

## Component 4 Pilot Testing: Disciplines Selected

The National Board, under guidance from its Technical Advisory Group, is conducting pilot testing for *Component 4: Effective and Reflective Practitioner*. This pilot testing approach relies on iterative reviews of component sections by National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) content advisors and coordination of a pilot test of the full component by NBCT-eligible teachers. Support of the pilot testing approach is evidenced in that 1) given that this is a new component, the National Board and its Technical Advisory Group sees less risks regarding establishing evidence of validity with pilot testing than with field testing used with other components and 2) the pilot testing plan engages many more NBCTs in the actual development of the entry, thus strengthening evidence of content validity.

In September to October 2015, a generic model instructions document was reviewed by NBCTs in the 25 certificate areas. They were asked to provide feedback on the suitability of the instructions in general and for their specific certificate areas. Following the review of the feedback from this review, a subset of disciplines were recommended for pilot testing. Several disciplines were selected to represent the core disciplines (English language arts, math, science). Additional disciplines were chosen based on a number of factors including:

- having a preponderance of suggestions from the NBCT instructions and scoring rubric review,
- being a discipline that had unique considerations (e.g., career and technical education, school counseling, exceptional needs specialist, library media specialist) where further pilot testing would provide the most relevant and helpful information, and/or
- having sizeable literature on issues specific to assessing teacher practice in that discipline(s), e.g., the performing arts.

While initially 9 disciplines were selected, ultimately 12 of 16 disciplines were chosen to begin the pilot testing process in November/December 2015. These disciplines were:

- Art
- Career and Technical Education
- English as a New Language
- English Language Arts (the "base" model, representing core subject areas)
- Exceptional Needs Specialist
- Generalist ( Early Childhood to ensure teachers of young children/lower grades are represented)
- Library Media Specialist
- Math
- Music
- Physical Education
- School Counseling
- Science

National Board decided the need for Art and Science to continue the pilot test process would be evaluated once NBCTs in those two disciplines completed pre-pilot testing activities, including review of the portfolio materials and completion of one or two sections of the portfolio component. Based on at least 80% of the responses to a pre-pilot testing activities survey being positive, and the pre-pilot testing feedback indicating no substantive discipline or certificate area-specific changes were recommended for Component 4 materials, the National Board recommended Art, but not Science, continue through full pilot testing. This resulted in 11 of 16 disciplines continuing through full pilot testing scheduled in 2016.