

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Program

Terms and Conditions

The following information is provided to aid you in understanding and completing the application process. Additional questions may be answered in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs).

Eligibility Criteria

A list of qualifications and assignment areas as well as a link to [Utah Code 53F-2-523](#) are available on the [Educator Licensing](#) website. All educators who feel they may qualify are encouraged to apply. Initial eligibility will be verified automatically, based on data posted in Comprehensive Administration of Credentials for Educators in Utah Schools (CACTUS).

First-Time Applicant Responsibilities

1. As a first-time applicant, the educator must submit a new application electronically through the [TSSP Service Site](#) between **October 1st and April 30th** the first program year they may be eligible. It is the educator's responsibility to verify the application and select the Annual Payment Term in a timely manner. It is recommended that the educator log into the TSSP Service Site periodically throughout the program year to confirm the enrollment activity and accuracy of the application. **Failure to do so will likely result in missing deadlines and not receiving the NBPTS bonus for the program year.** Due to budget constraints, **no applications will be accepted after MIDNIGHT (MST) on April 30th of the program year.**

Returning Applicant Responsibilities

1. As a returning applicant, the educator's application is "auto renewed" through the TSSP Service Site starting **October 1st** each program year. It is the educator's responsibility to verify and select the Annual Payment Term in a timely manner. It is recommended that the educator log into the TSSP Service Site periodically throughout the program year to confirm the enrollment activity and accuracy of the application. **Failure to do so will likely result in missing deadlines and not receiving the NBPTS bonus for the program year.** Due to budget constraints, **no applications will be accepted after MIDNIGHT (MST) on April 30th of the program year.**

All Applicant Responsibilities

1. Payment Term election may only be for the Annual (Y). *Election of a payment term not supported for the NBPTS bonus will be defaulted to the Annual (Y) payment term.*
2. Ensure that all information is correct in the CACTUS system at the time of an application submission. **It is recommended that the educator periodically verify the application status throughout the program year** to confirm that all program requirements have been met, that no changes have been made during the program year, and all data is accurate prior to the local education agency's (LEA's) and Utah State Board of Education's (USBE's) approvals.
3. If CACTUS is incomplete or there are entry errors, it is the educator's responsibility to contact their LEA immediately to have the profile corrected **before May 31st** of the current program year.
 - * If the CACTUS data is missing or incorrect, a first-time applicant should **submit the application** (do not *withdraw*) and work with the LEA to make any corrections. *NOTE: The **Withdraw** option **permanently** removes an application for a program year. To reactivate a withdrawn application, contact the LEA.*
 - * *Any application not processed by the LEA at the end of the program year may affect the payment eligibility and/or result in a delay or denial of the payment distribution.*
4. If the educator's position changes or is working in multiple LEAs within the program year that affect the LEA assignment, it is the educator's responsibility to contact USBE at tssp@schools.utah.gov within 30 days of the change or by April 30th of the program year, whichever occurs first. Failure to alert USBE directly may result in the educator being categorized as ineligible for the payment, affect the approval and distribution process for funds, and the eligibility for all or a portion of funds for that program year.

5. For confidentiality purposes, all communications between USBE and educators are limited to the email and phone number listed in CACTUS. If the educator changes their email address, they must first update the information through the [Utah Schools Information Management System \(USIMS\)](#) website. PLEASE NOTE THAT UPDATING EMAILS IN THE TSSP SERVICE SITE DOES NOT CHANGE CACTUS, AND CACTUS EMAIL CHANGES DO NOT AFFECT THE TSSP SITE, AS THESE ARE INDEPENDENT SYSTEMS. The educator then must log into their TSSP account to update the email. A new confirmation email will be sent with the update to allow the educator to reconfirm it. *USBE is not responsible for misdirected email or the failure to receive notices and other information from USBE that is sent to the educator's email of record.* Educator/applicants receive an electronic courtesy notification for each processing action.
6. It is the educator's responsibility to submit appeals in a timely manner to USBE. It is recommended that appeals be submitted as soon as possible. Appeals are only accepted in accordance with [R277-317](#). Final Appeal Submissions are due to USBE **before 5:00 p.m. on May 31st** of the program year. *All documentation must be received before the deadline to allow appeal review processing before the final funding deadline.*
7. Any failure on the part of an educator to complete all requirements may result in exclusion from the program. Payments are based on the applicant meeting all requirements *at the time of the final approval window with the USBE* and are available only until funds are exhausted. ***No exceptions will be made after final analysis of eligibility is complete and funding is dispersed.***
8. Any application "denial" received from the LEA can only be resolved directly through the LEA, not the USBE.
9. Any application discrepancies including corrections and/or appeals, will be funded during the "Corrective" payment cycle scheduled for October following the close of the program year, and subject to fund availability. *Failure to notify the LEA or USBE regarding data corrections may affect the payment eligibility and/or a delay of the payment distribution.*
10. In the event the program receives a higher number of qualifying applicants that exceeds the allocation of the NBPTS Restricted Account balance, the USBE may reduce all awards by the same ratio and proportion.

NBPTS Pre-Payment Program (PPP)

11. Educators applying for the PPP must create an account through the [TSSP Service Site](#) between **July 1st and January 31st** within the same cycle they register to earn or maintain a NBPTS certification. The system will track their NBPTS bonus eligibility, pre-payment submissions, and progress. It is the educator's responsibility to verify the application and select the Annual Payment Term in a timely manner. **Failure to do so will likely result in missing deadlines and funds not being allocated to National Board to cover the costs of earning or maintaining a NBPTS certification.** Due to budget constraints, **no applications will be accepted after MIDNIGHT (MST) on January 31st of the program year.** The NBPTS bonus is paid at the end of the program year once all legislative requirements have been met.
12. Educators follow the [Pre-payment Program Steps](#) to submit documentation of NBPTS registration to earn or maintain a NBPTS certification and their current licensed administrator's recommendation letter **prior to the January 31st** deadline of the program year. An educator must be listed in CACTUS as an active educator in Utah at the time of enrollment and remain an active educator in Utah for the length of the program until completion. The NBPTS bonus is paid at the end of the program year once all legislative requirements have been met.
13. Awards to NBPTS applicants are entirely dependent on continued legislative funding and authorization. No applicant has any guarantee of continued participation in the program.

The action of submitting a new application and/or selection of a Payment Term indicates that you have read through the Terms and Conditions and all other information posted on the [Educator Licensing](#) website, furthermore, that you understand the eligibility criteria as outlined in [Utah Code Title 53F-2-523](#) and your responsibilities in compliance with all aspects of the NBPTS Certification application processes.