# 2012 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

# Improving Teacher Preparation in Indiana



### **Acknowledgments**

### **STATES**

State education agencies remain our most important partners in this effort, and their continued cooperation has helped to ensure the factual accuracy of the final product. Although this year's edition did not require the extensive review that the comprehensive editions require, we still wanted to make sure that we captured all relevant policy changes and that states' perspectives were represented. Every state formally received a draft of the policy updates we identified in July 2012 for comment and correction; states also received a final draft of their reports a month prior to release. All but one state responded to our inquiries. We thank the states for their ongoing willingness to engage in dialogue with us.

### **FUNDERS**

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# Improving Teacher Preparation in Indiana

The 2012 State Teacher Policy Yearbook puts a spotlight on the critical issue of teacher preparation. The 2011 edition of the Yearbook provided a comprehensive review of all aspects of states' teacher policies, and although considerable progress was noted in areas related to teacher effectiveness, the same could not be said for teacher preparation. While many states have made advancements in teacher evaluation and tenure requirements, teacher preparation has yet to capture states' attention.

Good preparation does not guarantee that teachers will ultimately be effective, but there is much more that can be done to help ensure that new teachers are "classroom ready." This edition of the Yearbook offers states a roadmap of their teacher preparation policies, identifying priorities that need critical attention and also identifying low-hanging fruit, policy changes that states can implement in relatively short order.



# Current Status of Indiana's Teacher Preparation Policy

Last year's State Teacher Policy Yearbook provided an in-depth analysis of each of the topics identified below. The 2012 score includes any policy changes identified in the last year. The n symbol indicates a score increase from 2011.

Yearbook Goal	Торіс	2012 Score
1-A	Admission into Preparation Programs	
1-B	Elementary Teacher Preparation	
1-C	Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	
1-D	Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	• •
1-E	Middle School Teacher Preparation	• •
1-F	Secondary Teacher Preparation	
1-G	Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	
1-H	Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies	
1-I	Special Education Teacher Preparation	
1-J	Assessing Professional Knowledge	0
1-K	Student Teaching	• •
1-L	Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	<b>O</b>



# 2012 Policy Update for Indiana

Based on a review of state legislation, rules and regulations, NCTQ has identified the following recent policy changes in Indiana:

# **Elementary Teacher Preparation**

Indiana will now require new content tests, which are currently under development. Implementation is expected to begin in September 2013.

http://www.alsde.edu/Home/Executive/BoardResolutions.aspx?view=1911

## Middle School Teacher Preparation

Indiana has repealed its early adolescent generalist license. All candidates must have middle school setting certification in a specific content area or areas.

515 IAC 8-1-6

# **Student Teaching**

New regulations require that teacher candidates must complete a minimum of 10 weeks of full-time student teaching with an "effective" cooperating teacher..

515 IAC 15-1-2

### **Alternate Routes**

New regulations require all candidates to pass a subject-matter test as a condition of admission to an alternate route program.

IC 20-28-4-5

# Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

New regulations require that teacher preparation programs must develop assessment systems. 515 IAC 3-1-1

# Indiana Response to Policy Update

States were asked to review NCTQ's identified updates and also to comment on policy changes related to teacher preparation that have occurred in the last year, pending changes or teacher preparation in the state more generally. States were also asked to review NCTQ's analysis of teacher preparation authority (See Figure 20).

Indiana was helpful in providing NCTQ with additional information about policy changes related to teacher preparation. The state added that the student teaching language in its proposed rules currently under consideration is repeated throughout the curriculum sections for each developmental level of licensure. In addition, Indiana noted that proposed rule language for P-12 and secondary Transition to Teaching (T2T) program participation states that a candidate is eligible to enroll in a program that corresponds to the content area of the undergraduate degree. Transition to Teaching is a statutory creation, and the statutory eligibility language requires a candidate for secondary T2T programs to have a bachelor's degree in the subject area the candidate intends to teach. IC 20-28-4-5.

Indiana was also helpful in providing NCTQ with additional information about state authority for teacher preparation and licensing.

Figure 1	/	/
Delivering well-	2012	2011
orepared teachers	Grade	Grade
Alabama	В-	С
Alaska	F	F
Arizona	D-	D-
Arkansas	C	C
California	D	D
Colorado		D-
Connecticut	D C+	D- C-
Delaware	D-	D- D
District of Columbia Florida	D	
	B-	B-
Georgia	С	С
Hawaii	D	D
Idaho	D	D
Illinois	D	D
INDIANA	B-	C+
lowa	D	D
Kansas	D+	D+
Kentucky	C+	C-
Louisiana	С	С
Maine	D+	D
Maryland	D+	D+
Massachusetts	C+	C+
Michigan	D+	D+
Minnesota	C+	С
Mississippi	С	С
Missouri	D+	D+
Montana	F	F
Nebraska	D-	D-
Nevada	D-	D-
New Hampshire	C-	D
New Jersey	C-	D+
New Mexico	D+	D+
New York	C-	D+
North Carolina	D-	D-
North Dakota	D	D
Ohio	C-	D+
Oklahoma	С	С
Oregon	D-	D-
Pennsylvania	С	С
Rhode Island	С	D+
South Carolina	C-	C-
South Dakota	D	D
Tennessee	B-	B-
Texas	C+	C+
Utah	D	D
Vermont	C-	D+
Virginia	C-	C-
Washington	D+	D+
West Virginia	C-	C-
Wisconsin	D+	D
Wyoming	F	F
Average State Grade	D+	D
Average State Grade	D <sub>T</sub>	

### **COMING SOON**

# NCTQ Teacher Prep Review

Preparing teachers to be effective and successful in the classroom requires both the strong state policy framework described in the Yearbook and quality implementation by states' teacher preparation programs.

