2012 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Improving Teacher Preparation in Kentucky



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.

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Improving Teacher Preparation in Kentucky

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 Kentucky'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 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	
1-K	Student Teaching	
1-L	Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	0



2012 Policy Update for Kentucky

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

Elementary Teacher Preparation

Kentucky now requires that all elementary teachers, as a condition of licensure, pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test, which reports subscores in each subject area. www.ets.com/praxis

Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

The state's newly adopted Praxis II Multiple Subjects test also contains a separately scored math subsection. www.ets.com/praxis

Admission into Preparation Programs

Kentucky now requires that all candidates pass a basic skills test as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs. Kentucky Administrative Regulations 16 KAR 5:020

Student Teaching

Effective September 1, 2013, all candidates will be required to complete 70 full days of student teaching. Cooperating teachers must also receive training approved by the Education Professional Standards Board to address basic responsibilities and support and assessment of the student teacher. Preparation programs must maintain a pool of cooperating teachers that meet these requirements.

Kentucky Administrative Regulations 16:5:040

Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

A data dashboard is now available on the state's website, providing information on each institution's selectivity, the performance of candidates on required new teacher assessments, the percentage of candidates who achieve full certification, and the results of surveys of candidates and their supervisors regarding the effectiveness of the candidate's preparation.

https://wd.kyepsb.net/EPSB.WebApps/Dashboard/DashbrdWeb/TeacherEducatorDashbrd1.aspx?sID=1

Kentucky 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).

Kentucky was helpful in providing NCTQ with additional information about policy changes related to teacher preparation. The state added that the basic skills tests are scored individually at high levels, and there are increased GPA admissions requirements. Candidates must demonstrate essential knowledge in math, reading and writing prior to admission, as required in 16 KAR 5:020. In addition, preparation programs must ensure that all syllabi align demonstrate how to incorporate them into their own teaching. Candidates must also pass the revised requirements for the Praxis II and professional learning tests, which are aligned with the Common Core and have an increased cut-score framework.

Kentucky also noted that, in accordance with 16 KAR 5:040, candidates will be required to earn 200 hours of clinical experience prior to student teaching. The nature and specificity of these hours will allow for a broad range of experiences and will be closely monitored to ensure quality and diversity.

In addition, Kentucky was helpful in providing NCTQ with further information about state authority for teacherpreparation and licensing.

Figure 1	/	/
Delivering well-	2012	2011
prepared teachers	2012 Grade	2011 Grade
Alabama	B-	С
Alaska	F	F
Arizona	D-	D-
Arkansas	С	С
California	D	D
Colorado	D	D-
Connecticut	C+	C-
Delaware	D-	D-
District of Columbia	D	D
Florida	B-	B-
Georgia	С	С
Hawaii	D	D
Idaho	D	D
Illinois	D	D
Indiana	B-	C+
lowa	D	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+
	C-	C-
Virginia		
Washington	D+	D+
West Virginia	C-	C-
Wisconsin	D+	D
Wyoming	F	F
Average State Grade	D+	D

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 *Year-book* and quality implementation by states' teacher preparation programs.

How are **Kentucky'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.	 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. Require preparation programs to use a common test normed to the general college-bound population.
2.	Align teacher preparation with Common Core State Standards.	 Ensure that coursework and subject-matter testing for elementary teacher candidates are well aligned with standards. Ensure that teacher preparation programs prepare elementary teaching candidates in the science of reading instruction and require a rigorous assessment of reading instruction. Require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers.
3.	Improve clinical preparation.	 Ensure that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning. Require summative clinical experience for all prospective teachers that includes at least 10 weeks of full-time student teaching.
4.	Raise licensing standards.	 ✓ Eliminate K-8 generalist licenses. ✓ Require subject-matter testing for middle school teacher candidates. ✓ Require subject-matter testing for secondary teacher candidates. ✓ 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.
5.	Don't lower the bar for special education teachers.	 ✓ Do away with K-12 special education teacher licenses. ✓ 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.
6.	Hold teacher preparation programs accountable.	 Collect data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs. Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance. Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data. Produce and publish an annual report card for each teacher preparation program.

Critical Issues for State Teacher Preparation Policy

Critical Attention: Admission into Teacher Preparation Programs



Kentucky 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.

Kentucky 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 normed just to the prospective teacher population. In addition, Kentucky requires a cumulative GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale for admission or a 3.0 GPA for the last 30 hours of credit completed.

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, 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, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming Illinois Texas

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas,

NEXT STEPS FOR KENTUCKY:

Require that programs use a common admissions test normed to the general collegebound population.

Kentucky 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, Kentucky 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.

