2012 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Improving Teacher Preparation in Oregon



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 Oregon

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 Oregon'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	0
1-G	Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	
1-H	Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies	0
1-I	Special Education Teacher Preparation	
1-J	Assessing Professional Knowledge	
1-K	Student Teaching	
1-L	Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	



2012 Policy Update for Oregon

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

Elementary Teacher Preparation

The Multiple Subjects exam is no longer administered. The required test is now the NES Elementary Education test (subtests I and II). Subtest I includes reading and English language arts (62%) and social studies (38%). Subtest II includes math (50%); science (38%); and the arts, health and fitness (12%).

www.nestest.com

Middle School Teacher Preparation

Oregon has adopted middle grades content tests in each of the four content areas: English language arts, general science, math and social science. Candidates opting for a middle-level endorsement may pass the appropriate single-subject assessment.

www.orela.nesinc.com

Admission to Teacher Preparation Programs

The state now requires candidates to pass the basic skills test as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs. *Oregon Administrative Rules 584-017-1028*

Oregon 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).

Oregon was helpful in providing NCTQ with additional information about policy changes related to teacher preparation. The state added that the NES elementary education test is fully aligned to the Common Core State Standards. "It also brings a stronger reading component to the elementary education test."

Oregon pointed out that it is in the process of reviewing its elementary education licensure requirements over the next year and attention will be given to the depth of reading and mathematics preparation for elementary teachers, with plans to adopt a specialization in elementary math. The state further noted that both middle level and secondary preparation requirements are also part of an upcoming review.

In addition, Oregon's student teaching requirements have been realigned to the NCATE field placement standards, and all preservice programs must show data regarding candidates' performance in student teaching, including contributions to K-12 students' learning growth during the student teaching experience. (OAR 584-017-1038)

Oregon also noted that it adopted strong rules regarding low-performing and at-risk institutions following an accreditation visit, and it will be participating in the NCATE/CAEP bid for more transparency with regard to site visit outcomes. Rules are currently being filed with the Oregon secretary of state.

Further, Oregon said that it approved a school counseling alternate route license through the Salem-Keizer school district and an administrator preparation program through the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators. The state noted that it has "not yet received an alternate route proposal for teacher preparation from a non-university provider."

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

Figure 1	/	/
Delivering well- 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
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

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 Oregon'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



Oregon 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.

Oregon now requires that approved undergraduate teacher preparation programs only accept teacher candidates who have passed a basic skills test "or the equivalent basic skills testing alternative."

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, 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

NEXT STEPS FOR OREGON:

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

Oregon 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 that candidates 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, Oregon 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 poseson 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 П Louisiana Maine Are Oregon's undergraduate teacher Maryland preparation programs in the Review Massachusetts sufficiently selective? Michigan Minnesota 75% are not sufficiently selective. Mississippi Г 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 Г New Mexico New York Г П North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П П Oklahoma **OREGON** П П П Pennsylvania Rhode Island П South Carolina 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



Oregon 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 Oregon, represent an effort to significantly raise expectations for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness. And Oregon, 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.

Unfortunately, Oregon's policies fail to ensure that elementary teacher candidates will have the subject-area knowledge necessary to teach to these standards. The state does not require a subject-matter test that reports subscores in all core

areas, and its coursework requirements lack the specificity to guarantee relevancy to the elementary classroom. In addition, Oregon does not ensure that teachers will be adequately prepared in the science of reading instruction, another key element of the Common Core State Standards.

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 OREGON:

Require elementary teacher candidates to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure sufficient content knowledge of all subjects.

Oregon should ensure that its elementary content test is appropriately aligned with the Common Core State Standards and require separate, meaningful passing scores for each core area on the test. Although Oregon is on the right track by administering a two-part licensing test, thus making it harder for teachers to pass if they fail some subject areas, the state is encouraged to further strengthen its policy and require separate passing scores for each subject on its multiple-subject test. Regrettably, the state allows "alternative assessment," in which candidates who have twice failed the content test can petition for a waiver of this requirement.

Require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers and require candidates to pass a rigorous math assessment.

Oregon 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. Oregon should also require a rigorous assessment that reports a separate subscore for and evaluates mathematics knowledge beyond an elementary school level and challenges candidates' understanding of underlying mathematics concepts.