How are Indiana's programs doing? NCTQ will soon answer that question with our forthcoming review of the nation's higher education-based teacher preparation programs that produce 99 percent of traditionally-prepared teachers. The Review will find the programs that are doing the best job preparing tomorrow's educators, those that need to improve and those that need to be radically restructured.

The Review will be released in Spring 2013. Find out more at www.nctq.org/p/edschools.

For a sneak peek, see page 6.

# **Teacher Preparation Policy Checklist for States**

1.	Raise admission standards.	<ul> <li>Require teacher candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission into teacher preparation programs.</li> <li>Require preparation programs to use a common test normed to the general college-bound population.</li> </ul>
2.	Align teacher preparation with Common Core State Standards.	<ul> <li>Ensure that coursework and subject-matter testing for elementary teacher candidates are well aligned with standards.</li> <li>Ensure that teacher preparation programs prepare elementary teaching candidates in the science of reading instruction and require a rigorous assessment of reading instruction.</li> <li>Require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers.</li> </ul>
3.	Improve clinical preparation.	<ul> <li>Ensure that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.</li> <li>Require summative clinical experience for all prospective teachers that includes at least 10 weeks of full-time student teaching.</li> </ul>
4.	Raise licensing standards.	<ul> <li>✓ Eliminate K-8 generalist licenses.</li> <li>✓ Require subject-matter testing for middle school teacher candidates.</li> <li>✓ Require subject-matter testing for secondary teacher candidates.</li> <li>✓ Require middle school and secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a test of content knowledge that ensures sufficient knowledge of the subjects taught.</li> </ul>
5.	Don't lower the bar for special education teachers.	<ul> <li>✓ Do away with K-12 special education teacher licenses.</li> <li>✓ Require special education teachers to pass a subject-matter test for licensure that is no less rigorous than what is required of general education candidates.</li> </ul>
6.	Hold teacher preparation programs accountable.	<ul> <li>Collect data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.</li> <li>Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance.</li> <li>Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.</li> <li>Produce and publish an annual report card for each teacher preparation program.</li> </ul>

# **Critical Issues for State Teacher Preparation Policy**

# **Critical Attention:** Admission into Teacher Preparation Programs



Indiana does not ensure that teacher preparation programs admit candidates with strong academic records.

The demands of K-12 classrooms today require teachers with strong academic backgrounds who can positively affect student learning. To ensure that such strong candidates enter classrooms, it is important to set rigorous standards for entry into the teacher pipeline. This begins with teacher preparation program admissions.

Looking to international examples, such top-performing countries as Finland and South Korea admit prospective teacher candidates from the top 10 percent of the college-going population. While a bar that high is a long way from average standards in the United States, it seems reasonable and appropriate that states should limit access to teacher preparation programs to those who are in the top half of the college-going population in terms of academic achievement.

Most states limit their academic screening to basic skills tests, which generally assess only middle school-level skills and which are generally only normed to the prospective teacher population.

At present, Indiana requires that approved undergraduate teacher preparation programs only accept teacher candidates who have passed a basic skills test (the Praxis I).

Although the state sets the minimum score for this test, it is only normed to the prospective teacher population. Indiana also allows teacher preparation programs to exempt candidates who demonstrate equivalent

# performance on the SAT, ACT and GRE.

### **NEXT STEPS FOR INDIANA:**

Require that programs use a common admissions test normed to the general college-bound population.

Indiana should require programs to use an assessment that demonstrates that candidates are academically competitive with all peers, regardless of their intended profession. Requiring a common test normed to the general college population would allow for the selection of applicants in the top half of their class while also facilitating program comparison.

Consider requiring candidates to pass subject-matter tests as a condition of admission into teacher programs.

In addition to ensuring that programs require a measure of academic performance for admission, Indiana might also want to consider requiring content testing prior to program admission as opposed to at the point of program completion. Program candidates are likely to have completed coursework that covers related test content in the prerequisite classes required for program admission. Thus, it would be sensible to have candidates take content tests while this knowledge is fresh rather than wait two years to fulfill the requirement, and candidates lacking sufficient expertise would be able to remedy deficits prior to entering formal preparation.

Texas

### PESTNORMED TO COLLEGE. ADMISSION TO PREP PROPERTO Test normed only to teacher to prey poses before admission Figure 2 Do states appropriately test teacher candidates' academic proficiency? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut П Delaware District of Columbia Г Florida Georgia П П П Hawaii Idaho Illinois П П **INDIANA** Iowa П **SNEAK PEEK:** Teacher Prep Review Kansas Kentucky П П Louisiana Maine Are Indiana's undergraduate teacher Maryland preparation programs in the Review Massachusetts sufficiently selective? Michigan Minnesota 71% are not sufficiently selective. Mississippi Г П Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada П П The Review will be released in Spring 2013. New Hampshire Find out more at www.nctq.org/p/edschools. New Jersey П New Mexico New York П П П North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П П Oklahoma Oregon П П П Pennsylvania Rhode Island П South Carolina П South Dakota Tennessee Texas П Utah Vermont Virginia Washington 1. New Hampshire is in the process of adopting a requirement that West Virginia will make the test a condition of admission. Wisconsin Wyoming 1 23 18 9

# **Critical Attention:** Elementary Teacher Preparation



Indiana could do more to ensure that new elementary teachers are ready to teach to the Common Core Standards.

To be effective, elementary teacher candidates need liberal arts coursework relevant to the K-6 classroom, and they should also be required to pass a rigorous content test that ensures appropriate subject-matter knowledge.

The Common Core State Standards, adopted by nearly all states including Indiana, represent an effort to significantly raise expectations for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness. And Indiana, like all states, must ensure that its teachers are prepared to teach to these high standards.

