

Spokane EA National Board Cohorts

Program Outline: 2023-2024



Spokane Education Association has been offering cohort support for National Board candidates for a decade now. The program is OSPI-approved, facilitated by union members for union members and clock hours are included at no cost.

COMPONENTS 2, 3 AND 4

KICK-OFF: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 4:30-7:30pm (at SEA office)

A candidate **must** attend if they are pursuing Components 2, 3 or 4. This is the first cohort meeting for these components and **payment is due** for Comp 2,3 and 4 (\$190/each). If you don't need information for all three components, you may attend the portion(s) relevant to you. Candidates will be placed into cohort groups *after* the kick-off and will meet according to the approximate timeline below:

| COMP 2* | COMP 3* | COMP 4* |
|--|--|---|
| October 23, 2023 | October 30, 2023 | October 16, 2023 |
| January 15, 2024 | February 26, 2024 | November 13, 2023 |
| January 29, 2024 | March 11, 2024 | November 27, 2023 |
| February 12, 2024 (reading deadline 3/8) | March 25, 2024 (reading deadline 4/19) | December 11, 2023 (reading deadline 2/16) |

**These dates are approximate. Cohort participants & facilitators will determine exact dates together.*

Component meetings are designed to give candidates quality feedback on their writing. During these meetings facilitators are not focused on instruction, instead cohorts are centered on allowing each candidate to share their writing with the group to ensure that they are providing clear, consistent and convincing evidence or their teaching practice to the National Board assessors before submission. The above timelines are designed to provide benchmark dates in hopes that candidates have a "polished product" by the last meeting date for each Component.

FOUNDATIONS

WORKSHOP: Thursday, October 12, 2023 4:30-7:30pm (SEA office or Zoom)

Three-hour workshop to prepare candidates for the National Boards process. Required for those utilizing the OSPI conditional loan if Jumpstart was not attended. Please stay tuned for whether this will be held via Zoom or in-person.

COMPONENT 1

WORKSHOP: Thursday, April 11, 2024 4:30-7:30pm (at SEA office)

Three-hour workshop to prepare for the Assessment Center. Candidates will receive more information and registration links.

PROGRAM POLICIES & ADVISEMENTS– PLEASE READ

We ask that you review the following policies of the cohort support program and acknowledge them before participating in the program.

- **Cohort fees:** Your fees paid to SEA are separate from those paid to National Board and are also separate from your membership dues. Cohort fees are paid directly to the facilitators, SEA simply helps administer the program. SEA will admit non-members to the program, but SEA members pay a lesser fee than non-members.
- **Cohort Placement:** We cannot guarantee that your requests for cohort preferences can be met. We do our best to accommodate all participants but please be mindful that the process is complicated. Additionally, **placement with like-cert areas is not considered necessary to a successful candidacy.** We do not rearrange the cohort groups unless there is an error.
- **OSPI Rules:** As an OSPI-approved cohort program, SEA is bound by OSPI rules. This is helpful for many members who use the OSPI conditional loan, which means you must attend either JumpStart or Foundations. It is recommended to attend one of those regardless of the loan. Read more here: <http://www.k12.wa.us/Certification/nbpts/Candidacy/Loans.aspx>
- **Doing All Four Components:** To achieve National Board Certification, a candidate must complete all four Components, but a candidate has choice in whether they take 1, 2 or 3 years to do so. Please know that doing all 4 Components in one year will be a significant undertaking. It is estimated to entail 200-400 hours of work outside your normal work day, which includes cohort meetings that will occur every other week for three hours in the evening from October through mid-April.
- **Time Commitment:** Pursuing your National Board Certification is no light task. You can expect EACH of Components 2, 3 and 4 to take about 50-150 hours to complete. This includes FIVE 3-hour cohort meetings per Component as well as a significant amount of time spent outside the normal work day analyzing classroom practice and collecting evidence. Although one can register for Components through February in a given year, it is strongly advised that candidates choose Components in late Spring/early Summer of a given year to have the best chance of a successful candidacy and have opportunities to attend JumpStart over the summer.
- **Refunds:** Pro-rated based on meetings held per component, up to 2 total (inclusive of Kick-Off meeting). A refund check will be sent and no credits may carry over. Example, if you paid \$190 for Component 2 and attended only the Kick-Off, you would be refunded \$152. If you attended 3 meetings and then wish to depart, no refund will be issued.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Please sign and return this bottom portion to SEA when you mail or bring in payment. You should keep the top part for reference.

Name: _____ School & District: _____

I have read the SEA Cohort Program Outline including the policies. _____
Signature Date