

In Washington State, teachers and school counselors may achieve their second tier certificate, the professional certificate, either through a state-specific requirement or by achieving National Board Certification. The National Board Certification process is undergoing fundamental redesign, implementation of which includes a two year period when the process as a whole will be unavailable.

At their March 2014 meeting, the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) acted to expand renewal options for teachers whose 3-year residency certificates are expiring and wish to complete National Board certification process rather than the ProTeach Portfolio to fulfill their professional certification requirement, and for school counselors whose 5-year residency certificates are expiring and wish to pursue National Board rather than a school counselor professional certification program.

These changes apply ONLY to teachers and counselors who hold their first, dated residency certificates (for teachers this is their first, dated 3-year certificate; for counselors this is their first, dated 5-year certificate).

Teachers with 3-year residency certificates expiring in June 2014 and beyond –

Teachers who reach the end of their 3-year residency certificate and have taken no action toward achieving their professional certificate are eligible for a two-year renewal if they sign and submit an affidavit (included in the renewal application) to OSPI Certification that they will complete the ProTeach Portfolio or National Board Certification Process during the 2-year renewal. They are then only eligible for a 2nd 2-year renewal based on completing, but failing, either ProTeach or National Board. No further renewals are available.

This [chart](#) depicts the residency certificate timeline and renewal options for teachers.

Additional provision for teachers with 3-year residency certificates expiring in June 2014 ONLY –

Because all four components of the revised National Board process will not be available during the next 2 years, teachers may be eligible for a 2nd 2-year renewal in 2016 if they have completed the 3 available components. They will then need to complete the fourth component during that 2nd 2-year renewal. No further renewals are available.

School Counselors with 5-year residency certificates expiring in June 2014 and beyond –

School counselors who reach the end of their 5-year residency certificate and have taken no action toward achieving their professional certificate are eligible for a two-year renewal if they are enrolled in an approved higher education school counselor professional certification program or submit an affidavit (included in the renewal application) to OSPI Certification that they will complete National Board Certification Process during the 2-year renewal. No further renewals are available.

Additional provision for counselors with 5-year residency certificates expiring in June 2014 ONLY –

Because all four components of the revised National Board process will not be available during the next 2 years, school counselors that are eligible for a 2 year renewal via signed affidavit of intent to pursue National Board certification will be issued a 3-year renewal in order to successfully complete all components of the National Board process. No further renewals are available.

The PESB intends teachers and counselors to pursue their professional certification following two years of experience and urges caution in delaying action to allow plenty of time for completion and remediation, if necessary. **Once renewal options are exhausted, licensure and employment cannot be regained for five years.**

More information may be found on the OSPI Certification Division website - www.k12.wa.us/certification, or by contacting them at CERT@k12.wa.us or (360)725-6400.