Although a "standards-based" approach grants greater flexibility to teacher preparation programs regarding program design, it is difficult to monitor or enforce absent a rigorous test. Further, alignment of preparation program instruction with student learning standards should be augmented with a broader and deeper content perspective than what will actually be taught in the elementary classroom.

Commendably, Indiana requires elementary teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II "Multiple Subjects" assessment, which reports subscores for all four core content

areas, including math. The state also has adopted elementary teacher standards that include a comprehensive list of topics, and candidates must earn either a content major or minor. Regrettably, however, Indiana does not require that elementary teacher candidates demonstrate adequate knowledge of the science of reading.

**NEXT STEPS FOR INDIANA:** 

Require teacher candidates to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.

Indiana should require a rigorous reading assessment to ensure that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared in the science of reading instruction before entering the classroom. The assessment should clearly test knowledge and skills related to the science of reading, and if it is combined with an assessment that also tests general pedagogy or elementary content, it should report a subscore for the science of reading specifically.

■ Ensure that the new content test sufficiently measures knowledge in all subjects.

Indiana is on the right track with its requirement of a content test for elementary teacher candidates that reports subscores for all four core content areas. However, the state should monitor this new assessment to guarantee that it is appropriately aligned with the Common Core Standards and set the passing score for each subtest so that it is meaningful and reflects a high level of performance.

Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota,

Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia,

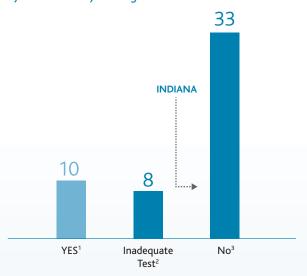
Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado,

Alabama, California, Connecticut, **INDIANA**, Minnesota, New Hampshire

Wisconsin, Wyoming

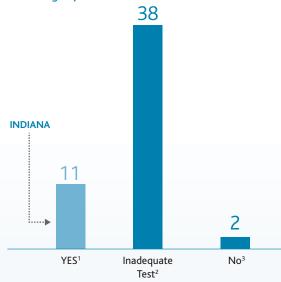
Massachusetts

Figure 3
Do states measure new teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama<sup>4</sup>, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota<sup>5</sup>, New Hampshire, New Mexico<sup>6</sup>, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina<sup>7</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum.
- 5. Based on the limited information available about the test on Minnesota's website.
- 6. Test is under development and not yet available for review.
- 7. North Carolina has adopted a task force recommendation to require the Foundations of Reading test. Rules have yet to be promulgated, including whether the test will be required for initial licensure. Current rules require such tests for professional licensure only.

Figure 4 Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?

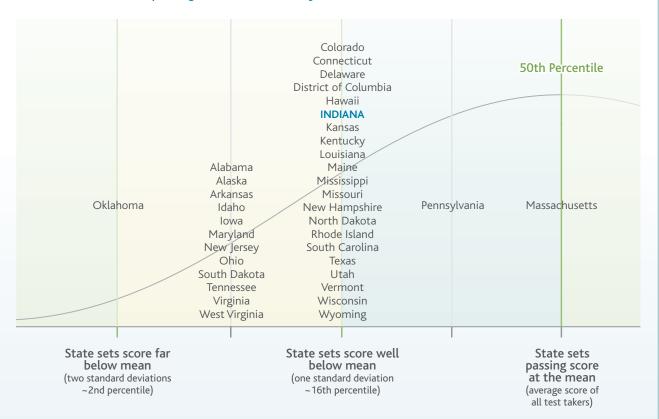


- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont
- 2. Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York<sup>4</sup>, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Montana, Nebraska
- 4. New York is in the process of developing a stand-alone math test.
- 5. North Carolina has adopted a task force recommendation to require the Massachusetts Test of General Curriculum, including the math subtest. Rules have yet to be promulgated, including whether the test will be required for initial licensure. Current rules require such tests for professional licensure only.
  - 1. Testing is not required for initial licensure.
  - 2. The required test is a questionable assessment of content knowledge, instead emphasizing methods and instructional strategies.
  - 3. Massachusetts requires a general curriculum test that does not report scores for each elementary subject. A separate score is reported for math (see Figure 4).
  - 4. North Carolina has adopted a task force recommendation to require the Massachusetts Test of General Curriculum. Rules have yet to be promulgated, including whether the test will be required for initial licensure. Current rules require such tests for professional licensure only.
  - 5. Oregon allows "alternative assessment" for candidates who fail twice.

Figure 5  Do states ensure that elementary teachers know core content?  Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois IINDIANA Ilowa Illinois INDIANA Illinois Illin	Figure 5		, SINC	, with	with	
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Figure 7
Where do states set the passing score on elementary content licensure tests<sup>1</sup>?



<sup>1</sup> Based on the most recent technical data that could be obtained; data not available for Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington. Montana and Nebraska do not require a content test. Colorado score is for Praxis II, not PLACE. Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Utah and Vermont now require the Multiple Subjects test and Maryland, Nevada and South Carolina now require the Instructional Practice and Applications test. Both are new Praxis tests for which technical data are not yet available; analysis is based on previously required test.

Figure 8

Teacher licensing structure in Indiana



# **Critical Attention:** Middle School Teacher Preparation



Indiana is on track to ensure that new middle school teachers will be prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.

The middle school years are critical to students' education, yet the preparation and licensure requirements for middle school teachers often do not ensure that they are sufficiently prepared to teach grade-level content.

Too many states fail to distinguish the knowledge and skills needed by middle school teachers from those needed by an elementary teacher. Whether teaching a single subject in a departmentalized setting or teaching multiple subjects in a self-contained classroom, middle school teachers must be able to teach significantly more advanced content than what elementary teachers are expected to teach.