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 Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa **SNEAK PEEK:** Teacher Prep Review Kansas **KENTUCKY** Louisiana Maine Are Kentucky's undergraduate teacher Maryland preparation programs in the Review Massachusetts sufficiently selective? Michigan Minnesota 83% are not sufficiently selective. Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada The Review will be released in Spring 2013. New Hampshire Find out more at www.nctq.org/p/edschools. 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 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



Kentucky does not 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 Kentucky, represent an effort to significantly raise expectations for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness. And Kentucky, 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.

Kentucky requires elementary teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II "Multiple Subjects" test, which reports subscores for all four core content areas, but the state does not adequately test teacher candidates' knowledge of the science of reading. Further, Kentucky's coursework requirements lack the specificity to guarantee relevancy to the elementary classroom.

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, 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, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Alabama, California, Connecticut, Indiana, Minnesota, New Hampshire

Massachusetts

NEXT STEPS FOR KENTUCKY:

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

Kentucky 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. Kentucky should also set the passing score for each subtest so that it is meaningful and reflects a high level of performance.

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

Kentucky 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 teacher preparation programs deliver a comprehensive program of study in broad liberal arts coursework.

Kentucky should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish comprehensive coursework requirements for elementary teacher candidates that align with the Common Core Standards to ensure that candidates will complete coursework relevant to the common topics in elementary grades. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours in the core subject areas of English, science, social studies and fine arts. Presently, Kentucky does not specify any coursework requirements for general education or elementary teacher candidates, and the national standards for teachers adopted by the state fall far short of the mark by making no mention of some significant areas.

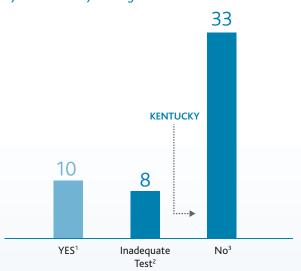
Require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers.

Although the national standards for teachers adopted by Kentucky require some knowledge in key areas of mathematics, the state should require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers. This includes specific coursework in foundations, algebra and geometry, with some statistics.

Require elementary teacher candidates to complete a content specialization in an academic subject area.

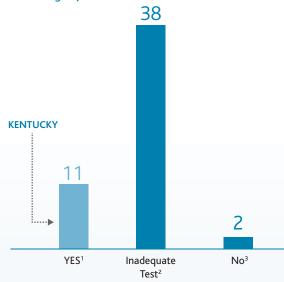
In addition to enhancing content knowledge, this requirement would ensure that prospective teachers in Kentucky take higher-level academic coursework. This requirement also provides an important safeguard in the event that candidates are unable to successfully complete clinical practice requirements. With an academic concentration (or better still a major or minor), candidates who are not ready for the classroom and do not pass student teaching can still be on track to complete a degree.

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



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama⁴, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota⁵, New Hampshire, New Mexico⁶, 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 Carolina⁷, 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?

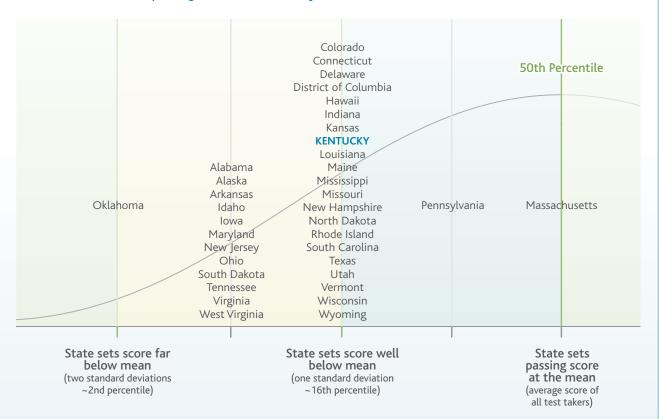


- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont
- 2. Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York⁴, North Carolina⁵, 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	EEMENTARY CONTENT SCORE FOR SPACE	Separate passing	Elementary content to	/ With	
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Nebraska			2		
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New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
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North Carolina					
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Ohio					
Oklahoma		5			
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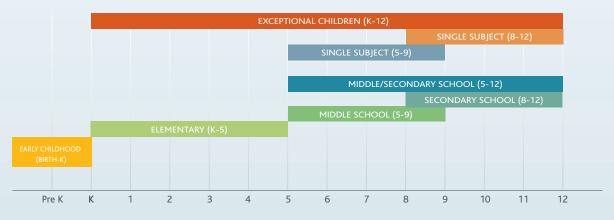
Figure 6				GLISH		/			NCE				OCIA					/	FINE ARTS
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Figure 7 Where do states set the passing score on elementary content licensure tests¹?



