

ePortfolio FAQs

Formatting, Uploading, and Submitting Materials

1) Q: When will I get my voucher code(s)?

A: We will email you your voucher code(s) when the submission window opens on April 1. Make sure your National Board account is up-to-date with your preferred email address and add NBPTSReg@pearson.com to your safe senders list so you won't miss it or other important updates. After April 1, you can get your voucher code(s) from your National Board [account](#) by selecting your 2016-17 registration (on the upper right).

*Remember! Your voucher codes are entry specific and unique to you; **DO NOT** share them with anyone else.*

2) Q: Where do I go to upload materials?

A: [Register here](#) by following the instructions provided on-screen. After registering, you can [upload and submit your portfolio](#) using the ePortfolio system.

3) Q: I need to register another voucher code(s) OR I need to register my new voucher code(s). How do I do that?

A: First, log in to your ePortfolio account at <http://www.nbpts.nesinc.com/Home.aspx>. Click "Register" from the menu on the right, then "Next" to enter your voucher code(s). Last, click the "Apply" button. (If you have more than one voucher code, you will need to repeat this step.)

4) Q: How should I number the pages of my entry? (Note: this response is applicable to National Board Certification candidates only. Renewal candidates should refer to FAQ #22 for page numbering guidelines specific to the PPG.)

A: There isn't a wrong way to number your pages. Feel free to:

- Number your entire entry sequentially from beginning to end; or
- Number each individual part of your entry separately; or
- Skip page numbering all together. Page numbering doesn't impact scoring.

5) Q: Where can I find my Candidate ID? What if I forget to include it in my submission?

A: You can find your National Board Candidate ID in your National Board account. This ID is different from the one you received when registering in the ePortfolio system. Forgetting to include your ID, or including the wrong ID, will not impact the scoring of your submission.

6) Q: What are the acceptable file formats?

A: Submit your work as Microsoft Word, Open Office, or PDF files. Submit videos as flv, asf, qt, mov, mpg, mpeg, avi, wmv, mp4, or m4v files.

7) Q: My scanner only saves JPG files, what should I do?

A: You can insert graphic files such as JPGs into a word processing document for submission. Go to www.boardcertifiedteachers.org/eportfolio for tips on [Scanning and Submitting your Hardcopy Evidence](#).

8) Q: I need help with preparing my video file, what should I do?

A: There are a number of resources available at www.boardcertifiedteachers.org/eportfolio to help guide you. The following documents may be helpful in preparing your video:

- [Recommended Video Formats and Settings](#)

- [Video Conversion & Compression Guide for Mac OS X Users](#)
- [Video Conversion & Compression Guide for Windows Users](#)
- [Video Exporting Guide for iMovie](#)
- [Video Exporting Guide for iPhoto](#)
- [Video Exporting Guide for Windows Movie Maker](#)

9) Q: When I saved my file as a PDF, or when I uploaded my file to the ePortfolio system, my format specifications changed, e.g. margins/font look bigger, an extra page was inserted or some pages rotated?

A: Converting your file to a PDF and system transcoding that occurs during the upload process may result in slight format changes. These changes won't impact the evaluation of your submission as long as your source document meets National Board requirements.

10) Q: I uploaded my files, but I can't view them OR several minutes have passed since I uploaded my files yet the file status still shows "Processing". Should I start over?

A: Don't start over. Instead check these things:

- Do you have current versions of Adobe Acrobat Reader and Adobe Flash Player installed? If your set-up does not include this software, you may not be able to preview your files.
- How did you name your file? The name of your file should not include special characters. If your file name includes special characters you will need to rename your file and upload it again.
- Have you clicked "Refresh"? If the file status continues to show "processing" after several minutes, click the blue "Refresh" button found in the upper right-hand corner of the ePortfolio system.

11) Q: I've uploaded my files, but the status on my summary page still shows "In Progress", what should I do?

A: You need to mark your files "Ready to Submit." From your summary page, click on "Update and Review" and then click the "Ready to Submit" check box at the top right corner. This will update your status. If you need to change a file after marking it ready, simply uncheck the box and you can replace it.

12) Q: I uploaded my video, but when I try to preview it, it takes a while to start?

A: As we near the submission deadline and experience heavier than normal traffic, you may experience slight system latency. Allow the system the time needed to buffer and play the video. Don't continue to hit the play or refresh button; this could delay the process. You should also check your network speed to make sure you have a good connection.

13) Q: I submitted material, but didn't receive an email confirmation. What should I do?

A: If you can't find your ePortfolio submission confirmation email, check your SPAM file. You can also find confirmation of your submission in your ePortfolio account. From your Portfolio Entry Summary page, simply click on your entry for confirmation. Print this page for your records.

