

Research on National Board Certification



"The evidence is clear the National Board Certification distinguishes more effective teachers from less effective teachers with respect to student achievement."

- National Research Council

Study after study has proven that the students of Board-certified teachers learn more -- and the impact is greater for minority and low-income students.

- In **Washington state**, a multiyear study found that "[Board-] certified teachers are more effective than non-certified teachers with similar experience." Their findings suggest Board-certified teachers produce gains of up to 1.5 months of additional learning. ([Goldhaber and Cowen, 2015](#)).
- Another study in **Chicago** and **Kentucky** found that "Board certification is an effective signal of teacher quality [based on student test scores]. This finding held across locales, test types, and subject areas. ([CNA Corporation, 2015](#).)
- Harvard University's Strategic Data Project reported that students of Board-certified teachers in the **Los Angeles Unified School District** gained roughly the equivalent of two months of additional instruction in Math and one month in English Language Arts. Among math teachers, this contrasts with a lack of a significant impact by teachers who held only advanced degrees ([Strategic Data Project, 2012](#)). In a similar study in **Gwinnett County, Georgia**, Board-certified teachers outperformed their peers with the same levels of experience ([Strategic Data Project, 2012a](#)).
- In **Hillsborough County (Tampa), Florida**, students of Board-certified teachers scored higher than other students on subject-specific district exams based on value-added measures. Similar findings were reported by previous studies ([Cavalluzzo, 2004](#); [Vandevoort, Beardsley & Berliner, 2004](#); [Clotfelter, Ladd & Vigdor, 2007](#); [Goldhaber & Anthony, 2007](#); [National Research Council, 2008](#); [Chingos & Peterson, 2011](#)).
- In a study by **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools**, Board-certified teachers were found to be "significantly more effective" than their peers in teaching Algebra II, Biology, Civics and Economics, Chemistry and Geometry, as measured by student scores on end-of-course tests ([Salvador & Baxter, 2010](#)).
- The positive impact of having a Board-certified teacher is even greater for **minority and low-income students** ([Cavalluzzo, 2004](#); [Goldhaber & Anthony, 2007](#)).