

MSMTA Certification Committee Report 2019

As of September 30, 2019, 15.8% of MTNA members nationally are certified. Thirty-eight teachers became newly certified in the past year (compared to thirty-six the previous year). Montana has had no new certified teachers since September of 2018, but did have one teacher apply who has not yet finished the process. Our NW division certification commissioner, Ann Kakugawa-Ferandez, finished her term in March and was replaced by David French of Idaho. I have not received any regional reports from his office. Before her term ended, Ann did make a couple suggestions for certification candidates:

1. Follow the Rubric carefully! In Project 2, she has frequently encountered missed word counts.
The Rubric directs teachers to do a minimum of 150 words per question.
2. Regarding Project 3, teachers have sometimes missed that the videos must be of the same piece, showing how they would teach that piece from the beginning, middle, and finally to its polished point.

These are helpful to anyone who is in the process or who is mentoring someone. It will help produce projects that pass easily the first time!

The NW regional report from March 2018 to March 2019 showed 23 total new applications and 17 newly certified members. Montana, Oregon, and Wyoming each had one, Idaho four, and Washington ten newly certified as of March.

In September 2018, Montana was nationally ranked #19 with 16.9% of our members certified. This year we rank #31 with 13.8% certified! That is a bit of a drop! The highest ranked state is New Hampshire with 38.6% certified! In the Northwest, the percentages range from 13.8-27.3%. We are slightly below the national average (15.8%).

One wonderful change is the new certification section on the MTNA website. It is very easy to navigate and very comprehensive. The only information not listed (that I could find) is how many years you have to be certified before reaching Permanent Professional Certification status, which I believe is ten years. However, teachers in this category still need to fill out a simple renewal form (easy to do online) and pay the renewal fee each year. They do not need to send in any of the verification forms.

I've been excited to see some of our young teachers becoming certified, and hope that more will be encouraged to take that journey. I'm very glad to be a resource.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Plesner