Am I eligible to apply?
You are eligible if, at the time you apply, you hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, have completed three full years of teaching/counseling, and have held a valid professional state teaching/counseling license (SPC or APC) for those three (3) years. If you have eligibility questions, please contact Debbie Siachos, Certification Specialist at 410-758-2403, ext. 196 or deborah.siachos@qacps.org.

How do I apply?
If interested in pursuing National Board Certification for the 2017-2018 school year, please submit the application packet found online at hr.qacps.org > National Boards to Debbie Siachos, Certification Specialist no later than July 1, 2017.
What is National Certification?

National Board Certification is an advanced teaching credential. It is a demonstration of your teaching practice as measured against high and rigorous standards. It is a symbol of commitment to excellence in teaching. A National Board Certificate is a credential attesting that you have been judged by your peers as one who is accomplished, makes sound professional judgments about student learning, and acts effectively on those judgments. Offered on a voluntary basis, the advanced system of National Board Certification complements, but does not replace, state licensing. While state licensing systems set entry-level standards, National Board Certification establishes high standards for experienced teachers.

What is the basis for National Board Certification?

A system of advanced standards and assessments forms the basis for National Board Certification. Standards grew out of a National Board of Professional Teaching Standards central policy statement — WHAT TEACHERS SHOULD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO. The vision of teaching this statement described is organized around five core propositions:

- Teachers are committed to students and their learning.
- Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.
- Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.
- Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.
- Teachers are members of learning communities.

Based on the five propositions, the National Board has developed advanced standards in 25 certification fields. The certificates are structured around student developmental levels and subject(s) taught. Each set of standards represents consensus in the certification field of the critical aspects of teaching that distinguishes the practice of exemplary teachers.

What will be expected of me as a candidate for National Board Certification?

The certification process for National Board Certification is designed to collect standards-based evidence of accomplished practice. In all certificate areas, candidates for National Board Certification are required to complete four components: three portfolio entries, which you submit online, and a computer-based assessment, which is administered to you at a testing center.

- Computer-based assessment
- Component 1: Content Knowledge
- Component 2: Differentiation in Instruction
- Component 3: Teaching Practice and Learning Environment
- Component 4: Effective and Reflective Practitioner

Who scores my exercises?

Teachers are recruited from across the country and only practicing classroom teachers may serve as assessors. All assessors attend training sessions and must meet rigorous screening criteria in order to score the exercises.

Will I be rewarded if I achieve National Board Certification?

Personally and professionally - YES!

QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL OFFER THE FOLLOWING REWARDS AND RECOGNITION TO TEACHERS WHO ACHIEVE NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION:

- A $2,000 stipend is awarded annually for 10 years from the QAC Board of Education.
- MSDE is currently matching the stipend up to $1,000 annually.
- 3 MSDE Continuing Professional Development credits will be awarded for completing the process and an additional 3 MSDE CPD credits will be awarded for achieving certification.
- Certified teachers will also be recognized at a pinning ceremony at a public session of a Board of Education meeting.

APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE:

- The candidacy fee of $1,900 will be paid by the QACBOE and the MSDE.
- $250 reimbursement for consumable items needed to complete the process.
- Two (2) days of professional leave to work on the application requirements.
- Candidate support from National Board certified teachers within QACPS.

*MSDE will invoice candidates for payment that withdraw.