# 2013 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

# Alabama





# Acknowledgments

### **STATES**

State education agencies remain our most important partners in this effort, and their gracious cooperation has helped to ensure the factual accuracy of the final product. Every state formally received a draft of the *Yearbook* in July 2013 for comment and correction; states also received a final draft of their reports a month prior to release. All but two states responded to our inquiries. While states do not always agree with our recommendations, their willingness to engage in dialogue and often acknowledge the imperfections of their teacher policies is an important step forward.

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National Council on Teacher Quality

# **Executive Summary**

The 2013 *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* includes the National Council on Teacher Quality's (NCTQ) full review of the state laws, rules and regulations that govern the teaching profession. This year's report measures state progress against a set of 31 policy goals focused on helping states put in place a comprehensive framework in support of preparing, retaining and rewarding effective teachers.

# Alabama at a Glance



**Overall 2013 Yearbook Grade** Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: C-

Area Grades	2013	2011
Area 1 Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers	В	С
Area 2 Expanding the Teaching Pool	С	В-
Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers	D	D+
Area 4 Retaining Effective Teachers	D-	D1
Area 5 Exiting Ineffective Teachers	D	D-

Goal Breakdown	2013	Progress on Goals
🚖 Best Practice	1	Since 2011
Fully Meets	5	Progress has increased 5
Nearly Meets	6	No change in progress 26
Partially Meets	5	
Meets Only a Small Part	2	Progress has decreased0
O Does Not Meet	12	

<sup>1</sup> State teacher pension policy is no longer included in the State Teacher Policy Yearbook. So that Area 4 grades can be compared, 2011 grades have been recalculated to exclude the pension goals. Overall 2011 grades were not recalculated, as the impact was negligible.



# How is **Alabama** Faring?

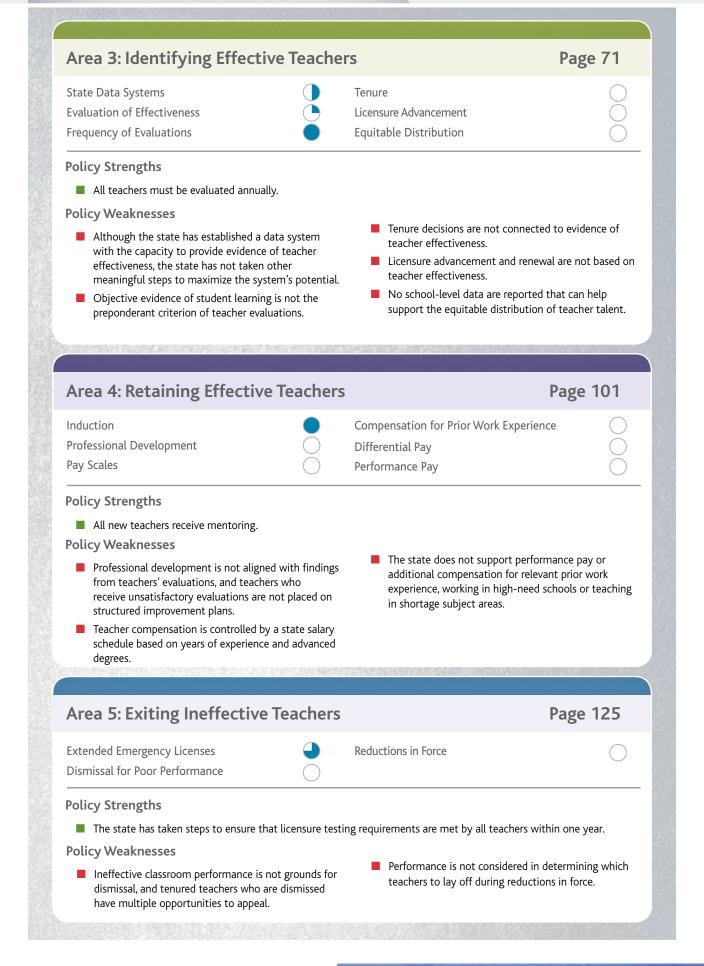


Figure A	Overall State Grade 2013	a Overall State Grade 2017	Overall State Grade 2009
Florida	B+	в	с
Louisiana	В	C-	C-
Rhode Island	В	С- В-	D
Tennessee	В	в-	C-
Arkansas	B-	C	C-
Connecticut	в- В-	C-	D+
Georgia	B-	C	C-
Indiana	B-	C+	D
Massachusetts	B-	C	D+
Michigan	B-	C+	D-
New Jersey	B-	D+	D+
New York	B-	C	D+
Ohio	B-	C+	D+
Oklahoma	B-	B-	D+
Colorado	C+	C	D+
Delaware	C+	C	D.
Illinois	C+	C	D+
Virginia	C+	D+	D+
Kentucky	С	D+	D+
Mississippi	c	D+	D+
North Carolina	С	D+	D+
Utah	С	C-	D
ALABAMA	C-	C-	C-
Arizona	C-	D+	D+
Maine	C-	D-	F
Minnesota	C-	C-	D-
Missouri	C-	D	D
Nevada	C-	C-	D-
Pennsylvania	C-	D+	D
South Carolina	C-	C-	C-
Texas	C-	C-	C-
Washington	C-	C-	D+
West Virginia	C-	D+	D+
California	D+	D+	D+
District of Columbia	D+	D	D-
Hawaii	D+	D-	D-
Idaho	D+	D+	D-
Maryland	D+	D+	D
New Mexico	D+	D+	D+
Wisconsin	D+	D	D
Alaska	D	D	D
lowa	D	D	D
Kansas	D	D	D-
New Hampshire	D	D-	D-
North Dakota	D	D	D-
Oregon	D	D-	D-
Wyoming	D	D	D-
Nebraska	D-	D-	D-
South Dakota	D-	D	D
Vermont	D-	D-	F
Montana	F	F	F

# How to Read the Yearbook

# **GOAL SCORE**

The extent to which each goal has been met:

*	Best Practice
	Fully Meets
	Nearly Meets
	Partially Meets
	Meets Only a Small Part
$\bigcirc$	Does Not Meet

# **PROGRESS INDICATOR**

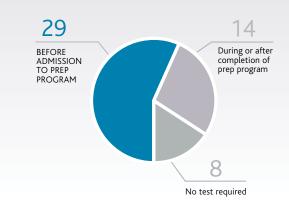
Whether the state has advanced on the goal, policy has remained unchanged or the state has lost ground on that topic:

$\mathbf{O}$	Goal progress has increased since 2011
	Goal progress has decreased since 2011
٢	Goal progress has remained the same since 2011

**BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL** *Indicates the criteria to meet the goal have been raised since the 2011* Yearbook.

# **READING CHARTS AND TABLES:**

Strong practices or the ideal policy positions for the states are capitalized:

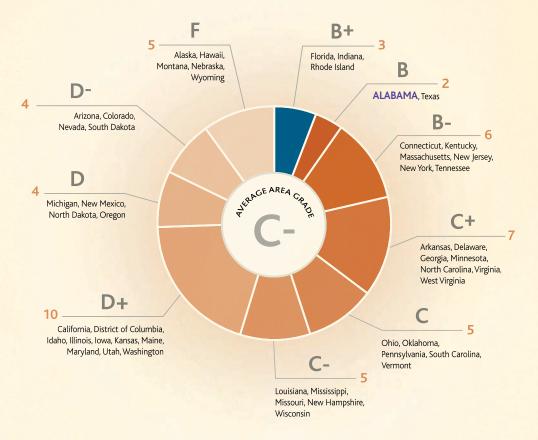




# Area 1 Summary

# How States are Faring on Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

State Area Grades



# **Topics Included In This Area**

- 1-A: Admission into Teacher Preparation
- **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: Special Education Teacher Preparation
- 1-I: Assessing Professional Knowledge
- 1-J: Student Teaching
- 1-K: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

# Goal A – Admission into Teacher Preparation

The state should require teacher preparation programs to admit only candidates with strong academic records.

# Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should require teacher candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- 2. All preparation programs in a state should use a common admissions test to facilitate program comparison, and the test should allow comparison of applicants to the general college-going population. The selection of applicants should be limited to the top half of that population.

The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

# Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

# Figure 1

How States are Faring in Admission Requirements

Best Practice States 2 Delaware<sup>1</sup>, Rhode Island<sup>1</sup> State Meets Goal Texas States Nearly Meet Goal Mississippi<sup>1</sup>, New Jersey<sup>1</sup>, Utah<sup>1</sup> 11 States Partly Meet Goal Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky<sup>1</sup>, North Carolina, South Carolina<sup>1</sup>, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin 13 States Meet a Small Part of Goal ALABAMA<sup>1</sup>, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois<sup>1</sup>, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan<sup>1</sup>, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire 1, Oklahoma 1, Oregon 1, Pennsylvania States Do Not Meet Goal 21 Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: 12:12 ⇔:38 1:1

# 1-A Analysis: Alabama

State Meets Small Part of Goal 🔿 Bar Raised for this Goal 🕥 Progress Since 2011

# **ANALYSIS**

Alabama now requires prospective teachers to pass each section of the AECTP basic skills tests (Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics and Writing) as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs. Although the state sets the minimum score for this test, it is normed just to the prospective teacher population. In addition, the state's current 2.5 GPA requirement is too low to be considered a rigorous bar for program admission.

