The Colorado Center for Rural Education and the Colorado Department of Higher Education encourage talented K-12 educators in rural Colorado school districts to pursue National Board Teacher Certification (NBCT). All NBCT stipend recipients will receive support and mentorship from NBCT facilitators in a Colorado Rural National Board cohort. The value of the stipend is $4,250.00, which is the amount needed to (a) enroll with the National Board; (b) register for each of the four components of the NB portfolio; and (c) participate in the Rural National Board Cohort, which is paid for by the Colorado Center for Rural Education to facilitators on behalf of cohort members. If selected as a National Board Teacher Certification Scholar, the recipient will receive half of the stipend at the start of the program and the remaining half after participating in the Colorado Rural National Board Cohort for the first year. Recipients must commit to remaining in a rural setting for three (3) years after becoming a National Board candidate.

**Eligible Applicants Must Meet the Following Criteria:**

1. Proof of registration with the National Boards.
2. Provide a written statement summarizing the applicant’s (a) National Board Certification area (e.g., Early Childhood Generalist) (b) commitment to quality rural education; (c) prediction how student learning will be impacted as a result of National Board work; and (d) the expected value to be added to the applicant’s school district upon completion of the program.
3. Be prepared for the significant workload required to prepare a passing NB portfolio (approximately 100 total hours or two Saturdays a month each month for two years).
4. Provide letters of recommendation and endorsement from the applicant’s school principal and district superintendent delineating how this qualification will benefit the school/district.

**Selection and Award Process:** In the event that the number of applications in any stipend category exceeds the amount of available funding provided by the Colorado General Assembly, stipend recipients who meet the above requirements will be selected using a random lottery draw and distributed evenly by CDE region. Of the total applications, 55% will be awarded to individuals working in small rural school districts, and 45% will be awarded to individuals working in rural school districts.

**Preference will be given to applicants who meet these requirements:** Willingness to teach assume expanded roles as a teacher leader in one of the rural school districts (especially small rural school districts with less than 1000 students) that are located 50 miles or more from major metropolitan areas and outside of the Front-Range region of Colorado.

**Definition of Colorado Rural School District:** A Colorado school district is determined to be rural giving consideration to the size of the district, the distance from the nearest large urban/urbanized area. The official and complete list of rural school districts is located at [https://www.unco.edu/colorado-center-for-rural-education/pdf/cde_rural_designationlist_march2019.pdf](https://www.unco.edu/colorado-center-for-rural-education/pdf/cde_rural_designationlist_march2019.pdf).

Questions about the NBCT stipend can be directed to Dr. Valerie Sherman, Rural Education Coordinator at the Colorado Center for Rural Education: valerie.sherman@unco.edu; (970) 351-3061 (office).