

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. 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.