# Supporting Research

State Board of Education Regulations 290-3-2-.03; 290-3-3 State Superintendent of Education Memo regarding 2012-2013 Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program (APTTP) Changes https://connect.alsde.edu/sites/memos/Memoranda/FY12-4048.pdf

### RECOMMENDATION

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

Alabama should require 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, as well as facilitate program comparison.

#### Increase the GPA requirement.

Requiring only a 2.5 GPA sets a low bar for the academic performance of the state's prospective teachers. Alabama should consider using a higher GPA requirement for program admission in combination with a test of academic proficiency. A sliding scale of GPA and test scores would allow flexibility for candidates in demonstrating academic ability. When using such multiple measures, a sliding scale that still ensures minimum standards would allow students to earn program admission through a higher GPA and a lower test score, or vice-versa.

# 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, Alabama 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.

# **ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

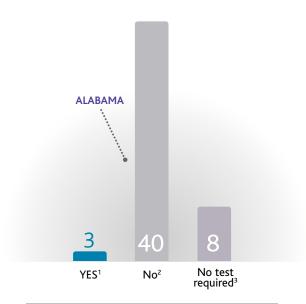
Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

# **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

For admission to teacher preparation programs, **Rhode Island** and **Delaware** require a test of academic proficiency normed to the general collegebound population rather than a test that is normed just to prospective teachers. Delaware also requires teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or be in the top 50th percentile for general education coursework completed. Rhode Island also requires an average cohort GPA of 3.0, and beginning in 2016, the cohort mean score on nationally-normed tests such as the ACT, SAT or GRE must be in the top 50th percentile. In 2020, the requirement for the mean test score will increase from the top half to the top third.

#### Figure 2

Do states require an assessment of academic proficiency that is normed to the general college-going population?



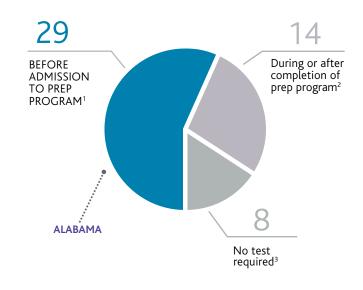
1. Strong Practice: Delaware, Rhode Island, Texas

2. Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Wyoming

#### Figure 3

When do states test teacher candidates' academic proficiency?



 Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

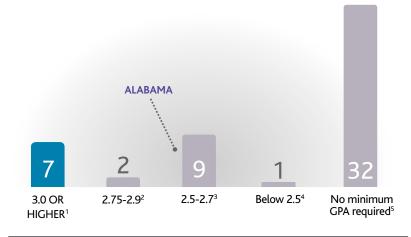
 Alaska, California, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Vermont

3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Wyoming

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Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
	3	26	14	8

1. Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission with a 3.0 GPA.

Do states require a minimum GPA for admission to teacher prep?



1. Strong Practice: Delaware, Mississippi<sup>6</sup>, New Jersey<sup>6</sup>, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, Pennsylvania<sup>8</sup>, Rhode Island<sup>6</sup>, Utah

2. Kentucky, Texas

3. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut<sup>9</sup>, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wisconsin<sup>10</sup>

4. Louisiana

- 5. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 6. The 3.0 GPA requirement is a cohort average; individual candidates must have a 2.75 GPA.
- 7. Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission by passing a basic skills test.
- 8. Students can also be admitted with a combination of a 2.8 GPA and qualifying scores on the basic skills test or SAT/ACT.
- 9. Connecticut requires a B- grade point average for all undergraduate courses.
- 10. The GPA admission requirement is 2.5 for undergraduate and 2.75 for graduate programs.

# Goal B – Elementary Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that its teacher preparation programs provide elementary teachers with a broad liberal arts education, providing the necessary foundation for teaching to the Common Core or similar state standards.

# **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should require all elementary teacher candidates, including those who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license, to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure sufficient content knowledge of all core subjects.
- 2. The state should require that its approved teacher preparation programs deliver a comprehensive program of study in broad liberal arts coursework. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours to ensure appropriate depth in the core subject areas of English, science, social studies and fine arts. (*Mathematics preparation for elementary teachers is discussed in Goal 1-D*.)
- 3. The state should require elementary teacher candidates to complete a content specialization in an academic subject area. In addition to enhancing content knowledge, this requirement ensures that prospective teachers have taken higher level academic coursework.



The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

# Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

# Figure 6

How States are Faring in Elementary Teacher Preparation



5

 Best Practice State Indiana
 States Meet Goal

- Connecticut<sup>1</sup>, New Hampshire<sup>1</sup>
- 11 States Nearly Meet Goal ALABAMA<sup>↑</sup>, Arkansas<sup>↑</sup>, District of Columbia<sup>↑</sup>, Florida<sup>↑</sup>, Idaho<sup>↑</sup>, Kentucky<sup>↑</sup>, New Jersey<sup>↑</sup>, Rhode Island<sup>↑</sup>, Texas<sup>↑</sup>, Utah<sup>↑</sup>, Virginia<sup>↑</sup>
- 14 States Partly Meet Goal California, Delaware 1, Georgia, Maine 1, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York 1, North Carolina 1, Oklahoma, Oregon 1, Pennsylvania 1, South Carolina 1, Vermont 1, West Virginia 1
  - States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona 1, Colorado, Mississippi, New Mexico, Washington
- 18 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio<sup>1</sup>, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Wyoming

# Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

**1**:24 ↔:27 ↓:0

# 1-B Analysis: Alabama

# **ANALYSIS**

Alabama has adopted the Common Core State Standards, which represent an effort to significantly raise the standards for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness. The state is on the right track in ensuring that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with these standards.

Alabama now requires all elementary teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test, which is comprised of four subtests with individual scores in math, reading and language arts, science and social studies. Candidates must pass each subtest to be eligible for licensure. Early childhood education (P-3) candidates are required to pass the Praxis II Early Childhood: Content Knowledge test.

Alabama does not require its elementary teacher candidates to earn an academic content specialization.

Supporting Research Praxis Test Requirement www.ets.org Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-3-.02, -.06

#### RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that content tests adequately measure sufficient knowledge in all subjects.

Alabama should ensure that its new subject-matter test for elementary teacher candidates is well aligned with the Common Core State Standards. To make the test meaningful, Alabama should also ensure that the passing scores on each subtest reflect high levels of performance. Further, although requiring content testing for early childhood education teacher candidates is a sound requirement, Alabama should strengthen its policy and require separate, meaningful passing scores for each area on the test.

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

Alabama should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish comprehensive coursework requirements for elementary teacher candidates that align with the Common Core State 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. Alabama requires all candidates to complete coursework in humanities, social studies and science. Elementary teacher candidates, specifically, must complete 12 credit hours each in English language arts, science and social studies, but these requirements lack the needed specificity to guarantee relevancy to the elementary classroom. (For math requirements, see Goal 1-D.) Alabama's teacher standards address some important subject areas, particularly reading and writing instruction. The standards also mention areas in science, such as physical, life and earth science, and in social studies, such as geography, economics and political science. However, crucial areas, such as American and world history; American, world and children's literature; and art history, are missing. The testing framework for the newly adopted Praxis II elementary test is also far from complete.

# 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 Alabama take higher-level academic coursework. The 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.

# ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 7	COREFORMERY	Elementary Content PASSING Elementary Content tecs	☐ Elementary content to Composite score for with Composite score	Vith
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	19	9	19	4

# **EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

Indiana ensures that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades possess the requisite subjectmatter knowledge before entering the classroom. Not only are elementary teacher candidates required to pass a content test comprised of independently scored subtests, but the state also requires its early childhood education teachers-who are licensed to teach up through grade 3-to pass a content test comprised of four subtests. Elementary teacher candidates in Indiana must also earn either a major or minor in an academic content area.

1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.

- 2. The required test is a questionable assessment of content knowledge, instead emphasizing methods and instructional strategies.
- 3. Massachusetts and North Carolina require a general curriculum test that does not report scores for each elementary subject. A separate score is reported for math.

4. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass content test.

Do states require early teach elementary grades to pass a content knowledge test?

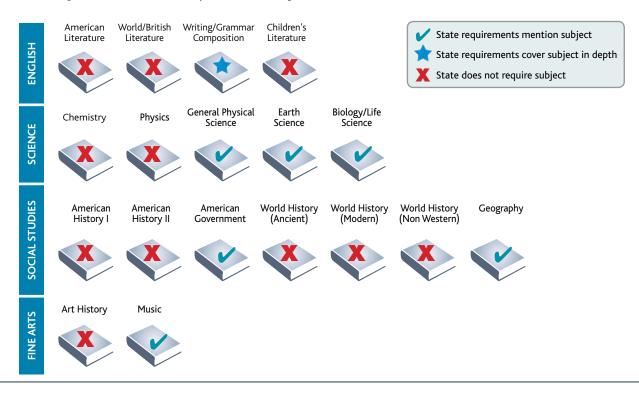
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	6	12	16	4	13

1. These states do not offer a standalone early childhood certification that includes elementary grades or the state's early childhood certification is the de facto license to teach elementary grades.

2. May pass either multiple subjects (subscores) or content knowledge (no subscores) test.

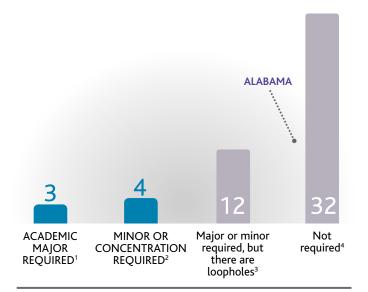
Figure 9		ENGLISH	/	SCIENCE		SOCIAL STUDIES / FIN	
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What subjects does Alabama expect elementary teachers to know?