Cover Sheets and Forms

14) Q: What cover sheets and forms do I submit, and do I need cover sheets for my instructional materials?

A: Submit the following types of cover sheets and forms:

- Those that require you to enter information about the evidence you are submitting;
- those that include prompts you must respond to on a separate page;
- those that identify the evidence attached.

Refer to the Submission at a Glance Chart located in your portfolio entry instructions for a complete list of evidence, forms and cover sheets to submit electronically. **Note:** If you're a renewal candidate, use the Renewal Submission at a Glance Chart located in the Profile of Professional Growth (PPG) instructions.

15) Q: Is it ok to handwrite on the forms?

A: Yes, we accept handwritten responses on forms. You can also type your responses using single spacing and the default font.

16) Q: Why is the space for responding on the Contextual Information sheet so limited?

A: You shouldn't need a lot of space. The purpose of this form is for you to **briefly** describe your overall teaching context with a focus on your school/district at large.

17) Q: Can I use the same Contextual Information Sheet for all of my entries?

A: Yes, you may use the same Contextual Information Sheet for all of your entries, if you are using the same class/school.

18) My forms are available as Word documents; can I delete the form directions/instructions to provide myself more typing space?

A: No. You are not permitted to alter any National Board forms. Your responses should be concise.

19) May I place a collage of photos on the Photo Storyboard Form?

A: No. You must not include more than one photograph on each Photo Storyboard Form. A form that contains a collage of photographs is not acceptable. Assessors will view each photograph used to create a collaged image as a single photograph that will count toward the 10 photograph limit. Also, don't place Assessment Materials on the Photo Storyboard Form.

Rules Regarding Anonymity

20) Q: What identifying information should be included in my submission, e.g. names, locations, etc.? (Note: this response is applicable to National Board Certification candidates only, renewal candidates should refer to FAQ #21 for anonymity guidelines specific to the PPG.)

A: The anonymity guidelines are:

- When referencing students, parents, and colleagues, use first names only;
- When referencing your school, school district, or facility, use initials only, do not identify its location;
- Do not identify your city or state by name,
- Do not identify any college or university by name;
- Remove your name from student work and do not include your name in Written Commentaries.

Profile of Professional Growth (PPG)

Note: Questions 21-25 are applicable to Renewal candidates only.

21) Q: What identifying information should be removed from my submission, e.g. names, locations, etc.?

A: The guidelines in the Profile of Professional Growth (PPG) refer to anonymity that applies to your commentaries, video recordings, samples, and learner work samples--all written materials:

- Remove all references of your last name;
- Remove last names of students, parents, and colleagues;
- Remove the name of your school, district, city, or state.
- If the sample includes a company, organization, or university that does not reveal your exact location, such as The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, you do not need to remove the organization name or location. Signatures from those organizations may be left since they are not colleagues. Names of authors or professional presenters do not need to be removed.
- Last names and identifiers should not be removed from the Video Recording Date Attestation Form.

22) Q: How should I organize and number pages?

A: All pages must be sequentially numbered within each component. Number pages for Component 1 as 1-20+ (half pages of text may be used), with your samples following each related Professional Growth Experience (see "Organizing Your PPG Components" on page 37 of the [PPG Instructions](#)). For example, if the commentary for PGE 1 is numbered 1-3, the related samples that are placed next would be numbered 4-5. The commentary for PGE 2 would be numbered 6-8, and the samples 9-10, etc. Pages in Component 2 will be numbered 1 to 4. Pages in Component 3 will be numbered 1 to 4. If learner work is submitted, it will be numbered 1 to 8. The reflection will be numbered 1 to 3. Do not number cover sheets and forms.

23) Q: My video has multiple segments, can I upload them separately?

A: Your video segments will need to be uploaded as a single file. For instructions on converting the multiple files to a single file, review the Video Conversion and Compression Guide found online at www.boardcertifiedteachers.org/eportfolio.

24) Q: I don't have a Video Attestation or Classroom Layout form, how do I submit?

A: If you are not submitting a Video Attestation or Classroom Layout form, simply leave the corresponding part(s) empty in the ePortfolio system.

You will need to click the "Ready to Submit" check box at the top right for each part, including those that are empty, BEFORE you will be able to click "Submit".

25) Q: How do I submit Component 3?

A: Component 3 offers you several options. You may choose to create a 6-minute video recording of your teaching practice with pre-K–12 learners or with professional colleagues, or you may choose to feature learner work samples from one or more learners. Parts G, H and I in the ePortfolio system are designated for Component 3 files. Simply upload your files to the corresponding section(s) and leave the extra parts empty.

You will need to click the "Ready to Submit" check box at the top right for each part, including those that are empty, BEFORE you will be able to click "Submit."