

My name is Kathryn Weisshaar, and I am a Literacy Teacher in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. I have earned AND maintained National Board Certification. I am a leader of literacy among my colleagues, who rely on me for current data, research, and educational strategies to meet the needs of their students. My expertise in literacy, as further endorsed by NBC status, coupled with twenty-five years of highly effective teaching experience, give me the credentials to guide my administration and staff in propelling student performance forward. Not only do I use the skills learned in the NBC process to coach teachers to be more reflective and diagnostic, but I also have the privilege of teaching students. I work with several groups of students throughout the day, who rely on my knowledge, skills, and diagnostic abilities to learn to read. Many of these skills were learned through the NBC process. I have also had the opportunity to mentor other teachers while maintaining their certification. Teachers have benefited from my guidance.

Having the knowledge of an NBCT has directly and indirectly affected the students in my school. The professional development and coaching I have provided teachers has assisted them in moving their student achievement forward. My expertise has helped students in many classrooms, not just one! The Maryland Blueprint Law does not define my role as “Teacher”, but I AM a teacher. I teach students to read AND I teach classroom teachers to progress and improve in their teaching skills. I would argue that I reach MORE students in my role as a Literacy Teacher than a classroom teacher. Yet, I am denied the monetary benefit I undoubtedly deserve. Please consider adding my role to the list of “teachers” to receive the \$10,000 salary increase. You will most certainly keep me in my position, moving the students in my school forward.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kathryn Weisshaar