

Guide to Electronic Submission

Submitting your evidence of accomplished teaching is easy, fast, and secure!

- **Key Features of the Electronic Portfolio System**
- **Accessing the System**
- **Formatting, Uploading, and Submitting Your Material**

*National Board Certification
Promotes Better Teaching,
Better Learning, Better Schools*

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Key Features of Electronic Submission

Whether you are seeking National Board Certification® or renewing an existing certificate, you will use the ePortfolio system to upload your submission(s) for evaluation. We encourage you to read this publication carefully and refer to the National Board website (www.boardcertifiedteachers.org/eportfolio) for up-to-date information.

The ePortfolio system has built-in features to facilitate your online submission process, including

- online system tutorials to guide you through the process of uploading your submissions;
- tracking capabilities so that you can easily monitor your progress;
- temporary storing features to upload and remove draft documents and videos until they are ready for submission or until the submission deadline, whichever comes first;
- an automated process for transcoding most video files.

Getting Started

The ePortfolio system will be available beginning April 1, 2017. To begin the online submission process using the ePortfolio system, you will

- obtain your voucher code(s) to access the system;
- register and enter your voucher code(s) to submit your material online.

View the online training videos available at www.boardcertifiedteachers.org/eportfolio for step-by-step instructions to register your voucher codes, upload evidence, and submit your material.

Important: To develop your submission(s), refer to the Standards and portfolio instructions for your certificate area available at www.boardcertifiedteachers.org.

Obtaining Your Voucher Code(s) to Access the ePortfolio System

When the submission window opens, voucher codes will be emailed to all National Board Certification and renewal candidates who have selected to submit a portfolio during the 2016-17 assessment cycle. These voucher codes are required in order to access the ePortfolio system. If you are a candidate and cannot locate the email with your voucher code(s), you can access your code(s) from your National Board account after April 1. Simply log in to your account and select the appropriate cycle year. Voucher code(s) are displayed on your home page.

VOUCHER CODES ARE PORTFOLIO ENTRY SPECIFIC AND UNIQUE TO YOU. Do not share them with anyone else.

Important: If you are a candidate, make sure your National Board account is up-to-date with your preferred email address. Be sure to add NBPTSReg@pearson.com to your safe sender list to ensure receipt of your voucher code(s) and other important notifications.

Registering and Entering Your Voucher Code(s) to Submit Evidence Online

To register and begin using the ePortfolio system, follow this five-step process:

1. **Access** the ePortfolio page on the National Board website (www.boardcertifiedteachers.org/eportfolio).
2. **Click** the link to the ePortfolio system.
3. **Click** "Register" in the top navigation of the ePortfolio website, then select the appropriate link:
 - first-time or returning candidates who started the process after March 2014
 - renewal candidates
4. **Follow** the instructions to create an account. If you are a candidate, be sure to enter your name as it appears in your National Board account. If you registered and created an account in the ePortfolio system in a previous year, use your existing login credentials to sign in. Your username was your email address at the time. You may use the "Forgot Password?" feature to reset your password if necessary.

Important Note: Do not create an ePortfolio account using a shared email address. YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS MUST BE UNIQUE TO YOU AND USED ONLY BY YOU.
5. **Enter** your voucher code(s) in the text box. The system will validate your code(s) and display the portfolio entries for which you are registered. **Note:** You will be able to submit evidence only for the components you have purchased.

Agreements

In order to successfully register your voucher code(s), you will be required to read and agree to the terms for using the ePortfolio system. The text of these agreements will be made available to you on the National Board ePortfolio website when registration opens so that you may read the agreements prior to registering.

Formatting, Uploading, and Submitting Materials

Formatting Your Evidence

Develop evidence using the Standards and portfolio instructions for your certificate area. Submit your material based on these key evidence types:

- **Forms.** Submit the required forms for each component:
 - Forms that require you to enter information about the evidence you are submitting. Complete these by typing into the designated areas on the form.
 - Forms that identify included evidence (for example, student responses and instructional materials).

You may submit your forms as Microsoft Word, OpenOffice, or PDF files. If you scan forms as graphics files, you may insert them into word-processing files for submission.

- **Written commentaries.** Written commentaries and written reflections are composed using word processing software. When creating these files, you must follow the format specifications found in the portfolio instructions for your certificate area, including the font size, margin specifications, and maximum page length allowed. During the upload process, system transcoding may result in your commentary running onto an additional page. The material on the additional page will be evaluated as long as the source document you uploaded falls within the maximum page length allowance. Submit your work as Microsoft Word, OpenOffice, or PDF files.

- **Video recordings.** Video recordings of your classroom teaching will be uploaded directly into the ePortfolio system. Your video recordings must adhere to the format specifications outlined in the portfolio instructions for your certificate area and must be submitted as flv, asf, qt, mov, mpg, mpeg, avi, wmv, mp4, or m4v files. If your video recordings consist of multiple segments, it is important that you submit only the segment(s) allowed for your portfolio entry.

