

I am so happy I found American Board to help me obtain my certification in North Dakota. My background was very eclectic and since graduating college several years ago, I kept being drawn back into the field of education time and time again. Whether it was working as a preschool teacher or working at a local college or university. In some capacity all of my work centered around education in one form or another. Most recently, I had worked for four years as a substitute teacher and landed several long-term assignments. I had ended up at a school that became my second home and searched high and low for a way to get my teaching degree/certification. I had toyed with the idea of going back to school for several years and getting my teacher certification. However, life would get in the way as it some times does when one has children and elderly parents. (Not to mention I really wasn't keen on taking on more student loan debt.)

When I first came across American Board, I was hesitant. I kept asking myself, "how could this actually work for me?" I took some time to mull it over as I looked at both Graduate and Post-Bac options, but I wanted to teach - I did not want to wait another 2,3, or even 4 years to get there. So I took the leap and registered. I took my time diving into things and then the world went topsy-turvy with Covid. At the time I was back as a long-term sub at my school and finished off the school year in a distance learning mode. I made the decision that I wouldn't be a sub come fall - I'd be a fully employed teacher.

The American Board process is challenging. If someone signs up and thinks they found an easy way to get their certification, they will be in for a surprise. There is a TON of material to learn BUT it is manageable and if you take your time with your studies you'll be fine. I think I studied more for my board tests (in a shorter period of time) than I did for all of my classes in college combined. I passed all of my board tests on the first try! And I was hired as a full-time teacher!

Thanks to American Board I'm working my dream job!

Shawn Alvarez