



## ABOUT ABCTE

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to recruiting, certifying and supporting excellent teachers essential for achieving student success.

In September 2001, the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) received a \$5 million, two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education's (USDOE) Fund for the Improvement of Education to create ABCTE. Less than two years later, ABCTE was officially launched. In 2003, the USDOE awarded ABCTE a \$35 million, five-year grant to continue its work.

ABCTE offers the *Passport to Teaching*<sup>SM</sup> certification – a respected and efficient way for career changers to become teachers. *Passport to Teaching* is also an effective route to certification for teachers currently in the classroom to earn their certification and meet the highly qualified teacher requirements.

All candidates for *Passport to Teaching* certification must hold a bachelor's degree and demonstrate mastery on rigorous examinations of subject area and professional teaching knowledge. Prior to earning certification, candidates must also pass a federal background check.

*Passport to Teaching* is a four step process that offers individualized preparation:

1. Candidates enroll in *Passport to Teaching*.
2. Candidates complete an online Self-Assessment survey to identify strengths and weaknesses in their teaching and content knowledge. Based on the Self-Assessment, certification candidates work with an experienced teacher (Learning Plan Advisor) to develop an Individualized Learning Plan. This plan recommends materials and resources to prepare the candidate for certification. ABCTE has designed preparation materials (such as practice test CD-ROMs and online refresher courses) specifically for the certification exams.
3. To earn the *Passport to Teaching* certification, candidates must demonstrate mastery on the computer-based examinations. The examinations are a nationally recognized measure of excellence. The assessments are administered at secure testing centers located throughout the world, and must be completed within one year of enrollment.
4. With a *Passport to Teaching* certificate, successful candidates can apply for a teaching license in the states of Florida, Idaho, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Utah. ABCTE is also actively working to earn recognition for *Passport to Teaching* in other states. After earning the *Passport to Teaching*, teachers are eligible to participate in the ABCTE mentoring program.

*Passport to Teaching* certification is available in elementary education (K-6), English (6-12), mathematics (6-12), general science (6-12), biology (6-12), physics (6-12), chemistry (6-12) and special education (K-12). ABCTE is also developing certifications in other subject areas, including history.

Additionally, ABCTE offers a reading endorsement for elementary education teachers. The endorsement is currently recognized as a route to a state reading endorsement in Idaho, however teachers from other states are encouraged to earn this credential for professional development purposes.

ABCTE is currently developing a *Master Teacher*<sup>SM</sup> certification, a distinction for experienced teachers of high merit and proven effectiveness.

America needs millions of new teachers over the next decade. ABCTE is dedicated to increasing the supply of highly qualified teachers available to fill these positions. As it grows, ABCTE will continue to develop more *Passport to Teaching* certification areas, as well as other tools and programs to promote teacher quality and impact student learning.