The ePortfolio system has a 500 MB file size limit for each file that is uploaded. There is no limit on the number of megabytes (MB) uploaded for an entire portfolio. You must compress larger video files before submission. Video compression tools can help you to easily reduce video file size without impacting the length of your video. Please follow the instructions for video compression found on the Help page of the ePortfolio system.

- **Other types of evidence.** There are other evidence types that require you to submit artifacts and evidence together with cover sheets or forms that provide additional detail. You may have gathered this evidence in both hardcopy and as electronic files. The evidence must be organized together with the appropriate cover sheets or forms and submitted as Microsoft Word, OpenOffice, or PDF files.

File Naming Conventions

There is no required naming convention for the files you will upload to the ePortfolio system. We encourage you to use a naming convention that will help you easily identify and organize the various parts of your submission. **Note:** To avoid upload issues, file names should not include special characters.

Refer to the **Electronic Submission at a Glance** chart in the portfolio instructions for your certificate area for a list of the materials you will need to submit. Please note that you may be required to combine some materials into a single file for submission. Sample charts are provided at the end of this document.

Uploading and Submitting Your Materials

It is important that you begin the upload process early. Uploading your materials may take multiple days to complete. Follow the steps below to upload and submit your materials:

1. **Access** the ePortfolio page on the National Board website (www.boardcertifiedteachers.org/eportfolio).
2. **Click** the link to the ePortfolio system.
3. **Log in** to the ePortfolio system. The Portfolio Entry Summary page displays (see the sample screen shot below that will display for a National Board Certification candidate submitting Component 2: AYA/English Language Arts of the revised assessment process).

The screenshot shows the National Board ePortfolio interface. At the top, it says 'NATIONAL BOARD for Professional Teaching Standards®'. On the right, there are links for 'Welcome First Name | My Account | Contact Us | Help | Sign Out'. The main content area is titled 'Component 2: AYA/English Language Arts' and 'Portfolio Entry Summary'. On the left, there are three numbered instructions: 1. Read the submission guides, 2. Upload your work, and 3. Submit portfolio entry. On the right, there is a 'Submit Portfolio Entry' button and a question 'When should I submit?'. Below this is a table for 'Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction' with 0 of 4 parts ready to submit. The table has columns for PARTS, STATUS, and FILES.

PARTS	STATUS	FILES
Start Part A: Contextual Information Sheet(s)	Not Started	
Start Part B: Written Commentary	Not Started	
Start Part C: Student A Packet	Not Started	
Start Part D: Student B Packet	Not Started	

At the bottom, there are links for 'Terms of Use | Privacy Policy | Trademarks' and a copyright notice: 'Copyright © 2014 Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s). All rights reserved. Evaluation Systems, Pearson, P.O. Box 226, Amherst, MA 01004'.

4. **Click** "Start". You will be prompted to upload your electronic file(s).
5. **Click** "View" to review your evidence file(s) for accuracy. It is important that you review your material in its entirety.
6. **Mark** "Ready to Submit" when your evidence file for each part has been uploaded and reviewed. A progress bar for each submission will indicate when all the parts are complete.
7. **Click** "Submit Portfolio Entry" to submit your work for each portfolio entry for which you are registered. Once your work has been submitted for evaluation, your submission is final and you will only have read-only access to your file(s). **Note:** The National Board will not audit or inventory your materials. You are required to verify the accuracy of your materials prior to submission.

The ePortfolio system includes online help to answer your questions and online training to guide you in using the system.

Policy and Guidelines

Changing Certificate or Portfolio Entry Selections

If you are a first-time candidate, you may change your certificate area or portfolio entry selections through your National Board account.

All changes must be made prior to the established deadline. Refer to the *Guide to National Board Certification* for specific policy and instructions regarding certificate and portfolio entry changes. No changes can be made after the established deadline.

Submission

You will receive an email confirmation for each portfolio entry submitted. Note that this is the only notification you will receive regarding the receipt of your portfolio entry; the National Board will **NOT** audit or inventory the contents of your submission. (You must verify the accuracy of your material prior to clicking the Submit Portfolio Entry button.) Once submitted, all materials become the property of the National Board. For this reason, you are encouraged to retain copies of your material.

If you identify an error after submitting your portfolio entry(ies), an exception processing service is available for a fee of \$250 **per entry** that will allow you to resubmit material. This service will only be available for one week after the submission window closes **(until May 24, 2017)**. Candidates seeking this exception may be issued new voucher code(s) and all will be required to attest to their adherence to the submission deadline (May 17, 2017). For additional information, please contact Customer Support at 1-800-22TEACH®.

After the submission deadline, all uploaded materials (including incomplete entries) in the ePortfolio system will be submitted for evaluation as is.

