



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Jennie Smith, School Counselor at White Plains Elementary Achieves National Board Certification: National total exceeds 128,500 despite extraordinary year for educators**

**Dobson, NC** — Jennie Smith, School Counselor at White Plains Elementary, is one of the thousands of teachers across the United States to achieve National Board certification, and one of 78 National Board certified teachers in the Surry County School System.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is excited to celebrate these teachers along with the more than 20,000 teachers currently pursuing Board certification - as seen as the profession's mark of accomplished teaching.

“The pandemic truly tested the mettle of anybody working in a school setting -- including teachers and their students. Those teachers who achieved Board certification this year voluntarily chose to challenge themselves, reflect on their practice and confirm that they are teaching to the highest standards. There should be high standards for all professionals -- and these professional educators have proven that they teach to those high standards during a year that was uniquely difficult. Today's announcement is a reason to celebrate,” said Peggy Brookins, NBCT, President and CEO of The National Board.

The National Board is working to set the expectation that all teachers in every classroom should demonstrate accomplished teaching via National Board certification and become leaders in their schools and communities. Every child should have the opportunity to learn from an accomplished teacher.

### **National Metrics**

In a remarkable school year, during which in-person learning came to a standstill in many locations, 2,576 educators showed their deep commitment to their students and their own professional learning by pursuing and achieving National Board certification. A total of 128,550 have shown they teach to the highest standards in the profession and impact culture and learning for immeasurable students, schools, and communities.

North Carolina (467), Washington (275), California (173), Alabama (166), and Illinois (164) topped the state rankings for the year. Since inception, North Carolina ranks first overall (23,090), followed by Florida (13,559), Washington (11,645), South Carolina (9,277), and California (7,490). Wake County, North Carolina had the most new NBCTs of any district nationwide, with 100. Additional data is [available here](#) and on each individual [state page](#).

“Our work is about driving teaching quality and assuring that all students have equal access to the best possible teachers. Just this past year we have seen policymakers [support Board certification](#); communities applaud teachers in virtual, in-person, and hybrid roles; and teachers themselves strive to improve their practice and deliver on behalf of their students. I couldn’t be more proud of all educators but especially NBCTs and those engaged in the process. Today, especially, is a great day to celebrate educators,” said Brookins.

**About the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards ([www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org)):**

The founding mission of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do; providing a national voluntary system certifying teachers who meet these standards, and advocating related education reforms to integrate National Board Certification in American education and to capitalize on the expertise of National Board Certified Teachers. Recognized as the “gold standard” in teacher certification, the National Board believes higher standards for teachers mean better learning for students.

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