

SEA National Board Candidate Support Program Scholarship for BIPOC Educators Information Statement

Seattle Education Association is pleased to announce a scholarship opportunity for Black, Indigenous, and Educators of Color (BIPOC) wanting to pursue their National Boards.

The SEA NB Candidate Support Program Scholarship is designed to reduce financial barriers for BIPOC educators pursuing National Board Certification with support from the SEA NB Candidate Support Program. The current composition of National Board Certified Educators do not currently reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of Washington's educator workforce. This scholarship seeks to help address that disparity by reducing financial barriers to participation in the SEA NB Candidate Support Program.

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive the scholarship you must meet the following requirements:

- A SEA or WEA member in good standing (current dues-paying member of SEA or WEA);
- Employed as a certificated educator, or will be employed as a certificated educator in the 26-27 school year;
- Has completed at least 3 years of teaching experience as a certificated educator at the time of application;
- Identify as a BIPOC educator.

Scholarships Available

SEA has allocated \$1,500 in scholarship funding to support BIPOC educators participating in the 2026–27 SEA National Board Candidate Support Program. SEA anticipates awarding scholarship support to approximately 5 candidates: **\$300 each**. Scholarship recipients may receive funding toward the cost of up to two SEA NB Candidate Support Program Component Courses during the 2026-27 year.

The Scholarship will cover:

- \$150, up to 2 of the SEA National Board Candidate Support Program Component Courses (C2, C3, and C4)

Scholarship recipients will be responsible for paying:

- The \$100 SEA registration fee
- The remaining balance (\$100) of each of 2 SEA NB Candidate Support Program Component Courses chosen (C2, C3, and C4)
- Scholarship recipients who enroll in more than two SEA NB Candidate Support Program Component Courses may select which two courses will receive scholarship support (pick two: C2, C3, or C4)

Example: A scholarship recipient plans to register for 2 Component Courses (C2 and C4). Upon receiving the scholarship, the recipient chooses to apply the scholarship to the SEA NB Candidate Support Courses 2 and 4. The following example illustrates how scholarship funding would be applied:

Course	Total Course Cost	Scholarship Pays	Recipient pays
Registration	\$100		\$100
Component 2	\$250	\$150	\$100
Component 4	\$250	\$150	\$100
Total cost to recipient:			\$300

The Foundations and Component 1 Courses are not covered by this scholarship. Candidates who enroll in the Foundations Course and Component 1 Course are responsible for the full course fee.

Application Process

To Apply: Fill out the SEA NB Candidate Support Program Scholarship Application Form by Sept. 10, 2026: 11:59 PM Pacific Time.

Application Link: [SEA National Board Candidate Support Program - Scholarship Application – Fill out form](#)

All educators are welcome to apply as long as they meet the eligibility criteria listed above. SEA members will be given priority when reviewing applications. Applications will be reviewed by a scholarship committee consisting of the NB Candidate Support Program Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, and at least 1 other program facilitator.

Written Application Questions

Part of the application are 3 written questions that ask candidates to speak to their professional goals and commitment to the National Board process. Candidates will type their answers directly into the application form. The 3 written questions are listed below so candidates can begin to think about and draft their answers before filling out the scholarship application.

Please answer the following questions. Responses do not need to be formal essays. We encourage applicants to answer authentically and reflectively. Please limit each response to no more than 300 words.

1. Why do you want to pursue National Board Certification? How do you hope it will influence your professional growth and leadership as an educator?
2. How do you hope National Board Certification will impact your students and school community? In your response, describe how the knowledge, skills, and reflection gained through the certification process may help you better support student learning, belonging, and success.

3. National Board Certification requires sustained reflection, learning, and growth over time. What motivates you to commit to this process? What strengths, experiences, or support systems will help you persist through challenges along the way?

Award Notifications

All applicants will receive email notification regarding their application status during the week of September 14, 2026. When notified, scholarship recipients will have 48 hours to accept the scholarship. If the scholarship is not accepted within the timeframe, then the scholarship will be offered to an applicant on the waitlist. This policy is in place to ensure scholarship funds are utilized and positively impacting as many educators as possible for the 26-27 cohort.

Expectations of recipients

Scholarship recipients are expected to actively participate in the SEA National Board Candidate Support Program, attend all the course meetings for the component courses they are receiving a scholarship for (5 meetings total for each component course), and make a good-faith effort toward completion of the coursework for which funding is provided. See course calendar on the SEA Website: <https://seattlewea.org/resources/national-board-support/>

OSPI Conditional Loan:

The OSPI Conditional Loan can help cover National Board assessment and component submission fees. The SEA scholarship covers candidate support program fees. These are separate funding sources and applicants are encouraged to pursue both.

To receive the OSPI Conditional loan, applicants are required to attend either the Jump Start or Foundations Course, and participate in an approved candidate support program, like the SEA National Board Candidate Support Program.

The SEA NB Candidate Support Program offers a Foundations Course on Saturday Sept. 19, 2026, for those who need it. Register through the SEA NB Candidate Support Program link: <https://seattlewea.org/resources/national-board-support/>.

The SEA NB Candidate Support Program also offers Component Courses for Components 1, 2, 3, and 4. Register through the SEA NB Candidate Support Program link: <https://seattlewea.org/resources/national-board-support/>.

Contact Information

If you have questions about the scholarship or the SEA NB Candidate Support Program, please reach out to the Program Coordinator, Rebecca Hultman: seanbct@washingtonea.org