens.

Deferring to 2020-21

- **Certification Candidates:** When registration opens for the 2020-21 cycle, we will automatically process your registration and component fee waivers and default your account to the exact components you deferred. If you decide you want to complete a different component in 2020-21, you will need to contact Customer Support for instructions. If your deferred component was funded by a Third-Party Payer (TPP), you will need to consult with your TPP before making changes to your 2020-21 component selections.
- **Renewal Candidates:** When registration opens for the 2020-21 cycle, we will automatically process your application and fee waiver, defaulting your application to the 2020-21 cycle.

Score Release Dates

- If you submit **all** your components, or PPG, in June and/or test by July 15, you will receive all your scores prior to December 31, 2020.
- If you submit **all** your components, or PPG, by the October deadline, you will receive all your score results after December 31, 2020 but before the registration deadline for the 2020-2021 cycle in early 2021.
- If you submit one or more components in June and/or test by July 15 **and** submit one or more components in October, you will receive all your scores after December 31, 2020 but before the registration deadline for the 2020-2021 cycle in early 2021.

Submitting Early

If you choose the October submission window and later find that you are able to submit your material by June 12, 2020, you will need to contact Customer Support no later than June 19, 2020, to change your option.

Core Connections Webinars and Twitter Chats for All Educators

The National Board is continuing to support all educators by providing the webinar series *National Board Teachers Helping Teachers: Core Connections Webinars*. Past and future

webinars can be found on [this page](#) of the NBPTS website. National Board teachers are encouraged to share their expertise or share ideas for new topics. Email Tami Fitzgerald at tfitzgerald@nbpts.org.

Scoring Update

The National Board and Pearson have identified an issue with the algorithm that selected portfolios for double scoring during the period from 2017-2019 that impacted the results of a small number of candidates. These candidates have been notified and given detailed information on their specific situation. NBPTS has opened a direct line of communication for affected teachers who have questions [online here](#) or by phone at 1-800-22TEACH.

National Board COVID-19 Candidate and Provider Information

The National Board has created a dedicated page addressing the COVID-19 situation, highlighting recent announcements as well as virtual events, resources, and supports for teachers. Please visit the National Board webpage [COVID-19](#) to stay abreast of information.