# Figure 11

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico

2. Strong Practice: Indiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Oklahoma

3. California, Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia

These states require a major, minor or concentration but there is no assurance it will be in an academic subject area.

4. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

# Goal C – Elementary Teacher Preparation in **Reading Instruction**

The state should ensure that new elementary teachers know the science of reading instruction.

# **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require that new elementary teachers, including those who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license, pass a rigorous test of reading instruction in order to attain licensure. The design of the test should ensure that prospective teachers cannot pass without knowing the five instructional components shown by scientifically based reading research to be essential to teaching children to read.
- 2. The state should require that teacher preparation programs prepare candidates in the science of reading instruction.

The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

# Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy





# ANALYSIS

As a condition of initial licensure, Alabama requires all early childhood and elementary education teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II Teaching Reading test, which addresses the five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

In its standards for elementary teacher preparation, Alabama also requires teacher preparation programs to address the science of reading.

Supporting Research Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-3-.06 Praxis Test Requirements www.ets.org

# RECOMMENDATION

#### Monitor new Praxis II assessment to ensure rigor.

Although it is commendable that Alabama now requires elementary teacher candidates to demonstrate knowledge of reading instruction, the test selected by the state is actually intended for reading specialists and accordingly spans the entire K-12 spectrum. The state should monitor this assessment to make sure it really is rigorous and an appropriate measure of teachers' knowledge of and skill in scientifically based early reading instruction. The track record of Praxis assessments in this regard is mixed at best, and the K-12 span might make it possible for candidates to achieve the passing score without sufficient knowledge and skills for the elementary classroom.

ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

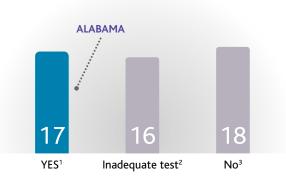
Figure 13		PARATIO UIREMEN	TS /	TEST REQUIRI	
<i>Do states ensure that elementary teachers know the science of reading?</i>	EEQ <i>READINC SCIENCE</i> <i>READINC SCIENCE</i>	Do not address reading science	APPROPRIA.	Inadequate to	No reading test
ALABAMA			1		
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana					
lowa					
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			2		
Ohio					
Oklahoma Oragan					
Oregon					
Pennsylvania Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
Washington West Virginia					
Washington					

# T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Fifteen states meet this goal by requiring that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Independent reviews of the assessments used by **Connecticut** and **Massachusetts**, confirm that these tests are rigorous measures of teacher candidates' knowledge of scientifically based reading instruction.

Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum.
 Teachers have until their second year to pass the reading test.

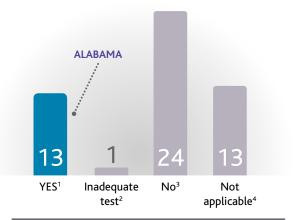
Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



- Strong Practice: Alabama<sup>4</sup>, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont
- Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming
- 4. Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum.
- 5. Teachers have until their second year to pass the reading test.

#### Figure 15

Do states measure knowledge of the science of reading for early childhood teachers who can teach elementary grades?



- Strong Practice: Alabama<sup>5</sup>, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Idaho
- Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming
- 4. Alaska, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas These states do not offer a standalone early childhood certification that includes elementary grades or the state's early childhood certification is the de facto license to teach elementary grades.
- 5. Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum

# Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

The state should ensure that new elementary teachers have sufficient knowledge of the mathematics content taught in elementary grades.

# **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should require teacher preparation programs to deliver mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates. This content should be specific to the needs of the elementary teacher (i.e., foundations, algebra and geometry with some statistics).
- 2. The state should require elementary teacher candidates, including those who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license, to pass a rigorous test of mathematics content in order to attain licensure.
- Such test can also be used to test out of course requirements and should be designed to ensure that prospective teachers cannot pass without sufficient knowledge of mathematics.

The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

# Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

# Figure 16 How States are Faring in Teacher Preparation in Mathematics **Best Practice States** States Meet Goal Arkansas 1, Florida 1, Indiana, Kentucky 1, New York 1, North Carolina 1, Texas 1, Virginia 1 15 States Nearly Meet Goal ALABAMA<sup>1</sup>, Connecticut<sup>1</sup>, Delaware<sup>1</sup>, District of Columbia 1, Idaho 1, Maine 1, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire 1, New Jersey 1, Rhode Island 1, South Carolina 1, Utah, Vermont 1, West Virginia 1 State Partly Meets Goal California 21 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon 1, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wyoming States Do Not Meet Goal 6 Colorado, Hawaii I, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Wisconsin **Progress on this Goal Since 2011:** ★:20 ↔:30 4:1



# **ANALYSIS**

Alabama requires all teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test, which includes a separately scored math subtest.

Regrettably, Alabama's early childhood education teachers, who are allowed to teach through grade 3, are only required to pass the early childhood general content test, which does not report a math subscore.

Supporting Research Praxis Test Requirements www.ets.org

# RECOMMENDATION

Require early childhood education teacher candidates to pass a rigorous mathematics assessment as a condition of initial licensure.

Alabama should ensure that early childhood education teacher candidates who teach its elementary grades possess the requisite knowledge of mathematics before entering the classroom. Therefore, the state should require the candidates to earn a passing score on the same test as other elementary teachers or a comparably rigorous one geared to early childhood mathematics content.

#### **ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

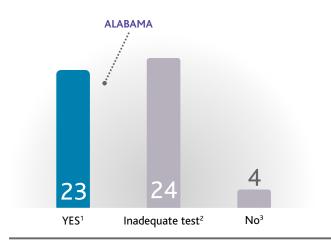
Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

# T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Eight states meet this goal by requiring that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades earn a passing score on an independently scored mathematics subtest. **Massachusetts's** MTEL mathematics subtest continues to set the standard in this area by evaluating mathematics knowledge beyond an elementary school level and challenging candidates' understanding of underlying mathematics concepts.

#### Figure 17

*Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?* 



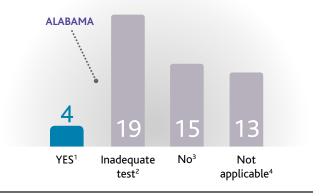
 Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas<sup>4</sup>, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

 Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

- 3. Alaska<sup>5</sup>, Hawaii, Montana, Ohio<sup>6</sup>
- 4. Test is not yet available for review.
- 5. Testing is not required for initial licensure.
- 6. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass an adequate content test.

#### Figure 18

Do states measure knowledge of math of early childhood teachers who can teach elementary grades?



#### 1. Strong Practice: Florida, Indiana, New York, Virginia

- 2. Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin
- 3. Arizona, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming

4. Alaska, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas These states do not offer a standalone early childhood certification that includes elementary grades or the state's early childhood certification is the de facto license to teach elementary grades.

# Goal E – Middle School Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.

# Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require that new middle school teachers pass a licensing test in every core academic area that they are licensed to teach.
- 2. The state should not permit middle school teachers to teach on a generalist license that does not differentiate between the preparation of middle school teachers and that of elementary teachers.
- 3. The state should encourage middle school candidates who are licensed to teach multiple subjects to earn minors in two core academic areas rather than earn a single major. Middle school candidates licensed to teach a single subject area should earn a major in that area.

# Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

# Figure 19

How States are Faring in Middle School **Teacher Preparation** 



**Best Practice States** Georgia, Mississippi, New Jersey, South Carolina

### **19** States Meet Goal ALABAMA, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Iowa1, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio1, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island 1, Texas 1, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia



3

States Nearly Meet Goal Maryland, New York, North Carolina 1, Tennessee

States Partly Meet Goal Massachusetts, Minnesota, Wisconsin

States Meet a Small Part of Goal 7 Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, Wyoming

14 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington

# **Progress on this Goal Since 2011:**

1:5 👄 : 45 ↓:1

# 1-E Analysis: **Alabama**



# ANALYSIS

Alabama offers two options for the preparation of middle school teachers (grades 4-8). The first option is a comprehensive teaching license with a specialization in English language arts, general science or general social science that includes 1) an academic major of at least 32 credit hours with at least 19 credit hours of upper-division credit and 2) at least one course in each of the specified areas included in the comprehensive teaching field. The second option is a single teaching field with an academic major that includes a minimum of 32 credit hours with at least 19 credit hours of upper-division credit.

The only option for middle-level math certification is a single teaching field with an academic major that includes a minimum of 32 semester hours of credit with at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit.

All new middle school teachers in Alabama are also required to pass a Praxis II single-subject content test to attain licensure.

Commendably, Alabama does not offer a K-8 generalist license.

Supporting Research Praxis Test Requirement www.ets.org Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-3-.07

# RECOMMENDATION

# Ensure meaningful content tests.

To ensure meaningful middle school content tests, Alabama should reevaluate its passing scores so that all tests reflect high levels of performance. For example, the passing score for the Praxis II Middle School English Language Arts test is set just above the 7th percentile.

### **Strengthen middle school teachers' subject-matter preparation.**

Alabama should encourage middle school teachers who plan to teach multiple subjects to earn two minors in two core academic areas, rather than a single major. However, the state should retain its requirement for a subject-area major for middle school candidates who intend to teach a single subject.

# ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 20	FFERED	br ooms	/
Do states distinguish middle grade preparation from elementary preparation?	K-8 LICENSE NOT OFFERED	As license orficed for self.contained dass of nr	K-Blicense offered
ALABAMA			
Alaska			
Arizona			1
Arkansas			
California		2	
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
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			1
Ohio			
Oklahoma			3
Oregon			4
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			1
Wyoming			
	31	5	15

# **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Georgia, Mississippi, New Jersey and South Carolina ensure that all middle school teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach middle school-level content. None of these states offers a K-8 generalist license and all require passing scores on subject-specific content tests. Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina explicitly require at least two content-area minors, and New Jersey requires a content major along with a minor for each additional area of certification.

1. Offers 1-8 license.

2. California offers a K-12 generalist license for all self-contained classrooms.

3. With the exception of mathematics.

4. Oregon offers 3-8 license.

#### No test does not report subscores for all core subjects Figure 21 No, testing of all subjects not required all subjects No, K-8 license requires only elementary test Do middle school teachers have to pass an appropriate content test in every core subject they are licensed to teach? YES ALABAMA $\square$ Alaska Arizona Arkansas California $\square$ 2 Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii $\square$ $\square$ Idaho $\square$ Illinois $\square$ $\square$ Indiana lowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine $\square$ $\square$ Maryland Massachusetts Michigan $\square$ Minnesota Mississippi $\square$ Missouri Montana $\square$ Nebraska $\square$ $\square$ Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey $\square$ $\square$ New Mexico **1** New York North Carolina 6 North Dakota Ohio $\square$ $\square$ Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah $\square$ Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 26 3 6

16

1. Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.

- 2. Candidates teaching multiple subjects only have to pass the elementary test. Single-subject credential does not require test.
- 3. For K-8 license, Idaho also requires a single-subject test.
- 4. Maryland allows elementary teachers to teach in departmentalized middle schools if not less than 50 percent of the teaching assignment is within the elementary education grades.
- 5. For nondepartmentalized classrooms, generalist in middle childhood education candidates must pass new assessment with three subtests.
- 6. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
- 7. Candidates opting for middle-level endorsement may either complete a major or pass a content test.

# Goal F – Secondary Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.

# Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require that secondary teachers pass a licensing test in every subject they are licensed to teach.
- 2. The state should require secondary social studies teachers to pass a subject-matter test of each social studies discipline they are licensed to teach.
- 3. The state should require that secondary teachers pass a content test when adding subject-area endorsements to an existing license.

# Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

# Figure 22

*How States are Faring in Secondary Teacher Preparation* 



3 Best Practice States Georgia, Indiana, Tennessee



**States Meet Goal** Minnesota, South Dakota

### 28 States Nearly Meet Goal ALABAMA, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri 1, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon 1, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island 1, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin

8 States Partly Meet Goal District of Columbia, Iowa 1, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska 1, Nevada, New Mexico



State Meets a Small Part of Goal North Carolina

9 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii 1, Montana, New Hampshire, Washington, Wyoming

# Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

**1**:6 ↔:44 ↓:1

# 1-F Analysis: Alabama

State Nearly Meets Goal 🛛 🔶 Progress Since 2011

# ANALYSIS

Alabama requires that its secondary teacher candidates pass a Praxis II content test to teach any core secondary subjects.

Unfortunately, Alabama permits a significant loophole to this important policy by allowing both general science and general social studies licenses, without requiring subject-matter testing for each subject area within these disciplines.

Secondary social studies teachers in Alabama have the option of a general social studies teaching field license. Candidates are required to pass the Praxis II Social Studies test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general social studies but rather can teach any of the topical areas. (For the state's science loophole, see Goal 1-G.)

To add an additional field to a secondary license, teachers must also pass a Praxis II content test. However, as stated above, Alabama cannot guarantee content knowledge in each subject for secondary teachers who add general science or general social studies endorsements.

Supporting Research Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-2-.17; 290-3-3-.07, -.08, -.20 Praxis Testing Requirements www.ets.org

### RECOMMENDATION

# Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

Alabama wisely requires subject-matter tests for most secondary teachers but should address any loopholes that undermine this policy (see Goal 1-G). This applies to the addition of endorsements as well.

To ensure that its secondary content tests are meaningful, Alabama should reevaluate its passing scores so that all tests reflect high levels of performance. For example, the passing score for the Praxis II English Language, Literature and Composition: Content Knowledge test is set just above the 5th percentile.

# 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—Alabama 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.

### ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

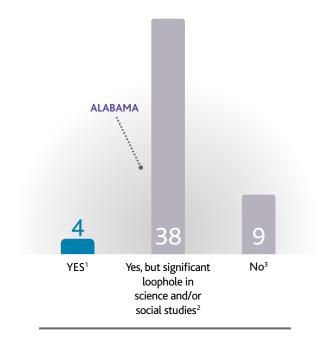
Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

# T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Georgia, Indiana and Tennessee require that all secondary teacher candidates pass a content test to teach any core secondary subject—both as a condition of licensure and to add an additional field to a secondary license. Further, none of these states offers secondary certification in general social studies; all teachers must be certified in a specific discipline. Also worthy of mention is **Missouri**, which now requires its general social studies teachers to pass a multi-content test with six independently scored subtests.

#### Figure 23

Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?

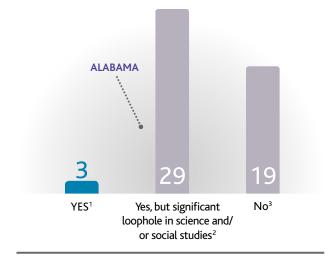


1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee

- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>4</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin [For more on loopholes, see Goal 1-G (science) and Figure 25 (social studies).]
- 3. Alaska, Arizona<sup>5</sup>, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire<sup>5</sup>, Washington, Wyoming<sup>6</sup>
- 4. Teachers may also have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
- 5. Candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.
- 6. Only secondary comprehensive social studies teachers must pass a content test.

# Figure 24

Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area to add an endorsement?



1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Minnesota, Tennessee

- Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin (Science is discussed in Goal 1-G.)
- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Washington, Wyoming

#### Figure 25

Do states ensure that secondary general social studies teachers have adequate subject-matter knowledge? ALABAMA YES, OFFERS ONLY YES, OFFERS GENERAL No, offers general social studies license SINGLE SUBJECT SOCIAL STUDIES SOCIAL LICENSE WITH without adequate STUDIES LICENSES<sup>1</sup> testing<sup>3</sup> ADEQUATE TESTING<sup>2</sup>

1. Strong Practice: Georgia, Indiana, South Dakota, Tennessee

- 2. Strong Practice: Minnesota<sup>4</sup>, Missouri
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma<sup>5</sup>, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Minnesota's test for general social studies is divided into two individually scored subtests.
- 5. Oklahoma offers combination licenses.

# Goal G – Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

The state should ensure that secondary science teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach.

# Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require secondary science teachers to pass a subject-matter test in each science discipline they are licensed to teach.
- 2. If a general science or combination science certification is offered, the state should require teachers to pass a subject-matter test in each science discipline they are licensed to teach under those certifications.

# Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

# Figure 26

How States are Faring in Preparation to Teach Science



**Best Practice State** Missouri 1

### 13 States Meet Goal Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island 1, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia 1

States Nearly Meet Goal Arizona<sup>1</sup>, Arkansas

States Partly Meet Goal Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah

States Meet a Small Part of Goal

28 States Do Not Meet Goal ALABAMA, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

# Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

1:4 ↔:47 4:0

# 1-G Analysis: **Alabama**

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2011

# ANALYSIS

Secondary science teachers in Alabama have the option of a comprehensive teaching license with a specialization in general science. Candidates are required to pass the Praxis II General Science content test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general science but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

Supporting Research Praxis Testing Requirements www.ets.org Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-3-.15

#### RECOMMENDATION

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— Alabama 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 area. Therefore, candidates could answer many—perhaps all—chemistry questions, for example, incorrectly yet still be licensed to teach chemistry to high school students.

# ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 27	OFFRSOMLY SWAFSUBLEC	OFERS CENERAL STERVES WITH ADE CUNILICENSE WITH ADE CULATE CENSE COM		Offers Beneral science or without adequarties or	
Do states ensure that	SUB I	ENCE		5	20
secondary general science	NGE		Fesul fe-sul	cien <sub>G</sub> <sup>1</sup> ses	testi
teachers have adequate	VLV SI EVSE		Ses u	erals n lice	975
subject-matter knowledge?	RSO GELC MELC	DEQ.	s only e lice, te tes	<sup>rs</sup> 8er inatio t adeç	
subject-matter knowledge:	E C CE		Offe Science tequa	Offe Comb ithou	
ALABAMA	°₹/	° Z /	Offersonly single subject adequate license without	2	
Alaska					
Arizona		1			
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia				2 <sup>2</sup>	
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana					
lowa					
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		1			
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia		1			
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	10	5	1	35	

# **T** EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

Missouri ensures that its secondary science teachers know the content they teach by taking a dual approach to general secondary science certification. The state offers general science certification but only allows these candidates to teach general science courses. Missouri also offers an umbrella certification-called unified sciencethat requires candidates to pass individual subtests in biology, chemistry, earth science and physics. These certifications are offered in addition to single-subject licenses.

1. Teachers with the general science license may only teach general science courses.

2. Georgia's science test consists of two subtests.

## Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

## Goal H – Special Education Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that special education teachers know the subject matter they are licensed to teach.

#### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should not permit special education teachers to teach on a K-12 license that does not differentiate between the preparation of elementary teachers and that of secondary teachers.
- All elementary special education candidates should be required to pass a subjectmatter test for licensure that is no less rigorous than what is required of general education candidates.
- 3. The state should ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

#### Figure 28 How States are Faring in Preparation to Teach Social Studies 0 **Best Practice States** States Meet Goal n States Nearly Meet Goal ALABAMA<sup>1</sup>, New York<sup>1</sup>, Rhode Island<sup>1</sup>, Texas 1 8 States Partly Meet Goal Idaho<sup>1</sup>, Iowa<sup>1</sup>, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin 10 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Colorado, Connecticut<sup>1</sup>, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina<sup>1</sup>, Oregon, Tennessee 1, Vermont, Virginia 1 29 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas I, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas I, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: 1:9 👄 : 39 4:3



#### ANALYSIS

Alabama does not offer a K-12 special education certification.

Commendably, candidates applying for the K-6 special education certification must pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test, which is the same assessment required of general education elementary teachers.

Alabama does not require any content testing for candidates applying for the 6-12 special education certification.

Supporting Research Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-3-.35, .36 Praxis Test Requirements www.ets.org

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### 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, Alabama's current policy of requiring no subject-matter testing is problematic and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards. To provide a middle ground, Alabama 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.

ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

		/	1
Figure 29		Offies K. 2 and Bade Specific Central	ion(s)
Do states distinguish	Cocs Not OFFRA		Offers only a K-12 Certification a K-12
between elementary	T OF	ific of	Vak.
and secondary special	ERI GRA	sis K.	irs on
education teachers?	20 *	₩O B <sup>1</sup> ade	Certit Certit
ALABAMA			
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			
Kansas Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine			
Maryland			
Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Mississippi			
Missouri			
Montana Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey	1		
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			
	16	7	20
	16	7	28

#### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

Unfortunately, NCTQ cannot award "best practice" honors to any state's policy in the area of special education. However, two states-New York and Rhode Island-are worthy of mention for taking steps in the right direction in ensuring that all special education teachers know the subject matter they are required to teach. Both states require that elementary special education candidates pass the same elementary content tests, which are comprised of individual subtests, as general education elementary teachers. Secondary special education teachers in New York must pass a newly developed multisubject content test for special education teachers comprised of three separately scored sections. Rhode Island requires its secondary special education teachers to hold certification in another secondary area.

#### Figure 30

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

Elementa	ry Subject-Matter Test				
Required for an elementary special education license	ALABAMA, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania <sup>1</sup> , Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia <sup>2</sup> , Wisconsin				
Required for a K-12 special education license	Colorado, Idaho, North Carolina				
Secondary Subject-Matter Test(s)					
Tests in all core subjects required for secondary special education license	New York <sup>3</sup>				
Test in at least one subject required for secondary special education license	Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania¹, Rhode Island, West Virginia²				
Required for a K-12 special education license	None				

1. 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.

2. 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 a dual certification as a reading specialist are similarly exempted.

3. New York requires a multi-subject content test specifically geared to secondary special education candidates. It is divided into three subtests.

Figure 29:

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

## Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

## Goal I – Assessing Professional Knowledge

The state should use a licensing test to verify that all new teachers meet its professional standards.

#### Goal Component

(The factor considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

1. The state should assess new teachers' knowledge of teaching and learning by means of a pedagogy test aligned to the state's professional standards.

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

#### Figure 31

How States are Faring in Special Education **Teacher Preparation** Best Practice States 28 States Meet Goal ALABAMA<sup>1</sup>, Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana 1, Iowa<sup>1</sup>, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island<sup>1</sup>, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington 1, West Virginia States Nearly Meet Goal Maryland, North Carolina 1 3 States Partly Meet Goal Connecticut, Pennsylvania<sup>1</sup>, Utah States Meet a Small Part of Goal 3 Massachusetts, Missouri, Wyoming 15 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin Progress on this Goal Since 2011: **1**:7 (↔):43 ↓:1

## 1-I Analysis: Alabama

State Meets Goal 🕜 Progress Since 2011

#### ANALYSIS

Alabama requires all teachers to pass a Praxis II pedagogy test.

Supporting Research http://www.ets.org/praxis/al/requirements http://www.ets.org/praxis/al

#### RECOMMENDATION

Verify that commercially available tests of pedagogy actually align with state standards.

Alabama should ensure that its selected test of professional knowledge measures the knowledge and skills the state expects new teachers to have.

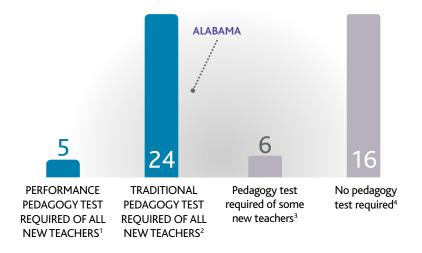
ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

#### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Although NCTQ has not singled out one state's policies for "best practice" honors, it commends the many states that require a pedagogy assessment to verify that all new teachers meet professional standards.

#### Figure 32

Do states measure new teachers' knowledge of teaching and learning?



1. Strong Practice: California, Illinois<sup>5</sup>, New York, Tennessee<sup>6</sup>, Washington

2. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina<sup>7</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia

3. Connecticut, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Utah<sup>8</sup>, Wyoming

4. Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin

5. Beginning in 2015.

6. Teachers may pass either the edTPA or a Praxis pedagogy test.

7. Teachers have until their second year to pass if they attempt to pass during their first year.

8. Not required until teacher advances from a Level One to a Level Two license.

## Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

## Goal J – Student Teaching

The state should ensure that teacher preparation programs provide teacher candidates with a high quality clinical experience.

#### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should require that student teachers only be placed with cooperating teachers for whom there is evidence of their effectiveness as measured by consistent gains in student learning.
- 2. The state should require that teacher candidates spend at least 10 weeks student teaching.

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

#### Figure 33 How States are Faring in Student Teaching 3 **Best Practice States** Florida, Rhode Island 1, Tennessee State Meets Goal Massachusetts 1 States Nearly Meet Goal Connecticut<sup>1</sup>, Kentucky 24 States Partly Meet Goal ALABAMA, Arkansas, Delaware 1, Georgia 1, Hawaii, Illinois 1, Iowa, Kansas, Maine 1, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri 1, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin States Meet a Small Part of Goal Indiana, Michigan, Oregon, South Dakota 17 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Louisiana, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: •:42 ↓:1 1:8

### 1-J Analysis: Alabama

State Partly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2011

#### ANALYSIS

Alabama commendably requires that candidates be full-time student teachers, or "interns," for a full semester in the teaching field for which certification is sought. The candidates' experiences must progress to the full responsibilities of a teacher for at least 20 full days, including 10 consecutive days.

The state also articulates that cooperating teachers must be "accomplished school professionals" who are properly certificated at the Class A level for their present assignment, have at least three years of educational experience in the field and currently teach classes in an intern's area of specialization. However, if a Class A teacher is not available, the unit head may make an exception and allow a teacher who meets the latter two credentials but holds a Class B license to supervise an intern.

#### Supporting Research

Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-3-.02(6), (6)(c), (7)(s)

#### RECOMMENDATION

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 Alabama 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.

Explicitly require that student teaching be completed locally, thus prohibiting candidates from completing this requirement abroad.

Unless preparation programs can establish true satellite campuses to closely supervise student teaching arrangements, placement in foreign or otherwise novel locales should be supplementary to a standard student teaching arrangement. Outsourcing the arrangements for student teaching makes it impossible to ensure the selection of the best cooperating teacher and adequate supervision of the student teacher and may prevent training of the teacher on relevant state instructional frameworks.

#### ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

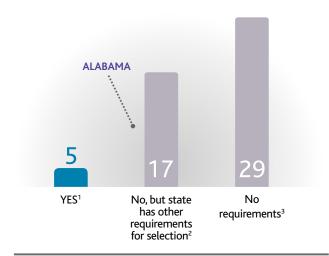
Figure 34	COPERATING TEACHER	STUDENT FEACHING LASTS AT LEAST TO WEEKS
Do states ensure a	TINC BASED ESS	TEAC EAST
high-quality student	DERA TED 6	DENT
teaching experience?	SELEC SELEC	STU LAST
ALABAMA		
Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois Indiana		
lowa 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 Blanda Jaland		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		1
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	5	22
	5	32

#### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Florida, Rhode Island and Tennessee not only require teacher candidates to complete at least 10 weeks of full-time student teaching, but they also all require that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.

1. West Virginia allows candidates to student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

*Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?* 

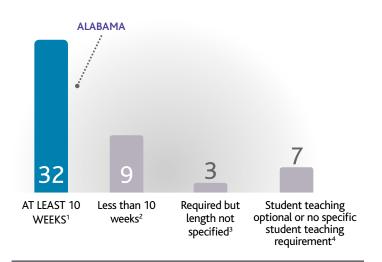


1. Strong Practice: Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Tennessee

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

#### Figure 36

Is the student teaching experience of sufficient length?



 Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia<sup>5</sup>, Wisconsin

- 2. Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Illinois, New Hampshire, Utah
- 4. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Maryland, Montana
- 5. West Virginia allows candidates to student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

# Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

## Goal K – Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

The state's approval process for teacher preparation programs should hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

#### **Goal Components**

## (The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should collect data that connects student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs. Such data can include value added or growth analyses conducted specifically for this purpose or evaluation ratings that incorporate objective measures of student learning to a significant extent.
- 2. The state should collect other meaningful data that reflect program performance, including some or all of the following:

a. Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including academic proficiency, subject-matter and professional-knowledge tests;

b. Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests;

c. Satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison and

d. Five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.