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

Oregon 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. Although Oregon's elementary assessment addresses the components of scientifically based reading instruction in Subtest 1, the breadth of the topics covered on the exam makes it possible to pass this exam without correctly answering questions on the science of reading.

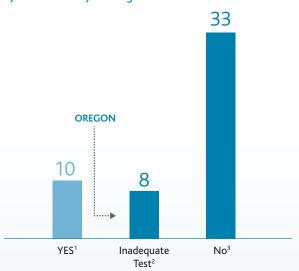
■ Ensure that teacher preparation programs deliver a comprehensive program of study in broad liberal arts coursework.

Oregon should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish more 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, Oregon does not specify any coursework requirements for general education or elementary teacher candidates, and it has only outlined a broad set of standards for programs to apply in preparing elementary candidates.

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

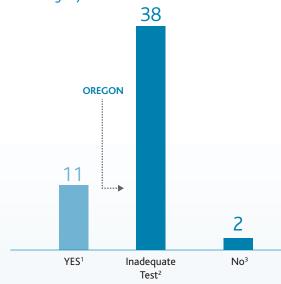
In addition to enhancing content knowledge, this requirement would ensure that prospective teachers in Oregon take higher-level academic coursework. This requirement also provides an important safeguard in the event that candidates are unable to successfully complete clinical practice requirements. With 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.

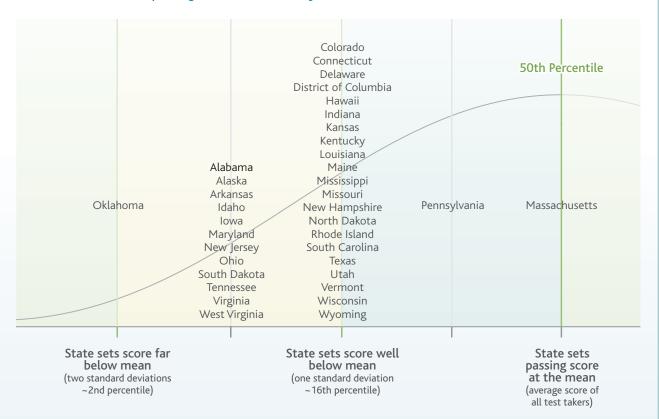
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Subject mentioned

★ Subject covered in depth

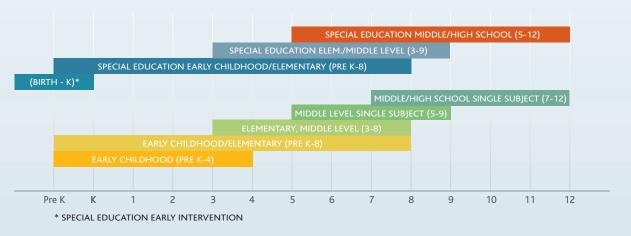
Figure 7
Where do states set the passing score on elementary content licensure tests¹?



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 Oregon



Critical Attention: Middle School Teacher Preparation



Oregon does not 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, including Oregon, 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.

Oregon allows middle school teachers to teach on a generalist 3-8 license. The state offers middle-level endorsements, but candidates have the option of either completing a major or passing a content test. Candidates opting for the generalist 3-8 license are only required to pass the elementary content test.

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

Further, Oregon allows "alternative assessment," in which any candidate who has twice failed the content test can petition for a waiver of the subject-matter requirement.

NEXT STEPS FOR OREGON:

Eliminate the generalist license.

Teachers with a license that spans elementary and middle grades are less likely to be adequately prepared to teach core academic areas at the middle school level because their preparation requirements are not specific to the middle or secondary levels. By requiring specific middle grades certification, Oregon will help ensure that students in those grades have teachers who are appropriately prepared to teach grade-level content, which is different and more advanced than what elementary teachers teach.

Require content testing in all core areas.

As a condition of initial licensure, all candidates teaching middle grades in Oregon should have to pass a subject-matter test in every core academic area they intend to teach.

■ Encourage middle school teachers licensed to teach multiple subjects to earn two subjectmatter minors.

This would allow candidates to gain sufficient knowledge to pass state licensing tests and be highly qualified in both subjects, and it would increase schools' staffing flexibility. However, middle school candidates in Oregon who intend to teach a single subject should earn a major in that area.

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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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Critical Attention: Secondary Teacher Preparation



Oregon does not 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.