Commendably, Indiana does not offer a K-8 generalist license, and all new middle school teachers are required to pass a Praxis II single-subject content test to attain licensure.

Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

3 Maryland, Massachusetts, New York

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Rhode Island, South Carolina,
Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

Figure 9	middle con?	K-8 license offered for	sw.	
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South Dakota				California offers a K-12 generalist license     for self-contained classrooms.
Tennessee				2. Illinois has repealed its K-9 license and is in
Texas				the process of revising middle school certifi-
Utah				cation requirements.
Vermont				3. With the exception of mathematics.
Virginia Washington				4. Oregon offers 3-8 license.
Washington West Virginia				5. Wisconsin offers 1-8 license.
Wisconsin			5	
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vv yourning		5	14	

Figure 10				/	
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New York	6				
North Carolina					Candidates teaching multiple subjects only  to pass the elementary test.
North Dakota					to pass the elementary test.
Ohio					<ol><li>For K-8 license, Idaho also requires a single subject test.</li></ol>
Oklahoma					3. Illinois has repealed its K-9 license. The stat
Oregon			7		is in the process of revising its middle scho
Pennsylvania					certification requirements.
Rhode Island					<ol> <li>It is unclear how new legislation will affect testing requirements for middle school</li> </ol>
South Carolina					candidates.
South Dakota					5. Maryland allows elementary teachers to te
Tennessee					in departmentalized middle schools if not l than 50 percent of the teaching assignmen
Texas					within the elementary education grades.
Utah					6. For nondepartmentalized classrooms, gener
Vermont					in middle childhood education candidates pass new assessment with three subtests.
Virginia					
Washington					7. Candidates opting for middle-level endorse may either complete a major or pass a con
West Virginia					test. Oregon allows "alternative assessmen
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	25	4	15	7	

# **Critical Attention:** Secondary Teacher Preparation



Indiana is on track to ensure that new secondary teachers will be prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.

Secondary teachers must be experts in the subject matter they teach, and only a rigorous test ensures that teacher candidates are sufficiently and appropriately knowledgeable in their content area. Coursework is generally only indicative of background in a subject area; even a major offers no certainty of what content has been covered.

Yet not all states ensure that secondary teachers have sufficient content knowledge in the subjects they are licensed to teach. And nearly all states—even those that do generally require content testing for secondary teachers—allow some science and/or social studies teachers to teach with broad licenses that have significant loopholes.

Most high school science courses are specialized, and the teachers of these subjects are not interchangeable. Nonetheless, most states allow teachers to obtain general science or combination licenses across multiple science disciplines, and, in most cases, these teachers need only pass a general knowledge science exam that does not ensure subject-specific content knowledge. This means that a teacher with a background in biology could be fully certified to teach advanced chemistry or

physics having passed only a general science test—and perhaps answering most of the chemistry or physics questions incorrectly.

Just as with broad field science, most states offer a general social studies license at the secondary level. For this certification, teachers can have a background in a wide variety of fields, ranging from history and political science to anthropology and psychology. Under such a license a teacher who majored in psychology could teach history to high school students having passed only a general knowledge test and answering most—and perhaps all—history questions incorrectly.

Commendably, Indiana requires that its secondary teacher candidates pass a Praxis II content test to teach any core secondary subjects. The state does not allow secondary general science certification, and social studies candidates in Indiana must qualify for a concentration in at least one specific area and pass the subject-specific Praxis II content test.

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming

Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina. South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin

INDIANA, Minnesota, Tennessee

INDIANA



# **Critical Attention:** Special Education Teacher Preparation



Indiana does not ensure that new special education teachers will know the subject matter that they will be required to teach.

Across the country, states are raising performance expectations to ensure that students who graduate from high school are college and career ready. These more rigorous standards apply to special education students just as they do to other students.

The challenge of ensuring that teachers are prepared to teach to the new Common Core State Standards is even more pronounced for special education teachers, who typically have had to meet an even lower bar for content preparation than general educators. And certification rules for special education teachers that do not differentiate between teaching at the elementary and secondary levels only exacerbate the problem.

Allowing a generic K-12 special education certification makes it virtually impossible and certainly impractical for states to ensure that these teachers know all the subject matter they are expected to teach; this issue is just as valid in terms of pedagogical knowledge.

While a K-12 special education license may be appropriate for low-incidence special education students, such as those with severe cognitive disabilities, it is deeply problematic for the overwhelming majority of high-incidence special education students who are expected to learn grade-level content.

Regrettably, Indiana offers a generic K-12 special education certification, in addition to grade-specific options.

### **NEXT STEPS FOR INDIANA:**

■ Eliminate licenses for special education that do not differentiate between the preparation of elementary teachers and that of secondary teachers.

Indiana's current model does little to protect some of its most vulnerable students. Failure to ensure that special education teachers are well trained in specific content areas deprives these students of the opportunity to reach their academic potential. Indiana should limit high-incidence special education certifications to elementary or secondary grades.

Require elementary special education candidates to pass the same content test as general education teachers.

Indiana should ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess knowledge of the subject matter at hand and require that these candidates pass the same subject-matter test required of all elementary teachers.

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, INDIANA, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming

Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin

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NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2012: 17

### Ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.

Secondary special education teachers are frequently generalists who teach many core subject areas. While it may be unreasonable to expect secondary special education teachers to meet the same requirements for each subject they teach as other teachers who teach only one subject, Indiana's current policy of requiring no subject-matter testing is unacceptable and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards. To provide a middle ground, Indiana should consider a customized HOUSSE route for new secondary special education teachers and look to the flexibility offered by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which allows for a combination of testing and coursework to demonstrate requisite content knowledge in the classroom.

