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. Be currently employed in one of Colorado’s 146 rural or small rural school districts;
2. Be prepared to share the intended National Board Certification area of endorsement and student developmental level(s) in which you intend to register; (visit https://www.nbpts.org and click on Resources to learn more) and;
3. Commit to remaining in a rural setting for three (3) years after becoming a National Board candidate.
4. Be employed as an educator in a Colorado rural school district
5. Maintain communications with the Colorado Center of Rural Education staff to share experiences, complete surveys, and provide a letter from the alternative licensure program provider or administrator verifying the awardee has received their initial license and remains employed in a rural school district.

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)

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, and having a student enrollment of 6,500 students or less. Small rural districts are those districts meeting these same criteria and having a student population of less than 1,000 students.

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