Oregon does not ensure that its secondary teachers are adequately prepared to teach grade-level content. Although the state requires that its secondary teacher candidates pass a content test to teach any core secondary subjects, it allows "alternative assessment," in which candidates who have twice failed the content test can petition for a waiver of this requirement. Further, Oregon offers a secondary endorsement in integrated science, which appears to be the equivalent of the general science endorsement found in other states. It also offers secondary certification in general social science. Teachers with these licenses are not required to pass individual content tests for each discipline they are permitted to teach.

NEXT STEPS FOR OREGON:

■ Require subject-matter testing for secondary teacher candidates.

Oregon should reconsider its waiver policy and, as a condition of licensure, require all secondary teacher candidates to pass a content test in each subject area they plan to teach to ensure that they possess adequate subject-matter knowledge and are prepared to teach grade-level content.

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

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

By allowing a general science certification—and only requiring a general knowledge science exam—Oregon is not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. The state's required assessment combines all subject areas (e.g., biology, chemistry, physics) and does not report separate scores for each subject area.

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—Oregon 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.

^{1.} It is unclear at this point how new legislation will affect content test requirements for secondary teachers.

Figure 11 Do all secondary teachers have to pass a content test in every subject area they are licensed to teach? Alabama										
test in every subject / \$\frac{\sqrt{\sq}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}										
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Critical Attention: Special Education Teacher Preparation



Oregon could do more to 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.

Commendably, Oregon does not offer a K-12 special education certification. Oregon also holds its elementary special education teachers to the same preparation and subject-matter testing requirements as general elementary teachers. However, as noted in the elementary section, these standards are insufficient to ensure that teachers will be prepared to teach to the Common Core State Standards. Because the state requires special education teachers to also hold a basic or standard teaching license with a subject-matter endorsement, secondary special education candidates are required to pass a single-subject content test, which, although not ensuring content knowledge of every subject that will be taught, does more to ensure subject-matter preparation than the requirements of most states. Unfortunately, Oregon allows "alternative assessment," in which any candidate who has twice failed a content test can petition for a waiver of the subject-matter requirement.

NEXT STEPS FOR OREGON:

Require that all elementary teacher candidates pass the same content test as general education teachers.

Oregon should reconsider its waiver of subject-matter testing. Failure to ensure that teachers possess requisite content knowledge deprives special education students of the opportunity to reach their academic potential.

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

Provide a broad liberal arts program of study to elementary special education candidates.

Oregon should ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess not only knowledge of effective learning strategies but also relevant knowledge of the subject matter at hand by requiring coresubject coursework relevant to the elementary classroom. Failure to ensure that teachers possess requisite content knowledge deprives special education students of the opportunity to reach their academic potential.

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, Oregon's current policy of requiring limited subject-matter testing is unacceptable and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards. To provide a middle ground, Oregon 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.

Offers K. 12 and Brade specific Figure 12 DOES NOT OFFER A Do states distinguish between elementary and secondary special education teachers? Alabama П Alaska Arizona Arkansas П California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia П Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana П П Iowa Kansas П П Kentucky П П Louisiana Maine П Maryland П Massachusetts П Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri П Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York П North Carolina North Dakota П Ohio Oklahoma **OREGON** Pennsylvania П Rhode Island П South Carolina П South Dakota П Tennessee П Texas 1 П Utah П Vermont П Virginia Washington П West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 16 10 25

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

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 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 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.

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



Oregon 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.

Oregon does not articulate any requirements for cooperating teachers. In addition, although the state requires candidates to complete at least 15 weeks of student teaching, only a minimum of nine weeks must be full time.

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

5

Florida, Indiana, Tennessee

NEXT STEPS FOR OREGON:

■ 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 Oregon 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.

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

Oregon requires objective measures of student growth to be a significant criterion of its teacher evaluations. The state should therefore utilize its evaluation results, which provide evidence of effectiveness in the classroom, in the selection of effective cooperating teachers.

■ Require teacher candidates to spend at least 10 weeks student teaching.

Although Oregon does require a full-time student teaching experience of nearly 10 weeks, the state should consider extending the minimum duration. Alignment with a school calendar for at least 10 weeks ensures both adequate classroom experience and exposure to a variety of ancillary professional activities.

	Figure 14	Q-		
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	Pennsylvania			
	Rhode Island			
	South Carolina			
	South Dakota			
	Tennessee			
	Texas			
	Utah			
	Vermont			
	Virginia			1. Based on new REPA II regulations.
	Washington			Candidates can student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined
	West Virginia		2	to be proficient.
	Wisconsin			
	Wyoming			

Critical Attention: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability



Oregon 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.