<sup>1.</sup> Although the state does issue a K-12 certificate, candidates must meet discrete elementary and/or secondary requirements.

Figure 12		Pecific	/
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Washington			
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Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	16	10	25

Figure 13 Which states require subject-matter testing for special education teachers?

Elementary Subject-Matter	Test					
Required for an elementary special education license	Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Oregon <sup>1</sup> , Pennsylvania <sup>2</sup> , Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia <sup>3</sup> , Wisconsin					
Required for a K-12 special education license	Colorado, Idaho					
Secondary Subject-Matter T	Secondary Subject-Matter Test(s)					
Tests in all core subjects required for secondary special education license	None					
Test in at least one subject required for secondary special education license	Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York <sup>4</sup> , Oregon <sup>1</sup> , Pennsylvania <sup>2</sup> , Rhode Island, West Virginia <sup>3</sup>					
Required for a K-12 special education license	None					

- 1. Although Oregon requires testing, the state allows an "alternative assessment" option for candidates who fail twice.
- 2. In Pennsylvania, a candidate who opts for dual certification in elementary or secondary special education and as a reading specialist does not have to take a content test.
- 3. West Virginia also allows elementary special education candidates to earn dual certification in early childhood, which would not require a content test. Secondary special education candidates earning dual certification as a reading specialist are similarly exempted from the content test.
- 4. New York requires a multi-subject content test specifically geared to secondary special education candidates. It is divided into three subtests.

# **Critical Attention: Student Teaching**



Indiana requires teacher preparation programs to provide teacher candidates with a high-quality summative clinical experience.

The importance of clinical practice in teacher preparation has become a major area of focus. Student teaching is the final clinical experience of teacher preparation, and teacher candidates have only one chance to experience the best possible placement. Student teaching will shape candidates' own performance as teachers and help determine the type of school in which they will choose to teach. A mediocre student teaching experience, let alone a disastrous one, can never be undone.

Central to the quality of the student teaching experience is the classroom teacher who serves as the teacher candidate's mentor, or cooperating teacher. Only strong teachers with evidence of their effectiveness, as assessed by objective measures of student learning and the teachers' principals, should be able to serve as cooperating teachers. Yet placement is much more likely to be the luck of the draw. NCTQ's recent study *Student Teaching in the United States* found that three out of four teacher preparation programs fail to require that cooperating teachers must be effective instructors.

Commendably, new regulations in Indiana require that teacher candidates may only be placed with "effective" cooperating teachers. Indiana also requires all teacher candidates to complete a culminating experience of no less than 10 weeks in duration.

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Florida, INDIANA, Tennessee

### **NEXT STEPS FOR INDIANA:**

■ Make the state's teacher evaluation system the basis for selecting cooperating teachers.

Indiana requires objective measures of student growth to be significant criteria of its teacher evalua-

tions. The state should therefore utilize its evaluation results, which provide evidence of effectiveness in the classroom, in the selection of effective cooperating teachers.

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teaching experience?	COPERATING TEACHER SELECTED BASED ON FULL THE STUDENT LEAST TO MEEST SAT	
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Utah		
Vermont		1 Record on new PEDA II regulations
Virginia		Based on new REPA II regulations.      Candidates can student teach for
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West Virginia Wisconsin	2	to be proficient.
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# **Critical Attention:** Teacher Preparation Program Accountability



Indiana does not hold its teacher preparation programs accountable for the effectiveness of the teachers they produce.

Teacher preparation programs operate by virtue of state approval. As such, it is up to states to connect that approval to accountability measures that ensure that all approved programs meet minimum performance standards. Such an accountability system informs the public — including prospective teachers seeking a program as well as districts hiring graduates—by shining a light on high performers as well as identifying those programs performing poorly.

Further, as more states begin to raise expectations for teachers by way of evaluations focused on effectiveness, there is an even greater need to hold teacher preparation programs accountable for the effectiveness of the teachers they produce. Although the quality of both the subject-matter preparation and professional sequence is crucial, there are also additional measures that can provide the state and the public with meaningful, readily understandable indicators of how well programs are doing when it comes to preparing teachers to be successful in the classroom.

Indiana has new requirements that programs must develop assessment systems that collect some objective data that reflect program performance, such as appli-

cants' qualifications and the performance of candidates and graduates. The state has not yet established minimum performance standards that can be used for accountability purposes and does not currently provide the public with meaningful, readily understandable indicators of how well programs are doing.

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, INDIANA, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas Florida, Louisiana

### **NEXT STEPS FOR INDIANA:**

■ Collect data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.

As one way to measure whether programs are producing effective classroom teachers, Indiana should consider the academic achievement gains of students taught by programs' graduates, averaged over the first three years of teaching. Data that are aggregated to the institution (e.g., combining elementary and secondary programs) rather than disaggregated to the specific preparation program are not useful for accountability purposes. Such aggregation can mask significant differences in performance among programs.

# Collect other meaningful, program-level data that reflect program performance.

Although measures of student growth are an important indicator of program effectiveness, they cannot be the sole measure of program quality for several reasons, including the fact that many programs may have graduates whose students do not take standardized tests. The accountability system must therefore include other objective measures that show how well programs are preparing teachers for the classroom, such as:

- Evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching;
- Satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison;
- Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including basic skills, subject matter and professional knowledge tests;
- Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests;
- Five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.

