

Spokane EA National Board Cohorts

Program Outline: 2024-2025



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: Thursday, October 3, 2024 4:15-715pm (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. Up to 3 free clock hours for this meeting. 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, 2024	October 30, 2024	October 17, 2024
January 15, 2025	February 26, 2025	November 12, 2024
January 29, 2025	March 11, 2025	November 26, 2024
February 12, 2025 (reading deadline 3/14)	March 25, 2025 (reading deadline 4/21)	December 10, 2024 (reading deadline 2/7)

**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 of 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 13, 2024 4:15-7:15pm (via Zoom) Cost: \$90

Three-hour workshop hosted on Zoom to prepare candidates for the National Boards process. Required for those utilizing the OSPI conditional loan if Jumpstart was not attended.

COMPONENT 1

WORKSHOP: Thursday, April 17, 2025 4:15-7:15pm (at SEA office) Cost: \$100

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

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 not admit non-members into the program.
- **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 complex. 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. You can state preferences in the registration form.
- **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>
- **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 workday analyzing classroom practice and collecting evidence. Although one can register for Components through February in a given year, it is 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.
 - **Doing all four components:** As noted above, you can expect 200-400+ hours outside of your normal work day including cohort meetings that would be every-other week for 3 hours in the evenings from October to April. A candidate has the choice to take 1, 2 or 3 years to complete all 4 components and while we understand it's nice to get it done, please consider the workload.
- **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.
- **Joining later:** Please still fill out the online registration form and contact Amy Poston. Your cohort placement will be made once payment is received. If there are still 3 or more cohort meeting dates remaining for the component(s) you wish to be placed in, if there is room in our program, placement should be possible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

When you register online via Microsoft Forms, please refer to this document when agreeing to the program procedures & policies.