- 3. The state should establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data. Programs should be held accountable for meeting these standards, with articulated consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.
- 4. The state should produce and publish on its website an annual report card that shows all the data the state collects on individual teacher preparation programs.
- 5. The state should retain full authority over its process for approving teacher preparation programs.

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

#### Figure 37

How States are Faring in Teacher Preparation Program Accountability



Best Practice States



State Meets Goal Louisiana

10 States Nearly Meet Goal ALABAMA, Colorado, Delaware 1, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina 1, Ohio 1, Rhode Island 1, Tennessee, Texas



8

States Partly Meet Goal Indiana 1, Kentucky, Massachusetts 1, Michigan, Nevada, South Carolina, Washington 1, Wisconsin 1

- 18 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, California<sup>↑</sup>, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas<sup>↑</sup>, Maine<sup>↑</sup>, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire<sup>↑</sup>, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon<sup>↑</sup>, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia
- 14 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

**1**:13 ↔:38 ↓:0

### 1-K Analysis: Alabama

#### 🚽 State Nearly Meets Goal 🛛 😝 Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Alabama's approval process for its traditional and alternate route teacher preparation programs could do more to hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

Most importantly, Alabama does not collect or report data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.

Alabama does, however, rely on some objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of traditional teacher preparation programs. First-year teachers must demonstrate satisfactory performance on the state's teacher evaluation instrument. Surveys of employers and recent graduates to assess on-thejob performance must also be used, in addition to consideration of separate grades for the basic skills and content-knowledge components of the state's assessment program. Units are required to "establish, publish and implement policies to guarantee the success of individuals who complete its approved programs." Within the first two years of employment, units must provide remediation at no cost to individuals who receive less than the required minimum composite score on the state's teacher evaluation instrument.

Alabama also appears to apply transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval of its traditional programs. The state awards letter grades to these programs annually. If the grade for a program is a C or higher, no action is required. If over a two-year period, a program receives two Ds, two Fs, or a combination of a D and an F, then the state must authorize a special review and, based on the evidence, may rescind approval of the program. Regrettably, there is no evidence that the state's criteria for conferring program approval are resulting in greater accountability. In the past three years, not one program in the state has been identified in required federal reporting as low performing.

Alabama makes its findings available by posting the data and program grades on its website. However, the link on the state's website to these report cards is currently not functional.

In Alabama, NCATE/CAEP accreditation is voluntary; however, there is some overlap of accreditation and state approval. Members of NCATE/CAEP and the state make up the review team and decisions are made jointly; state members must complete NCATE/CAEP training. Alabama conducts its own program reviews.

#### Supporting Research

Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-3-.56 Teacher Prep Report Cards https://tcert.alsde.edu/Portal/Public/Pages/Services/Education.aspx Title II State Reports https://title2.ed.gov www.ncate.org

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

As one way to measure whether programs are producing effective classroom teachers, Alabama 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. Alabama reports some data at the program level and should do so for all collected data for accountability purposes.

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

Alabama appears to apply some measurable criteria for conferring program approval to its traditional programs. The state should also set such standards for performance for its alternate route programs for each category of data collected.

#### **Ensure that criteria for program approval result in greater accountability.**

Alabama has taken more steps than many states to develop an accountability system for teacher preparation programs. The state should ensure that its system is sufficient to differentiate program performance, including among alternate route programs, and that follow-up actions are taken as warranted for poorly performing programs.

#### Maintain full authority over teacher preparation program approval.

Alabama 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.

#### ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

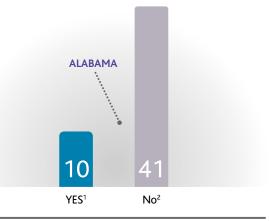
Figure 38	AN	QUI	EBJITE
Do states hold teacher preparation programs accountable?	OBJECTIVE PROCRAM. SPECIFIC DATA COLLED	MINIMUM STANDARDS CA PERCONANCE CA	DATA PUBLICLY AVAILABLICLY AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE
ALABAMA		1	
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			2
Georgia Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			
Kansas			2
Kentucky			2
Louisiana	1		
Maine	3		
Maryland			
Massachusetts			
Michigan		1	
Minnesota Missississi			
Mississippi Missouri	1		
Montana	1		
Nebraska			
Nevada <sup>1</sup>			
New Hampshire	1		
New Jersey New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			2
North Dakota			
Ohio <sup>1</sup>			
Oklahoma			
Oregon Pennsylvania	1		
Rhode Island			
South Carolina <sup>1</sup>			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas Utah			
Vermont	1		
Virginia Washington			
Washington	1		
West Virginia Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
wyoning			
	36	4	19

#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

NCTQ is not awarding "best practice" honors to any state's policy in the area of teacher preparation program accountability. However, the following states should be commended for collecting data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Texas.

#### Figure 39

Do states connect student achievement data to teacher preparation programs?



- 1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia<sup>3</sup>, Hawaii<sup>3</sup>, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland<sup>3</sup>, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York<sup>3</sup>, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Included in state's Race to the Top plan, but not in policy or yet implemented.

1. For traditional preparation programs only.

- 2. State does not distinguish between alternate route programs and traditional
- preparation programs in public reporting.

3. For alternate routes only.

#### Which states collect meaningful data?

STUDENT LEARNING GAINS Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas

EVALUATION RESULTS FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES ALABAMA, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas

#### AVERAGE RAW SCORES ON LICENSING TESTS

ALABAMA, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia

#### SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

ALABAMA, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland<sup>1</sup>, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia

#### TEACHER RETENTION RATES

Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas

1. For alternate route only

1. National accreditation can be substituted for state approval. 2. For institutions with 2,000 or more full-time equivalent students

#### Figure 41

What is the relationship between state program approval and national accreditation?

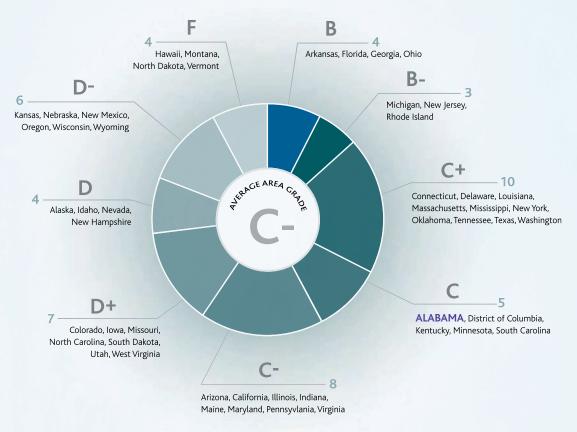




## Area 2 Summary

## How States are Faring in Expanding the Pool of Teachers

State Area Grades



### Topics Included In This Area

- 2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility
- 2-B: Alternate Route Preparation
- 2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers
- **2-D:** Part-Time Teaching Licenses
- **2-E:** Licensure Reciprocity

## Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

## Goal A – Alternate Route Eligibility

The state should require alternate route programs to exceed the admission requirements of traditional preparation programs while also being flexible to the needs of nontraditional candidates.

#### Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- With some accommodation for work experience, alternate route programs should set a rigorous bar for program entry by requiring that candidates take a rigorous test to demonstrate academic ability, such as the GRE.
- 2. All alternate route candidates, including elementary candidates and those having a major in their intended subject area, should be required to pass the state's subject-matter licensing test.
- 3. Alternate route candidates lacking a major in the intended subject area should be able to demonstrate subject-matter knowledge by passing a test of sufficient rigor.

The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

#### Figure 42

How States are Faring in Alternate Route Eligibility

**Best Practice States** 2 District of Columbia, Michigan State Meets Goal Minnesota 13 States Nearly Meet Goal Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey 1, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Washington 11 States Partly Meet Goal ALABAMA, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas 1, Virginia 15 States Meet a Small Part of Goal California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia States Do Not Meet Goal 9 Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: 1:2 👄 : 49 📕 : 0

### 2-A Analysis: Alabama

State Partly Meets Goal

🕋 Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 🔁

Progress Since 2011

#### ANALYSIS

Alabama has three alternate routes: the Alternative Baccalaureate Level Certificate (ABC) Approach, the Preliminary Certificate Approach and the Alternative Class A Master's Degree-Level program.

Alabama requires ABC and Alternative Class A candidates to demonstrate prior academic performance with a minimum GPA of 2.5. Candidates to the Preliminary Certificate route must have a master's degree and a minimum 3.0 GPA. All applicants must earn a passing score on the basic skills test and demonstrate content knowledge with a major in the intended teaching field or with a passing score on a subject-area exam.

#### Supporting Research

Alabama Education Code 290-3-2-.11; -.13; -15 http://public.alsde.edu/office/otl/tc/Alabama%20Administrative%20Code/Teacher%20Certification%20Chapter.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Screen all candidates for academic ability.

Although Alabama requires Preliminary Certificate applicants to demonstrate prior academic performance, the state should require that all candidates provide some evidence of good academic performance. As is the case for Preliminary Certificate candidates, the standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of 3.0 or higher. A rigorous test appropriate for candidates who have already completed a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be ideal.

#### Require applicants to pass a subject-matter test for admission.

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.

#### Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

The state's requirement that alternate route candidates pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffectual. Basic skills tests measure minimum competency—essentially those skills that a person should have acquired in middle school—and are inappropriate for candidates who have already earned a bachelor's degree. A test designed for individuals who already have a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be a much more appropriate measure of academic standing. At a minimum, the state should eliminate the basic skills test requirement or accept the equivalent in SAT or ACT scores.

#### ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.

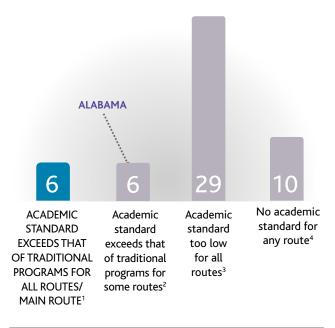
Figure 43	ACADENIC STANDARD ADMISSON EXERCISE TRADITONAL REEDS	KAMS	NO MAJOR REQUIRED OR TEST CAN BE UNED IN LIEU OF MAJOR USED
Are states' alternate	STAND EXCEL	DER	REQUINAL
routes selective yet	EMIC SION ONAL	DUIR.	2 2 0 K
flexible in admissions?	ACAD ADMIS TRADITI	Subject.marter	NO N
ALABAMA			*
Alaska			
Arizona		*	*
Arkansas		*	*
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut Delaware			
District of Columbia		-	▲
Florida			<b></b>
Georgia			<b></b>
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			*
Indiana			
lowa			*
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		<b>*</b>	
Tennessee			*
Texas			*
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia		*	
Washington		*	*
West Virginia		*	
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			

#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

The **District of Columbia** and **Michigan** require candidates to demonstrate aboveaverage academic performance as a condition of admission to an alternate route program, with both requiring applicants to have a minimum 3.0 GPA. In addition, neither requires a content-specific major; subjectarea knowledge is demonstrated by passing a test, making their alternate routes flexible to the needs of nontraditional candidates.

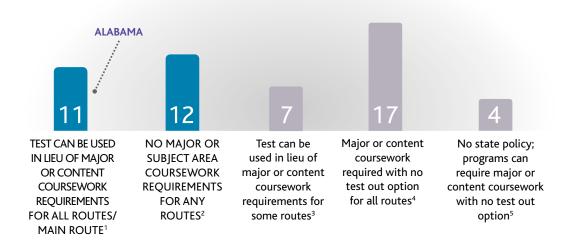
#### Figure 44

Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



- 1. Strong Practice: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island
- 2. Alabama, Illinois<sup>5</sup>, Indiana, Kentucky<sup>6</sup>, New York, Pennsylvania
- Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah
- 5. Illinois' routes are in the process of converting to a single new license.
- 6. Only one of Kentucky's eight alternate routes has a 3.0 GPA requirement.

*Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?* 



1. Strong Practice: Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Maine, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas

2. Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Washington

3. Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia

4. Alaska, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

5. Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, North Dakota

## Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

## **Goal B** – Alternate Route Preparation

The state should ensure that its alternate routes provide efficient preparation that is relevant to the immediate needs of new teachers, as well as adequate mentoring and support.

#### Goal Components

## (The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should ensure that the amount of coursework it either requires or allows is manageable for a novice teacher. Anything exceeding 12 credit hours of coursework in the first year may be counterproductive, placing too great a burden on the teacher. This calculation is premised on no more than 6 credit hours in the summer, three in the fall and three in the spring.
- 2. The state should ensure that alternate route programs offer accelerated study not to exceed six (three credit) courses for secondary teachers and eight (three credit) courses for elementary teachers (exclusive of any credit for practice teaching or mentoring) over the duration of the program. Programs should be limited to two years, at which time the new teacher should be eligible for a standard certificate.
- 3. All coursework requirements should target the immediate needs of the new teacher (e.g., seminars with other grade-level teachers, training in a particular curriculum, reading instruction, classroom management techniques).
- 4. The state should require intensive induction support, beginning with a trained mentor assigned full time to the new teacher for the first critical weeks of school and then gradually reduced over the course of the entire first year. The state should support only induction strategies that can be effective even in a poorly managed school: intensive mentoring, seminars appropriate to grade level or subject area, a reduced teaching load and frequent release time to observe effective teachers. Ideally, candidates would also have an opportunity to practice teach in a summer training program.

The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

#### Figure 46

How States are Faring in Alternate Route Preparation 2 Best Practice States Delaware, New Jersey

- 2 States Meet Goal Arkansas, Georgia
  - 4 States Nearly Meet Goal Connecticut, Maryland, Mississippi, South Carolina
  - 15 States Partly Meet Goal ALABAMA, Alaska, California, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
  - 20 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wyoming

#### 8 States Do Not Meet Goal Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont, Wisconsin

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

**1**:0 ↔:51 ↓:0

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

### 2-B Analysis: Alabama

) State Partly Meets Goal

⊼ Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 🜔 Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Candidates in the Alternative Baccalaureate Level Certificate route are required to complete a maximum of 12 semester hours of approved coursework. Coursework includes training in classroom management, the evaluation of teaching and learning, strategies for teaching special-need students in inclusive settings, and methods of teaching in the teaching field and grade level of the teacher.

There are no specific guidelines about the nature or quantity of coursework for either the Preliminary Certificate Approach route or the Alternative Class A Master's Degree-Level program. 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.

Applicants in all routes are assigned a mentor for the duration of the program. The state does not require a practice-teaching opportunity. Preliminary candidates may be eligible for a standard certificate within two years, although a third year may be granted. ABC candidates can earn certification in three years and must complete at least two courses each year to maintain certification. Individuals can teach for up to three years as part of the Alternative Class A Master's Degree-Level program.

Supporting Research Alabama Education Code 290-3-2

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Establish coursework guidelines for all alternate route preparation programs.

While Alabama is commended for specifying the nature and amount of coursework to be completed by ABC candidates, the state should also articulate guidelines for Preliminary Certificate candidates.

#### Strengthen the induction experience for new teachers.

Although Alabama requires all new teachers to work with a mentor, there are insufficient guidelines indicating that the mentoring program is structured for new teacher success. Effective 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 each school day.

#### ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 47		Jak /	- /	1.	1
Do states' alternate routes provide efficient preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers?	EFFICIENT COURSEWORK	RELEVANT COURSEMORK	REASONABLE PROGRAM LENCTH	PRACTICE TEACHING	INTENSIVE SUPPORT
ALABAMA			·		
Alaska		-	-	•	
Arizona		$\hat{\Box}$	<b>*</b>	$\mathbf{\hat{\star}}$	
Arkansas	*	*	*		*
California			*		
Colorado	*		*		
Connecticut	*	*	*	*	
Delaware	*	*	*	*	*
District of Columbia				*	
Florida			*		
Georgia Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana					
lowa			+	<b>~</b>	
Kansas			<b>*</b>	Ô	
Kentucky					*
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland		*	*	*	*
Massachusetts		*		*	
Michigan				*	
Minnesota			*		
Mississippi	*	*	*		
Missouri					*
Montana Nebraska					
Nevada					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey	<u>∟</u>	<u> </u>	<b>→</b>	 	<b>→</b>
New Mexico	$\hat{\Box}$	$\widehat{\Box}$	$\hat{\Box}$	÷	
New York					*
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio				*	
Oklahoma					
Oregon					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island	<b>X</b>	*		×	
South Carolina South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas			*		
Utah					
Vermont				*	
Virginia	*				
Washington			*		*
West Virginia		*	*		*
Wisconsin					
Wyoming			*		
For some alternate routes	most widely	used alterna	ata routos	Ear all alt	ornato routos

### **T**EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Delaware and New Jersey ensure that alternate routes provide efficient preparation that meets the needs of new teachers. Both states require a manageable number of credit hours, relevant coursework, a field placement and intensive mentoring.

🛛 For some alternate routes 🛛 📕 For most or most widely used alternate routes 📩 For all alternate routes

## Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

## Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

The state should provide an alternate route that is free from limitations on its usage and allows a diversity of providers.

#### Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should not treat the alternate route as a program of last resort or restrict the availability of alternate routes to certain subjects, grades or geographic areas.
- 2. The state should allow districts and nonprofit organizations other than institutions of higher education to operate alternate route programs.
- 3. The state should ensure that its alternate route has no requirements that would be difficult to meet for a provider that is not an institution of higher education (e.g., an approval process based on institutional accreditation).

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

#### Figure 48

*How States are Faring in Alternate Route Usage and Providers* 



Best Practice States

#### **23** States Meet Goal

Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington



States Nearly Meet Goal Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania↓, South Carolina↑, Utah

#### 12 States Partly Meet Goal ALABAMA, Arkansas↓, Delaware, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin

States Meet a Small Part of Goal Hawaii, Idaho, Missouri, South Dakota

States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Wyoming

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

**1**:1 ↔:47 ↓:3

### 2-C Analysis: Alabama

#### 🕖 State Partly Meets Goal 🛛 🔁 Progress Since 2011

#### ANALYSIS

The Alternative Baccalaureate Level Certificate (ABC) is only available for grades 6-12 certification to teach biology, chemistry, English language arts, general science, general social studies, geography, health education, history, mathematics, physical education and physics, or for K-12 certification for foreign language, dance, music, theater or visual arts. There are no limitations on grades or subject areas for the Preliminary Certificate or the Special Alternative Certificate (SAC).

Alabama authorizes only colleges and universities to offer alternate route programs. Coursework can only be taken at regionally accredited institutions of higher education with state-approved teacher education programs. Further, the specific requirements are articulated in terms of semester hours, effectively precluding nonhigher education providers. Although not an authorized route, Teach For America does operate in the state.

Supporting Research Alabama Education Code 290-3-2-.11

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Broaden usage for all alternate routes.

Alabama should reconsider grade-level and subject-area restrictions on its ABC route. Alternate routes should not be programs of last resort for hard-to-staff subjects, grade levels or geographic areas but rather a way to expand the teacher pipeline throughout the state.