# Establish minimum standards of performance.

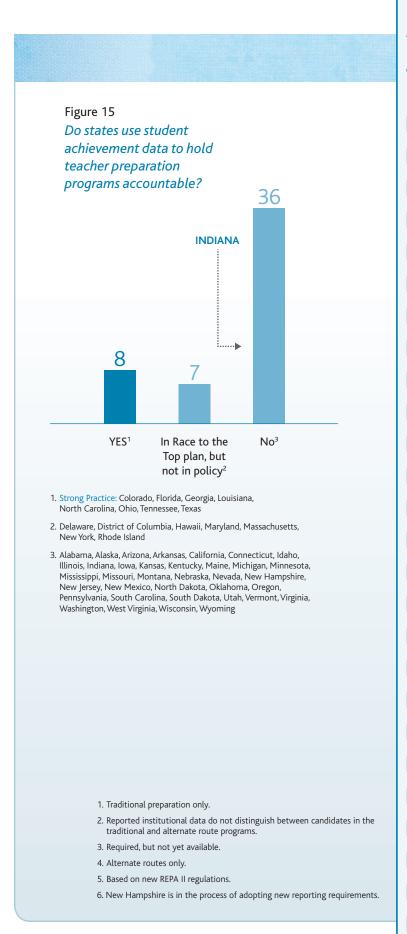
Merely collecting the types of data described above is insufficient for accountability purposes. The next and perhaps more critical step is for the state to establish precise minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category of data. Indiana should be mindful of setting rigorous standards for program performance, as its current requirement that 80 percent of program graduates pass the state's licensing tests is too low a bar. Programs should be held accountable for meeting rigorous standards, and there should be consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.

### Publish an annual report card on the state's website.

Indiana should produce an annual report card that shows all the data the state collects on individual teacher preparation programs, which should be published on the state's website at the program level for the sake of public transparency. Data should be presented in a manner that clearly conveys whether programs have met performance standards.

# Maintain full authority over teacher preparation program approval.

There appears to be considerable overlap between the public process of state program approval and the private process of national accreditation in Indiana. While it is not unreasonable that the state may wish to coordinate these processes for institutions also seeking national accreditation, Indiana should ensure that it is the state that considers the evidence of program performance and makes the decision about whether programs should continue to be authorized to prepare teachers.



Do states hold teacher preparation programs accountable?  Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado³ Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois INDIANA⁵ Iowa Kansas  Kentucky									
Alaska	Do states hold teacher , , ,								
Alaska	preparation programs 🐒 / 🎉								
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California  Colorado³  Connecticut  Delaware  District of Columbia  Florida  Georgia  Hawaii  Idaho  Illinois  INDIANA⁵  Iowa  Kansas									
Colorado³									
Connecticut  Delaware  District of Columbia  Florida  Georgia  Hawaii  Idaho  Illinois  INDIANA <sup>5</sup> Iowa  Kansas									
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### **TEACHER PRODUCTION IN INDIANA**

States have long established requirements for teacher preparation and licensure and have lately turned their attention toward accountability systems for preparation programs. But one topic that has received little attention from states is the issue of teacher production. From the number of teachers who graduate from preparation programs each year, only a subset are certified and only some of those certified are actually hired in the state; the relationship between these numbers has important implications for related policymaking.

States are rightly focused on areas of chronic teacher shortages, such as secondary mathematics and science, but little consideration is given to areas of consistent oversupply, particularly the overproduction in most states of elementary teachers. While it is certainly desirable to produce a big enough pool to give districts choice in hiring, the substantial oversupply in some teaching areas is not good for the profession. Limited resources are squandered on individuals who will not go on to teach, most critically the scarce supply of student teaching placements with effective cooperating teachers. Admissions criteria, licensure requirements and program accountability standards may be unnecessarily depressed if the dots are not connected from graduation to certification to actual employment in a district.

Maryland's "Teacher Staffing Report" provides a model for other states. Published biennially, the report has been tracking staffing trends in the state for almost three decades. While its primary purpose is to determine teacher shortage areas, it also identifies areas of surplus. By collecting hiring data from districts, Maryland has a rich set of data that can inform policy decisions.

The latest edition of the "Teacher Staffing Report" can be found at: http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/certification/progapproval/mtsr.

**Indiana teacher production data:** NCTQ was unable to find any published data on teacher production in Indiana that connects program completion, certification and hiring statistics

1. National accreditation can be substituted for state approval.

			National acceditation is	
Figure 17		Overlap of accreditation	_ /	)e/10
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There are some areas where a small adjustment would result in significantly stronger policy. Here are some issues that represent low-hanging fruit, policies that can be addressed in relatively short order.

- Indiana should require all elementary special education teacher candidates to pass the same content test as general elementary education candidates. Special education students, like all students, are expected to meet the Common Core State Standards. The state puts special education students at a disadvantage in meeting these expectations if their teachers are held to lower requirements for content knowledge.
- Indiana requires objective measures of student growth to be significant criteria of its teacher evaluations. The state should therefore utilize evaluation results, which provide evidence of effectiveness in the classroom, as the method for selecting effective cooperating teachers for student teachers. Research indicates that the only aspect of a student teaching arrangement that has been shown to have an impact on student achievement is the positive effect of selection of the cooperating teacher by the preparation program, rather than by the student teacher or school district staff.
- To ensure that they have strong reading, mathematics and writing skills, Indiana should **require that teacher** candidates achieve a minimum passing score for each subject tested on the basic skills test (Praxis I) used for admission to a preparation program. At present, an overall composite score can be used to pass the test, meaning that a candidate might be able to compensate for a poor score in one subject area with better performance on the others.
- According to the testing information listed on the ETS website, Indiana still offers a general social studies certification, which requires the Praxis II general social studies assessment. Indiana should contact ETS and ensure that the testing website articulates the state's most up-to-date secondary social studies testing requirements. This will ensure that all candidates understand what is required of them.



