

# The Citizen

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## Boonton Township teacher earns award for excellent practices

**BOONTON TWP. – Teacher Aaron Rabinowitz of Rockaway Valley Elementary School in Boonton Township was one of a group of 20 New Jersey educators recognized on Wednesday, May 2, by the Business Coalition for Education Excellence (BCEE) at the N.J. Chamber of Commerce with its Crystal Apple award for earning National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).**

“By completing this rigorous assessment program, Aaron Rabinowitz has attained one of the highest hallmarks of excellence in teaching and helped to raise the bar for teaching standards,” said Dana Egreczky, president, BCEE. “National Board Certification is a smart investment for school districts and state policymakers. We need every parent to ask their local schools to embrace and support the National Board Certification process.”

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Administered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, National Board Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession. Certification is achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment that takes between one and three years to complete and measures what accomplished teachers and school counselors should know and be able to do.

Research is consistently positive about the impact of National Board Certification on improvements to teacher practice, professional developments and areas of school improvement that are critical to raising student achievement. Many studies have examined National Board Certification, and the vast majority found that National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) make a significantly measurable impact on teacher performance, student learning, engagement and achievement. For example, a U.S. Department of Education-funded study found that students of NBCTs score 7 to 15 percentage points higher on year-end tests than students of non-NBCTs.

“National Board Certification is a demanding process,” said Kurt M. Landgraf, president and CEO of ETS, which develops and scores assessments for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

“Certification confirms that a teacher has completed a rigorous course of study and achieved the highest credential in the teaching profession. It’s truly a distinction. The work of the BCEE and the support of the corporate sponsors of this program reflect a belief that public education is a public responsibility.”

Before the BCEE became involved in New Jersey’s efforts in 2002, only 18 percent of teachers who applied for National Board Certification actually achieved the credential. In an effort to help more New Jersey applicants attain this distinction, the BCEE, with the support of Washington Mutual, Prudential Financial Inc., the Merck Institute for Science Education, Johnson & Johnson and State Farm Insurance created a recruitment and mentoring program for teachers interested in working toward National Board Certification. The program, called the National Board Network, is a service that links colleges and educational organizations in New Jersey as well as mentor teachers who already have achieved National Board Certification with teachers seeking certification.

“When more teachers achieve National Board Certification, they are helping raise the quality of education across this country. As a business leader, I see evidence every day that education is a critical ingredient in growing a strong economy that is full of opportunity. State Farm’s partnership with NBPTS demonstrates our commitment to the strongest teaching force possible, which will help lead us to a quality education for every child in America,” said Edward B. Rust Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of State Farm Insurance.

Teachers can earn graduate credits for completing the process, attaining certification and participating in select support programs. Several school districts also are offering these exceptional educators incentives to excel with additional professional development time, recognition and rewards. Through this program and ongoing recruitment efforts, the BCEE has helped New Jersey’s passing rate equal the national average.



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