¹ 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 Kentucky



Critical Attention: Middle School Teacher Preparation



Kentucky 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, Kentucky 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

Maryland, Massachusetts, New York

Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, **KENTUCKY**, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

Do states distinguish i		K-8 license offered for	K-8 license offered	
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New Mexico				
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Pennsylvania				
Rhode Island				
South Carolina				1 C (
South Dakota				California offers a K-12 generalist license for self-contained classrooms.
Tennessee				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				4. Oregon offers 3-8 license.
Washington				5. Wisconsin offers 1-8 license.
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Figure 10		/	/,	No, testing of all subjects	
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North Carolina					 Candidates teaching multiple subjects only to pass the elementary test.
North Dakota					For K-8 license, Idaho also requires a single-
Ohio					subject test.
Oklahoma					3. Illinois has repealed its K-9 license. The state
Oregon			7		is in the process of revising its middle schoo certification requirements.
Pennsylvania					4. It is unclear how new legislation will affect
Rhode Island					testing requirements for middle school
South Carolina					candidates.
South Dakota					Maryland allows elementary teachers to tea in departmentalized middle schools if not le
Tennessee					than 50 percent of the teaching assignment
Texas					within the elementary education grades.
Utah					6. For nondepartmentalized classrooms, general
Vermont					in middle childhood education candidates m pass new assessment with three subtests.
Virginia					7. Candidates opting for middle-level endorsen
Washington					may either complete a major or pass a cont
West Virginia					test. Oregon allows "alternative assessment" candidates who fail twice.
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Wisconsin					

Critical Attention: Secondary Teacher Preparation



Kentucky could do more 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, Kentucky requires that its secondary teacher candidates pass a Praxis II content test to teach any core secondary subjects. Kentucky does not allow secondary certification in general science. However, the state only offers a general social studies certification to secondary teachers. Teachers with this license are not required to pass individual content tests for each discipline they are permitted to teach.

NEXT STEPS FOR KENTUCKY:

Require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

By allowing a general social studies certification—and only requiring a general knowledge social studies exam—Kentucky is not ensuring that its secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. The state's required assessment combines all subject areas (e.g., history, geography, economics) and does not report separate scores for each subject area.

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, lowa, 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



Critical Attention: Special Education Teacher Preparation



Kentucky 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, Kentucky only offers a generic K-12 special education certification.

NEXT STEPS FOR KENTUCKY:

- Eliminate licenses for special education that do not differentiate between the preparation of elementary teachers and that of secondary teachers.
 - Kentucky'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. Kentucky should limit high-incidence special education certifications to elementary or secondary grades.
- Provide a broad liberal arts program of study to elementary special education candidates and require that they pass the same content test as general education teachers.

Kentucky should ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess knowledge of the subject matter at hand. Not only should the state require core-subject coursework relevant to the elementary classroom, but it should also 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

O

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, Kentucky'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, Kentucky 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.

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

Figure 12		Pecific	/
Do states distinguish	² √S	/ ************************************	/ 0.
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and secondary special	707 71F	12 a,	1/2 a
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Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
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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 ¹ , Pennsylvania ² , Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia ³ , Wisconsin						
Required for a K-12 special education license	Colorado, Idaho						
Secondary Subject-Matter T	est(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 ⁴ , Oregon ¹ , Pennsylvania ² , Rhode Island, West Virginia ³						
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



Kentucky does not ensure that teacher preparation programs will 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 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.

Kentucky commendably requires all teacher candidates to complete 70 full days of student teaching. However, although the state articulates some important requirements for cooperating teachers, it does not address the most essential: cooperating teachers' classroom effectiveness.

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 KENTUCKY:

■ Ensure that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.

In addition to the ability to mentor an adult, cooperating teachers in Kentucky should also be carefully screened for their capacity to further student achievement. 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.

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Arkansas			
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Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
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KENTUCKY			
Louisiana			
Maine			
Maryland			
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Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			1 Raced on now PEDA II regulations
Virginia			Based on new REPA II regulations. Candidates can student teach for
Washington		2	less than 12 weeks if determined
West Virginia Wisconsin		2	to be proficient.
Wyoming			
wyoning			

Critical Attention: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability



Kentucky could do more to 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.

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

Kentucky collects some program-specific, objective data and reports these data on the state's website. The state's new Teacher Preparation Dashboard provides information on each institution's selectivity of candidates, the performance of candidates on required new teacher assessments, the percentage of candidates who achieve full certification, and the results of surveys of candidates and their supervisors regarding the effectiveness of the candidate's preparation. Some of these data are reported at the program level. But Kentucky has not established precise minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category of data it collects that can be used for accountability purposes.

