



SR0308

LRB104 13529 ECR 25999 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was established to advance the quality of teaching and learning by developing rigorous standards for accomplished teaching, and Illinois became one of the first states to support this initiative by creating the Illinois Teaching Excellence Program for National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) in 1999; and

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WHEREAS, The year 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of National Board Certification in Illinois, recognizing a quarter century of commitment to teaching excellence, educational leadership, and student achievement across the State; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois Teaching Excellence Program has been instrumental in promoting National Board Certification, supporting teacher candidates throughout the rigorous certification process, and advocating for professional development and leadership opportunities for Illinois educators; and

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WHEREAS, National Board Certification represents the highest standard of the teaching profession, with candidates demonstrating expertise across content knowledge, pedagogical

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1 skills, and reflective teaching practices; and

2 WHEREAS, Research consistently demonstrates that students
3 of NBCTs achieve higher academic gains, with particularly
4 strong impacts in high-needs and Title I schools; and

5 WHEREAS, Illinois currently ranks among the top states in
6 the nation for the number of National Board Certified
7 teachers, with over 7,000 NBCTs statewide working across
8 public schools, charter schools, and educational cooperatives;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education and the General
11 Assembly have both supported certification through candidate
12 subsidies, incentives, and recognition programs, affirming the
13 State's investment in teaching quality and student outcomes;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, NBCTs in Illinois often serve in critical
16 leadership roles, such as mentors, instructional coaches,
17 administrators, and policy advocates, leading to the elevation
18 of the profession while improving school performance; and

19 WHEREAS, NBCTs are also noted for their longevity and
20 dedication, contributing to higher teacher retention rates,
21 thereby helping to address workforce shortages and strengthen

1 educational continuity for Illinois students; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2024 alone, Illinois had 94 new teachers
3 achieve National Board Certification and 206 NBCTs renew their
4 certification, reflecting the ongoing growth and impact of the
5 Illinois Teaching Excellence Program in the State; therefore,
6 be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare September
9 2, 2025 as National Board Certified Teachers Recognition Day
10 in the State of Illinois in celebration of the 25th
11 anniversary of National Board Certification in Illinois and in
12 recognition of the contributions and accomplishments of
13 National Board Certified Teachers across the State; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 presented to the Governor, the State Superintendent of
17 Education, the National Board Resource Center at Illinois
18 State University, and the National Board for Professional
19 Teaching Standards as a symbol of our esteem and respect.