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

Oregon neither monitors how well programs are preparing teachers to be successful by means of collecting program-specific, objective data that reflect program performance, nor has it established minimum performance standards that can be used for accountability purposes. Further, the state does not provide the public with meaningful, readily understandable indicators of how well programs are doing.

NEXT STEPS FOR OREGON:

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

As one way to measure whether programs are producing effective classroom teachers, Oregon 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.

Establish minimum standards of performance for accountability purposes for all licensure pathways.

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. Programs should then be held accountable for meeting these 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.

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

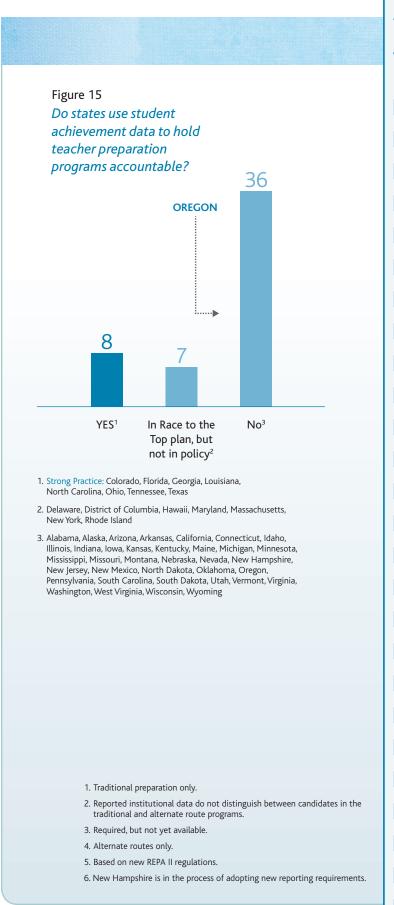


Figure 16									
Do states hold teach	ner	0 /	/ .						
Do states hold teacher preparation programs accountable? Alabama									
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TEACHER PRODUCTION IN OREGON

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.

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

			National acceptation is	
Figure 17		/	_ /	/e ₁ C
What is the relationship	STATE HAS ITS OWN	Overlap of accredity.		gb.
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	8	31	12	



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,
Oregon should require secondary teachers
who obtain certification in general science
or 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.



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

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.

Oregon has two alternate route programs: Approved NCLB Alternative and the Restricted Transitional 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, Oregon's programs do not meet these criteria, and, as a result, neither offers a genuinely alternate route into the teaching profession (see Figure 19).

NEXT STEPS FOR OREGON:

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

Oregon should set a minimum GPA requirement as a first step toward ensuring that candidates are of good academic standing. 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.

Elementary level candidates are required to demonstrate subject-matter competency by passing a subject-matter exam, but the state should extend this requirement to all of its candidates. The concept behind alternate routes is that the nontraditional candidate is able to concentrate on acquiring professional knowledge and skills because he or she has strong subject-area knowledge. Teachers without sufficient subject-matter knowledge place students at risk.

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

Oregon does not ensure that its alternate route candidates will receive streamlined preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. Oregon provides no specific guidelines about the nature or quantity of coursework for its alternate routes. There is no limit on the amount of coursework that can be required overall nor on the amount of coursework a candidate can be required to take while also teaching. The state should articulate guidelines regarding the nature and amount of coursework required of candidates. Requirements should be 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, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction.

