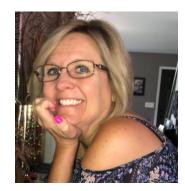# My National Board Story

Name: Michelle Schade
Area of Certification: Early Adolescence Math
Your Professional Title: K-8 Math Specialist
District: Woodridge 68
Year of Certification: 2017

Greetings,

About 5 years ago, while I was attending a conference for teacher leaders, I ran into the Director of National Board at that time. My colleague and I had a wonderful conversation about becoming Nationally Board Certified teachers. In fact, it was at this meeting that we were told National Board was piloting a cohort called a "Professional Development" school. We were so excited about bringing this back to our district that we quickly made contact with administration to get them onboard. Once we had the approval of the appropriate stakeholders, we went to work getting candidates. Now, all of these years later, I am still advocating for PD schools, even in my new district.

I started my journey as a 6th grade math teacher. Becoming certified made me realize the benefits and need for accomplished teachers to be in front of students giving them the best learning experiences. With this goal in mind, I moved out of the classroom and into a coaching role. In this role, I not only coached into math, but also other academics. I was able to use my knowledge of accomplished teaching to support teachers become masters of their craft. In a few short years, I moved into the position I had been waiting for. I became the math specialist in a K-8 district that houses 6 elementary schools and one junior high. My certification has been invaluable as I work with teachers to become aware of their potential impact on student achievement. I model and coach. I look at assessment data and provide feedback. I attend PLC meetings and support teachers as they look at student work to identify who is learning, who is struggling and the direction they will go to meet the needs of all students. Reflection is part of my daily routine. National Board certification is embedded in every aspect of my career and I would not have it any other way!