# **Alternate Routes to Certification**

The policies discussed in the "Critical Attention" section of this report primarily focus on traditional teacher preparation programs because such programs presently train the vast majority of new teachers. Of course, there are some teachers that attain licensure outside of these traditional programs. Alternate routes to certification were developed based on the idea that there should be pathways into the teaching profession for nontraditional candidates who are able to demonstrate strong subject-area knowledge and an above-average academic background.

Unfortunately, most states have considerable work to do to make their alternate routes viable pathways into the teaching profession. Considerable variation remains in both the quality of states' routes and how much of an alternative to traditional preparation such routes actually provide.

A high-quality, genuinely alternative licensure pathway should be rigorous yet flexible in admissions, focused and deliberate in preparation, and open to broad usage across subjects and grades.

State policy for alternate routes to teacher licensure should ensure that:

- Strong academic performance and subject-matter-knowledge testing are prerequisites for program admission.
- Subject-area majors are not required or candidates have the option to test out of any subject-area coursework requirements.
- Coursework is streamlined and not overly burdensome, and it meets the immediate needs of new teachers.
- Program length is reasonable (no more than two years).Practice teaching and/or intensive mentoring is required.
- Limits are not placed on the subjects and/or grades an alternate route teacher can teach, and alternate route providers are not restricted to colleges and universities; districts and nonprofits should be permitted to offer programs as well.

Indiana has two alternate route programs: Transition to Teaching and the Advanced Degree License. High-quality, alternative licensure pathways should be rigorous yet flexible in admissions, focused and deliberate in preparation, and open to broad usage across subjects and grades. Unfortunately, Indiana's programs fail to meet these criteria and therefore do not offer genuinely alternate routes into the teaching profession (see Figure 19).

### **NEXT STEPS FOR INDIANA:**

While Indiana requires candidates in the Transition to Teaching program must have a minimum 3.0 GPA, for applicants with at least five years of professional experience the minimum GPA requirement is 2.5. This is a reasonable accommodation for those with work experience. There is no minimum GPA requirement for the Advanced Degree License. Indiana should set a rigorous GPA requirement for all

Set high standards for alternate routes and provide candidates with flexibility for meeting them.

requirement for the Advanced Degree License. Indiana should set a rigorous GPA requirement for all candidates, as a first step toward ensuring that candidates are of good academic standing. Alternatively, the state could require one of the standardized tests of academic proficiency commonly used in higher education for graduate admissions, such as the GRE.

New rules require all candidates to pass a subject-matter test as a condition of admission to an alternate route program. Indiana should ensure that programs are sufficiently flexible regarding the needs of non-traditional candidates by allowing secondary-level Transition to Teaching candidates to pass a subject-matter test in lieu of having a major in that field.

The state's requirement that alternate route candidates pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffective for candidates already holding a college degree. Basic skills tests measure minimum competency—essentially those skills that a person should have acquired in middle school—and are inappropriate for candidates who have already earned a bachelor's degree. Passage of a basic skills test provides no assurance that the candidate has the appropriate subject-matter knowledge needed for the classroom.

Indiana should also consider whether its minimum teaching experience requirement for the Advanced Degree route — which requires individuals to have at least one year of experience teaching students in a middle school, high school, or college setting — might unnecessarily disqualify talented prospective teachers who have the requisite content knowledge but lack teaching experience.

### ■ Ensure that preparation coursework and support target the immediate needs of new teachers.

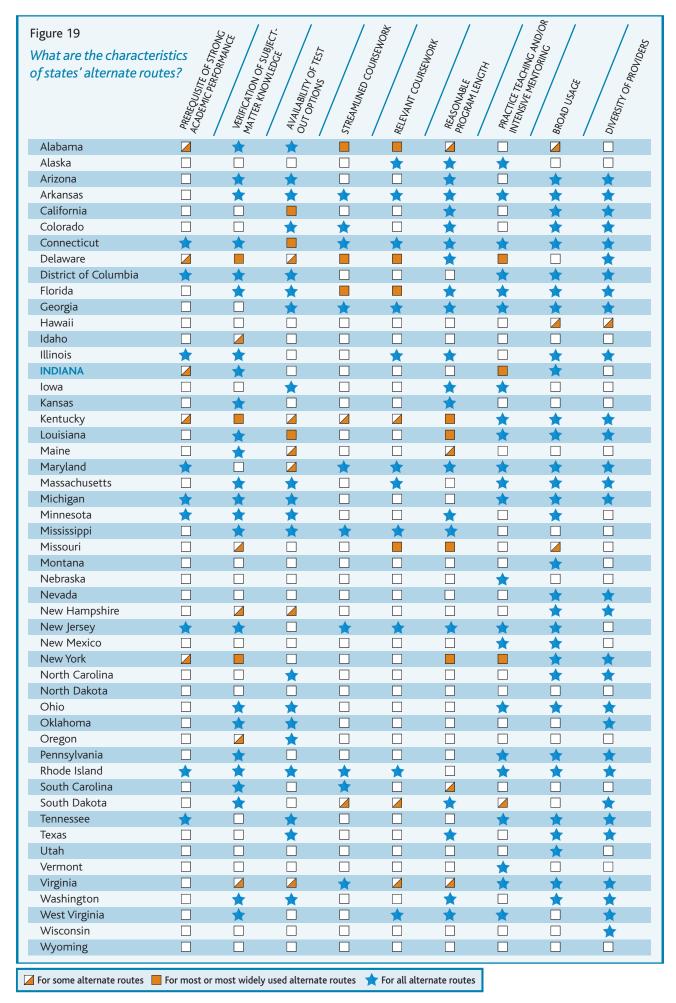
Indiana is commended for requiring elementary candidates to take a course in the teaching of reading. However, there are no guidelines for other required coursework. Indiana should articulate guidelines regarding the specific nature of coursework required of alternate route candidates to help ensure that requirements are manageable and contribute to the immediate needs of new teachers. Appropriate coursework should include grade-level or subject-level seminars, methodology in the content area, class-room management, and assessment. Simply mandating coursework without specifying the purpose can inadvertently send the wrong message to program providers—that "anything goes" as long as credits are granted or seat time fulfilled.