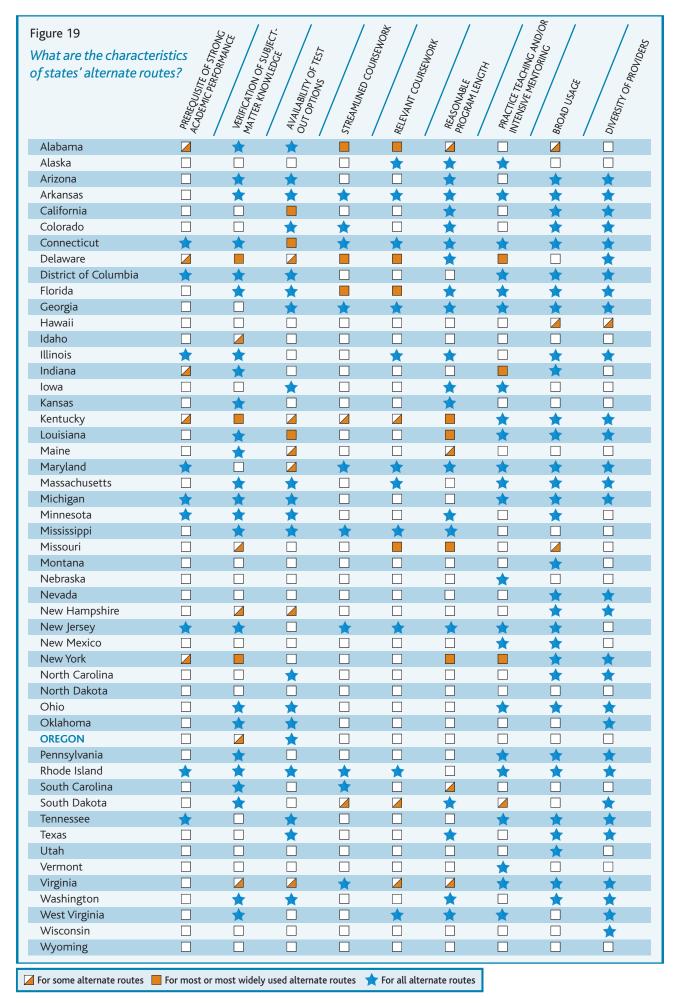
Oregon also should consider shortening the length of time it takes an alternate route teacher to earn standard certification. The route should allow candidates to earn full certification no later than the end of the second year of teaching.

In addition, while the state does mention mentoring, Oregon should provide more detailed guidelines to ensure that new teachers will receive the support they need to facilitate their success in the classroom. Effective induction strategies 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.

■ Eliminate restrictions on alternate route usage and providers.

Oregon limits the usage and providers of its alternate routes. The state requires districts to document that no traditionally certified teachers were available before hiring an alternate route teacher. Furthermore, Oregon authorizes only local universities and colleges to offer alternate route programs. The state should eliminate requirements that alternate route teachers can only be hired if traditionally certified teachers cannot be found. Alternate routes should not be programs of last resort but rather a way to expand the teacher pipeline throughout the state. Oregon also should specifically authorize alternate route programs run by local school districts and nonprofits, as well as institutions of higher education. A good diversity of providers helps all programs, both university- and nonuniversity-based, to improve.

Figure 18		#/	\$ / S70,
Do states provide real alternate pathways to certification?	GENUINE OR NEARLY	Altemate route that	Offeled route & disingenuous
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Arizona			
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Ohio			
Oklahoma			
OREGON			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
Wyoning			
	6	26	19
	6	26	19



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Alternate Route Policy Checklist for States

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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.

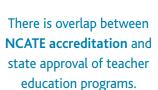
Figure 20
Authority for Teacher Preparation in Oregon

The Governor of Oregon is the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Members of the Oregon State

Board of Education are appointed
by the Governor.

Members of the Teacher
Standards and Practices
Commission are appointed by
the Governor.



The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission holds the authority to approve teacher education programs. The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission holds the authority for setting teacher preparation program standards and admission criteria.

The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission is the state authority charged with adopting rules regarding teacher certification.

Critical Attention Summary for Oregon



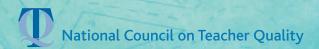
Red

		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. 	Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREPARATION	 Require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all subjects. Require preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers, and require candidates to pass a rigorous math assessment. Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction. Require a content specialization in an academic subject area. 	Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREPARATION	 Eliminate the generalist K-8 license. Require middle school candidates to pass a content test in every core area they intend to teach. Encourage two subject-matter minors for candidates who are licensed to teach multiple subjects; those who teach single subjects should earn a content major. 	Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
SECONDARY TEACHER PREPARATION	 Require all secondary candidates to pass a content test in each subject they are licensed to teach as a condition of licensure. Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach. 	Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
STUDENT TEACHING	 Ensure that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning. Require at least 10 weeks of full-time student teaching. 	Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY	 Collect performance data to monitor programs. Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards. Publicly report performance data. 	Teacher Standards and Practices Commission



Yellow

		AUTHORITY
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION	 Require that all elementary special education candidates pass the same content test as general elementary teachers. Ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge. 	Teacher Standards and Practices Commission



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

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