NEXT STEPS FOR KENTUCKY:

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

As one way to measure whether programs are producing effective classroom teachers, Kentucky should consider the academic achievement gains of students taught by programs' graduates, averaged over the first three years of teaching.

Establish minimum standards of performance for accountability purposes.

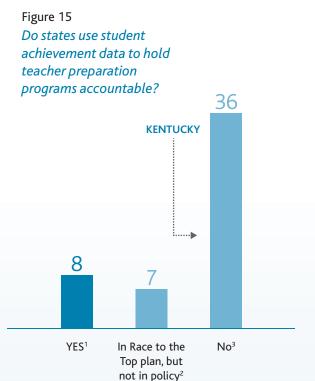
In order to make use of the data Kentucky already collects and publishes for accountability purposes, it is critical that the state establish minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category of data. Kentucky should be mindful of setting rigorous standards for program performance, 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.

Distinguish between alternate route programs and traditional preparation programs in public reporting.

It would be more useful to the public—especially hiring school districts—if Kentucky's reports on teacher preparation program performance included specific data at the program level.

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. While it is not unreasonable that the state may wish to coordinate these processes for institutions also seeking national accreditation, Kentucky 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.



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

Figure 16				
Do states hold teach	hor			
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preparation progra	IIIS E		KEB X	
accountable?	EPRC 47.	Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z		
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Arkansas				
California	Ц			
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District of Columbia				
Florida			2	
Georgia			2	
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Massachusetts				
Michigan		1		
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TEACHER PRODUCTION IN KENTUCKY

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.

Kentucky teacher production data: NCTQ was unable to find any published data on teacher production in Kentucky that connects program completion, certification and hiring statistics. Kentucky is in the process of compiling an Education Professional Standards Board Work Force Data Dashboard, which will provide statistics about the state's public teacher personnel; however, it is unclear whether these data will connect to district hiring statistics.

- 1. Traditional preparation only.
- 2. Reported institutional data do not distinguish between candidates in the traditional and alternate route programs.
- 3. Required, but not yet available.
- 4. Alternate routes only.
- 5. Based on new REPA II regulations.
- 6. New Hampshire is in the process of adopting new reporting requirements.

Figure 17		/	National accediation;	>
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approval and national	145/		acc for p	
accreditation?	7477.7 PROV	Overla	lation; Tuired	
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California		1		
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District of Columbia				
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Idaho				
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KENTUCKY Louisiana				
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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.

- To ensure adequate subject-area knowledge, Kentucky should require secondary teachers who obtain certification in general social studies to pass individual content tests (or a composite test that reports individual subscores) for each discipline they will be licensed to teach, as noted in the secondary critical attention section.
- While Kentucky already allows candidates to demonstrate academic proficiency on the GRE for admission into a teacher preparation program, the state should allow similar accommodation for undergraduates by allowing teacher candidates to submit ACT or SAT scores that demonstrate academic proficiency.



^{1.} National accreditation can be substituted for state approval.

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.

Kentucky has eight alternate routes: Exceptional Work Experience, Local District Training Program, College Faculty, Adjunct Instructor, Veterans of the Armed Services, University-Based Alternative Route, Institute Alternative Route and Teach For America. While some of Kentucky's alternate routes have admissions requirements that exceed those of traditional programs, some are flexible with regard to the needs of nontraditional candidates, and some provide streamlined and relevant coursework, most programs have significant room for improvement (see Figure 19). Commendably, Kentucky does not limit the usage of its alternate routes and allows a diversity of providers. The state also requires all alternate route candidates to participate in internships.

NEXT STEPS FOR KENTUCKY:

■ Set rigorous admissions requirements for *all* alternate routes.

Kentucky should consistently require that candidates in all alternate route programs provide some evidence of good academic performance. Currently, only the state's Institute Alternative Route requires candidates to have a 3.0 GPA; most other routes require no higher than a 2.5 GPA for admission. Kentucky should consider increasing the GPA requirements to ensure that all candidates in all programs

meet a more rigorous bar. The standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of at least 2.75. 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.

Some alternate routes, such as Local District Training Program, Veterans of the Armed Services Certification, the Institute Alternative Route to Certification and Teach For America, require candidates to demonstrate content knowledge on a subject-matter test. Kentucky should extend this requirement to all of its candidates. Teachers without sufficient subject-matter knowledge place students at risk.

