

My name is Jennifer Boswell, and I am a Literacy Teacher in Anne Arundel County who has the high honor of having earned National Board Certification. I am reaching out to you to share my experience with the discrepancy in the definition of teacher as stated in the Blueprint. In my position, I co-teach in classrooms, model lessons over a single day or many days, teach interventions, assess students for the varied county and state assessments along with those required by the Ready to Read Act, and many other roles. I am National Board Certified Teacher in Elementary Reading Language Arts. Having earned this distinguished title demonstrates that not only am I a reflective practitioner, but also an expert in literacy. I use my knowledge and expertise daily with students, staff, and my administrator.

Combined with the role of Literacy Teacher, I am the School Testing Coordinator. I fill this position with my Literacy Teacher role, because my school doesn't have an Assistant Principal. In this role I work with Special Educators, teachers, students, and staff to ensure our students are assessed in a manner concurrent with state law. As stated in COMAR under .04 Local School System Testing Designates:

- (d) Eligible STCs include the following:
  - (i) State-certified teachers; and
  - (ii) State-certified guidance counselors, library media specialists, school psychologists, pupil personnel workers, and school administrators (other than the Principal).

As you see, according to COMAR I am considered a "teacher", but according to Blueprint I am not. The issue arises when, due to Blueprint, I am not considered a "teacher" and therefore not considered a candidate for the \$10,000 salary enhancement.

I have used my expertise to work with students even when I was very ill. I am a two-year breast cancer survivor. Throughout my various chemotherapy and radiation treatments, I worked tirelessly to fulfill all of my various duties. I did this because I understand how important it is to have someone in my position with the National Board certification in Literacy. I know that without the revision to the list of teachers who receive the enhancements, more experts in literacy will leave the position I currently hold. They may go into the classroom, which is wonderful and a place I love. This will strongly impact 25 – 30 students, but in my position I have an impact on 300 students. I hope you see the power in that.

I reach out to you to consider amending the Blueprint to consider someone in my position – that of a Literacy Teacher. Literacy Teachers across the state are

needed and with us not being included to receive the enhancement many will leave the role. Yesterday, at the Maryland State Board of Education, the National Board spoke to the importance of the Science of Reading and how the standards for National Boards will change to reflect the Science of Reading. Shouldn't someone who specializes in Literacy lead that charge?

Maryland is a great place to live and work. I know you strive everyday to work for equity. This inequity in who is granted the salary enhancement does not seem in line with Maryland's hard work for all.