System Specifications

You will need access to a computer with the following minimum specifications:

Operating System	Browsers Supported	Internet Connection*	Additional Software Required
Windows 7 or later	Chrome (latest) Firefox (latest) Internet Explorer 11 or greater	High speed	Adobe® Flash® Player 10.1** or higher Adobe® Reader 10.1.3** or later Microsoft® Word™ 1997–2003 or later, or OpenOffice 3
Mac OS X v10.9 or later	Chrome (latest) Safari 9 or greater Firefox (latest)	High speed	Adobe® Flash® Player 10.1** or higher Adobe® Reader 10.1.3** or later Microsoft® Word™ 1997–2003 or later, or OpenOffice 3

*The speed of uploading files to the ePortfolio system is dependent on the type of network, the size of the file, and the capacity of the network at upload time. Documents should upload and appear in the "Ready" state within 15 minutes; video files may take as long as one hour to upload and appear as "Ready."

**Adobe® Flash® Player and Reader are available free of charge at <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/> and <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

Sample Electronic Submission at a Glance Charts

The samples on the following pages illustrate electronic submission information for

- first-time and returning candidates who started the process after March 2014;
- renewal candidates.

Obtain the chart specific to your assessment and certificate in your certificate-specific portfolio instructions for each component online at **www.boardcertifiedteachers.org/certificate-areas**.

Renewal candidates use the chart located in the Profile of Professional Growth instructions online at **www.boardcertifiedteachers.org/renewal-process**.

Sample Electronic Submission at a Glance for First-time and Returning Candidates (those who started the process after March 2014)














Submit your evidence of accomplished teaching using the electronic portfolio management system (see the *Guide to Electronic Submission*). Use the following chart to determine how to group your evidence and submit it electronically. Forms are available as word-processing files that you can download from www.boardcertifiedteachers.org.

Adolescence and Young Adulthood/English Language Arts Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction				
What to Submit	Supported File Types	Number of Files to Submit	Response Length	Additional Information
Contextual Information Sheet(s) (form provided)	doc, docx, odt, or pdf	1	No more than 1 page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use 11-point Arial font • Single space
Written Commentary	doc, docx, odt, or pdf	1	No more than 13 pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use 11-point Arial font • Double space with 1" margins on all sides
Student Packets (forms provided)	doc, docx, odt, or pdf	2	<p>No more than 20 pages combined for each packet—forms do not count in page totals</p> <p>Page totals for each piece of evidence within a packet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignments/Prompts: No more than 1 page each for a total of up to 4 pages maximum combined • Student responses/writing samples: No more than 3 pages each for a total of up to 12 pages maximum combined • Rubrics: No more than 1 page each for a total of up to 4 pages maximum combined 	<p>Submit 1 packet each for 2 students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student A Packet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Response Form with associated prompt, student response to print-based text, and rubric • Student Response Form with associated prompt, student response to nonprint-based text, and rubric • Student Writing Sample Form with associated prompt, writing sample #1, and rubric • Student Writing Sample Form with associated prompt, writing sample #2, and rubric • Student B Packet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Response Form with associated prompt, student response to print-based text, and rubric • Student Response Form with associated prompt, student response to nonprint-based text, and rubric • Student Writing Sample Form with associated prompt, writing sample #1, and rubric • Student Writing Sample with associated prompt, writing sample #2, and rubric

A signed release form is required for each student whose work samples are included. These release forms are available as PDF downloads from www.boardcertifiedteachers.org. **Retain completed student release forms for your records; do not submit them with your evidence.**

Sample Electronic Submission at a Glance for Renewal Candidates

Submit your evidence of accomplished teaching using the ePortfolio system (see the *Guide to Electronic Submission*). Use this chart to understand how to group your evidence and submit it electronically for the **Profile of Professional Growth** assessment.

Renewal: Submit 10 files	Retain for Your Records
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Component 1: Professional Context Sheet  Component 1: PGEs 1–4 (12 pages max. combined) each with associated product samples (8 pages max. combined) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Release Forms • Adult Release Forms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Component 2: Written Commentary (4 pages max.)  Component 2: Classroom Layout Forms(s)  Component 2: Video Recording Date Attestation Form (for videos not date-stamped)  Component 2: Video recording (10 minutes max.) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Component 3: Written Commentary (4 pages max.) <p>Choose one of these options:</p> <p>Option 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Component 3: Video recording (6 minutes max.)  Component 3: Classroom Layout Forms(s) for Video Recording <p>Option 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Component 3: Learner Work Samples (8 pages max; translations do not count towards page totals.) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Component 4: Written Reflection (3 pages max.) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Document. Submit as doc, docx, odt, or pdf file. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Video recording. Submit as flv, asf, qt, mov, mpg, mpeg, avi, wmv, mp4, or m4v file. 	

Produced for

NATIONAL BOARD

for Professional Teaching Standards®

by



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The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Inc. has been funded in part with grants from the U.S. Department of Education. The contents of this publication do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the sponsors.

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