Indiana should also provide new teachers with appropriate support, so that they are not left to "sink or swim" on their own. While candidates for Transition to Teaching are required to participate in field and classroom experiences, the state should provide additional guidelines for this requirement, ensuring that alternate routes employ effective strategies for new teacher success that include practice teaching prior to teaching in the classroom, intensive mentoring with full classroom support in the first few weeks or months of school, a reduced teaching load and release time to allow new teachers to observe experienced teachers during the school day.

### ■ Remove obstacles that limit alternate route providers.

Although Indiana has no restrictions on the usage of its alternate routes with regard to subject, grade or geographic areas, colleges and universities are the only approved program providers. In addition, coursework requirements are set out only in credit hours, effectively precluding nonhigher education providers. Indiana should allow districts and nonprofit organizations other than institutions of higher education to operate alternate route programs. A good diversity of providers helps all programs, both university- and nonuniversity-based, to improve.

Figure 18		#/	\$ / 370,
Do states provide real alternate pathways to certification?	GENUINE OR NEARLY	Allemate route that	Officed route & disingeruous
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Wyoning			
	6	26	19
	6	26	19

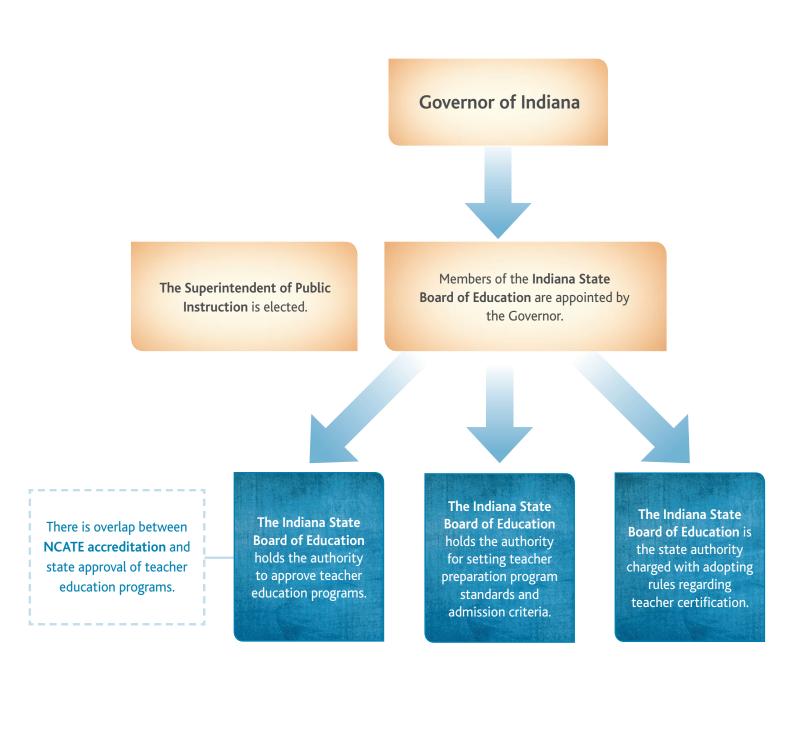


30 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2012 INDIANA

# **Alternate Route Policy Checklist for States**

1.	Set high standards and provide flexibility for meeting them.	<ul> <li>Screen candidates based on academic ability.</li> <li>Set a higher standard for entry than is set for traditional teacher preparation.</li> <li>Require candidates to pass the state's subject-matter licensing test.</li> <li>Don't require a major in the intended subject area; instead, allow candidates to demonstrate subject-matter knowledge on a rigorous test.</li> </ul>
2.	Provide streamlined preparation.	<ul> <li>Limit coursework (ideally to no more than 12 credits a year).</li> <li>Require that the alternate route is an accelerated course of study.</li> <li>Ensure that all coursework requirements target the immediate needs of the new teacher</li> <li>Offer candidates an opportunity to practice teach in a summer training program.</li> <li>Provide intensive mentoring.</li> </ul>
3.	Remove regulatory obstacles.	<ul> <li>✓ Allow for a diversity of alternate route providers.</li> <li>✓ Don't limit the use of alternate routes to shortage areas or to certain grades or subjects.</li> </ul>

Figure 20
Authority for Teacher Preparation in Indiana



# Critical Attention Summary for Indiana



### Red

		AUTHORITY
ADMISSION INTO PREPARATION PROGRAMS	Require that preparation programs use a common admissions test normed to the general college-bound population and limit acceptance to those candidates demonstrating academic ability in the top 50th percentile.	State Board of Education
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION	<ul> <li>Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.</li> <li>Require that elementary special education candidates pass the same test as general education teachers.</li> <li>Ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.</li> </ul>	State Board of Education
STUDENT TEACHING	<ul> <li>Ensure that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.</li> <li>Require at least 10 weeks of full-time student teaching.</li> </ul>	State Board of Education
TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY	<ul> <li>Collect performance data to monitor programs.</li> <li>Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.</li> <li>Publicly report performance data.</li> </ul>	State Board of Education



# Yellow

ELEMENTARY
TEACHER
PREPARATION

Requires instructions in the control of the contr

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure new content test adequately measures knowledge in all subjects.

State Board of Education



# Green

	AUTHORITY
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREPARATION	State Board of Education
SECONDARY TEACHER PREPARATION	State Board of Education
STUDENT TEACHING	State Board of Education



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NCTQ is available to work with individual states to improve teacher policies.

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