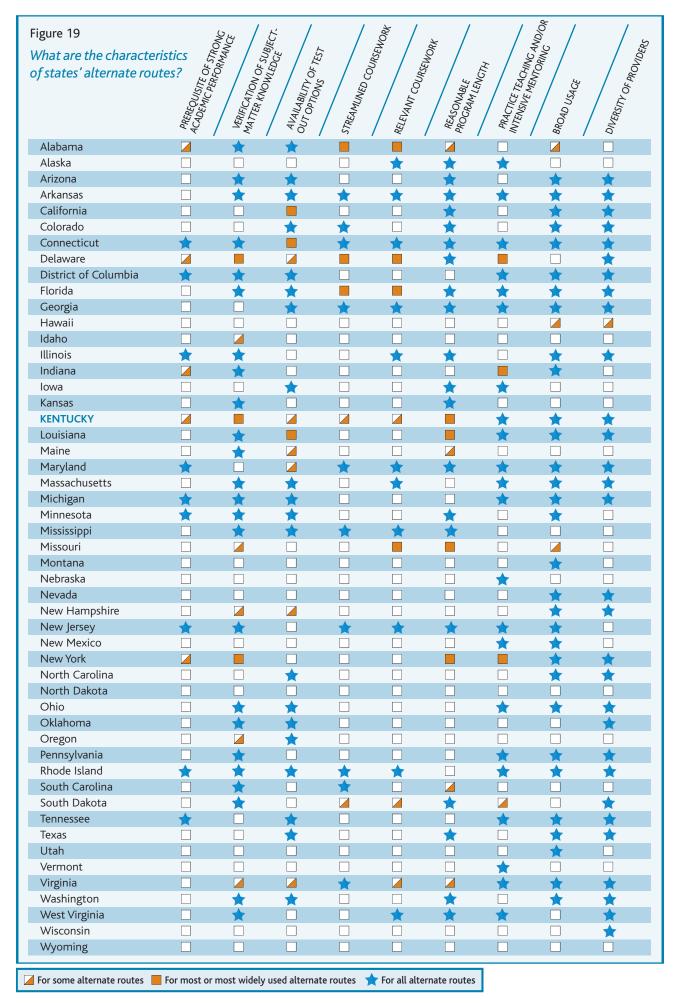
In addition, Kentucky should provide flexibility by allowing candidates in all routes to use the subject-matter test in lieu of having a major or meeting subject-matter coursework requirements.

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

States should ensure that alternate route participants are required to meet only standards or complete coursework that is practical and immediately helpful to a new teacher. Only Kentucky's Institute Alternative Route and Teach For America programs outline streamlined and relevant coursework. All coursework requirements should be manageable for career changers and other nontraditional candidates and contribute to the immediate needs of new teachers. Appropriate coursework should include grade-level or subject-level seminars, methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction.

Kentucky should ensure that all alternate route programs are of a reasonable length, that is, they are able to be completed in no more than two years. The state's University-Based Alternate Route, which is three years long, really doesn't represent a streamlined alternative to a traditional program.

Do states provide real alternate pathways to certification?	EARIL	TEROC that	ements
	GENUINE OR NEARLY	Altemate route that	Officed route's disingenous
Alabama		′	
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
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virginia			
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Washington West Virginia		26	19



30 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2012 KENTUCKY

Alternate Route Policy Checklist for States

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

Figure 20
Authority for Teacher Preparation in Kentucky

Governor of Kentucky The Commissioner of Members of the Education Members of the **Kentucky Education** is appointed by **State Board of Education Professional Standards** the State Board are appointed by **Board** are appointed by of Education. the Governor. the Governor. The Education The Education The Education Professional There is overlap between **Professional Professional Standards Board** Standards Board is NCATE accreditation and **Standards Board** holds the authority the state authority state approval of teacher holds the authority to for setting teacher charged with adopting education programs. approve teacher preparation program rules regarding education programs. standards and teacher certification. admission criteria.

Critical Attention Summary for Kentucky



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. 	Education Professional Standards Board
ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREPARATION	 Ensure new content test sufficiently measures knowledge of all subjects. Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction. Require preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers. Require a content specialization in an academic subject area. 	Education Professional Standards Board
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION	 Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates. Require that elementary special education candidates pass the same content test as general elementary teachers. Ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge. 	Education Professional Standards Board
STUDENT TEACHING	Ensure that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.	Education Professional Standards Board



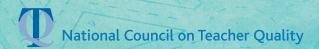
Yellow

		AUTHORITY
SECONDARY TEACHER PREPARATION	 Require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach. 	Education Professional Standards Board
TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY	 Collect performance data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs. Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards. Distinguish between alternate route programs and traditional preparation programs in public reporting. 	Education Professional Standards Board



Green

	AUTHORITY
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREPARATION	Education Professional Standards Board



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

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