#### Encourage diversity of alternate route providers.

Alabama 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.

#### ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

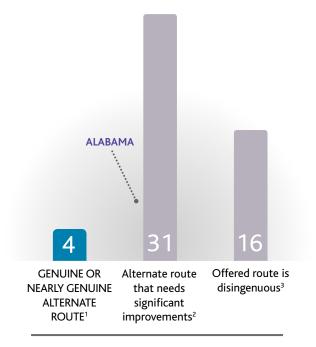
Figure 49	BROAD USAGE ACROSS SUBJECTS USAGE ACROSS GEOGRAPHICARES AND	DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS
Are states' alternate	SAGE CRAD CAR	DF PRC
routes free from	AD U CTS	À.
limitations?	BRO SUBJ	DIVER
ALABAMA		
Alaska Arizona		
Arkansas		
California	*	÷
Colorado	*	<b>→</b>
Connecticut		*
Delaware		*
District of Columbia	*	*
Florida	*	*
Georgia	*	*
Hawaii Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		*
lowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky	*	*
Louisiana	*	<b>A</b>
Maine		
Maryland	*	*
Massachusetts	*	*
Michigan	*	*
Minnesota	*	
Mississippi Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
Nevada		<b>→</b>
New Hampshire	*	÷.
New Jersey	*	
New Mexico	*	
New York	*	*
North Carolina	*	*
North Dakota		
Ohio Oklahoma	*	*
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island	*	*
South Carolina	Î	÷
South Dakota		
Tennessee	□ ★	*
Texas	*	*
Utah	*	
Vermont	★ ★ ★	
Virginia	*	*
Washington	*	*
West Virginia Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
For some alternate routes For most or r used alternat		or all alternate route

#### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Twenty-three states meet this goal, and although NCTQ has not singled out one state's policies for "best practice" honors, it commends all states that pemit both broad usage and a diversity of providers for their alternate routes.

#### Figure 50

Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification?



1. Strong Practice: Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, Rhode Island

2. Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia

3. Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Figure 51	PREREQUISITE OF STRONG	VERIFICATION OF SUBJECT	AVAILABLITY OUT OPTIONS OF TEST	EFFICIENT COURSENAC	RELEVANT COURSELL	ORK	/	INTENSIVE MENT	RINC	DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS
	OF S	LED OF S	2 4	lsew.	CSF1	REASONABLE PROCRAM LEAD	PRACTICE TEACUL			<sup>V</sup> OV
What are the	PER	NOV MOV	E SNC	10		BLE	IEA C	E ME.	BROAD USACE	OF P
characteristics of states'	EQUI	E KI	Na Pilac	TVL C	4NT	2024	TICE	Als N	US,	Lig .
alternate routes?	CAD	N FRI	ALAN LITO		ELEL	ROG	PRAC	INTE,	<sup>R</sup> O <sub>4</sub> L	IVER
ALABAMA	`× /		•0 /		_	· 4·	_	_		
Alaska			*							
Arizona					*	*	*			
Arkansas		*	*				*		*	*
California		*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*
Colorado			*	*		*			*	*
Connecticut	*			*	*	*	*		*	*
Delaware				*	*	*	*	*		*
District of Columbia	*	*	*				*		*	÷.
Florida	Ê	÷	÷			*			÷	÷
Georgia			*	*	*	-		*	*	*
Hawaii										
Idaho										
Illinois			*						*	*
Indiana							*		- <del>2</del>	÷.
lowa			*			*	$\widehat{\star}$			
Kansas		*				÷				
Kentucky		Ê				Ê		*	*	*
Louisiana		*	*					Ê	- <del>-</del>	*
Maine		*	÷,							
Maryland					*	*	*	*	*	*
Massachusetts		*	*		*		*		*	<b>*</b>
Michigan	*	*	*				*		*	*
Minnesota	$\widehat{\mathbf{\star}}$	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>			*			<b>*</b>	
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			*						*	*
Texas			*			*			*	*
Utah									*	
Vermont							*		*	
Virginia		*		*					*	*
Washington		*	*			*		*	*	*
West Virginia		*			*	*		*		*
Wisconsin										*
Wyoming						*				

🛛 For some alternate routes 📕 For most or most widely used alternate routes 🛛 🚖 For all alternate routes

## Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

## Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

The state should offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.

#### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- Either through a discrete license or by waiving most licensure requirements, the state should license individuals with content expertise as part-time instructors.
- All candidates for a part-time teaching license should be required to pass a subjectmatter test.
- Other requirements for this license should be limited to those addressing public safety (e.g., background screening) and those of immediate use to the novice instructor (e.g., classroom management training).

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

#### Figure 52

How States are Faring in Part Time Teaching Licenses



Best Practice State Georgia

- 2 States Meet Goal Arkansas, Florida
  - States Nearly Meet Goal Kentucky, Michigan↑, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah



**3** States Partly Meet Goal California, Louisiana, Oklahoma

10 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Colorado, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Pennsylvania 1, Washington, Wisconsin

28 States Do Not Meet Goal ALABAMA, Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

**1**:2 ↔:49 ↓:0

### 2-D Analysis: Alabama

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2011

#### ANALYSIS

Alabama does not offer a license with minimal requirements that would allow content experts to teach part time.

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Offer a license that allows content experts to serve as part-time instructors.

Alabama should permit individuals with deep subject-area knowledge to teach a limited number of courses without fulfilling a complete set of certification requirements. The state should verify content knowledge through a rigorous test and conduct background checks as appropriate, while waiving all other licensure requirements. Such a license would increase districts' flexibility to staff certain subjects, including many STEM areas, that are frequently hard to staff or may not have high enough enrollment to necessitate a full-time position.

ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

		/	1
Do statos offor a liconso		Restricted or vague	
Do states offer a license		L'vage	
with minimal requirements that allows content experts		ffere	/
to teach part-time?	5	stric <sup>1</sup> se	
to teach part-time:	YES	lice.	No Vo
ALABAMA			
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			
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			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	10	12	29

#### **T** EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

Georgia offers a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time. Individuals seeking this license must pass a subject-matter test and will be assigned a mentor.

## Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

## Goal E – Licensure Reciprocity

The state should help to make licenses fully portable among states, with appropriate safeguards.

#### Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should offer a standard license to fully certified teachers moving from other states, without relying on transcript analysis or recency requirements as a means of judging eligibility. The state can and should require evidence of effective teaching in previous employment.
- The state should uphold its standards for all teachers by insisting that certified teachers coming from other states meet its own testing requirements.
- 3. The state should accord the same license to teachers from other states who completed an approved alternate route program as it accords teachers prepared in a traditional preparation program.
- 4. Consistent with these principles of portability, state requirements for online teachers based in other states should protect student interests without creating unnecessary obstacles for teachers.

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

Figure 54 How States are Faring in Licensure Reciprocity 2 **Best Practice States ALABAMA**, Texas States Meet Goal North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island States Nearly Meet Goal Delaware 1, Indiana 1, Oklahoma 1, Washington, Wisconsin 22 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho4, Illinois, Iowa<sup>1</sup>, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming 12 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Carolina States Do Not Meet Goal 7 California, District of Columbia, Kansas, Kentucky, Nevada, New Jersey, Vermont Progress on this Goal Since 2011: 1:5 ➡:45 ↓:1

### 2-E Analysis: Alabama



Progress Since 2011

#### ANALYSIS

Commendably, Alabama does not grant any waivers of its testing requirements to out-of-state teachers. All out-of-state teachers, no matter how many years of experience they have, must meet Alabama's passing scores on licensing tests.

Alabama also offers its standard license to out-of-state certified teachers, without specifying any additional coursework requirements or relying on transcript analysis or recency requirements to determine eligibility.

Alabama is also a participant in the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement, which outlines which other states' certificates will be accepted by the receiving state. This agreement is not a collection of two-way reciprocal acceptances, nor is it a guarantee that all certificates will be accepted by the receiving state, and is therefore not included in this analysis.

Teachers who deliver online instruction must be certified in the content area of the course or be faculty members of an accredited institution of higher education. They must have expertise in the content area and be trained in instructional methodology and technical aspects of online delivery. It is not clear, however, whether online teachers outside Alabama must meet the state's certification requirements.

Supporting Research 290-3-2-.22(d) 290-3-1

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require evidence of effective teaching when determining eligibility for full certification.

Alabama should require that evidence of teacher effectiveness be considered for all out-of-state candidates. Such evidence is especially important for candidates who come from states that make student growth at least a significant factor of a teacher evaluation (see Goal 3-B).

Ensure requirements for online teachers are equal in rigor as those for in-state teachers.

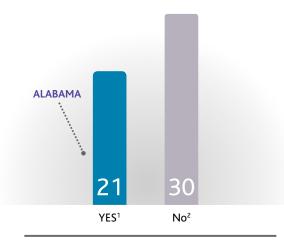
Secondary students in Alabama are required to complete one online/technology enhanced course or experience prior to graduation. Therefore, the state must ensure that online teachers based in other states are at least equally as qualified as those who teach in the state. However, Alabama should balance the interests of its students in having qualified online instructors with making certain that these requirements do not create unnecessary obstacles for out-of-state teachers.

#### ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



Do states require all out-of-state teachers to pass their licensure tests?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska<sup>3</sup>, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine<sup>4</sup>, Massachusetts<sup>3</sup>, Minnesota, New York<sup>5</sup>, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas<sup>3</sup>, Utah, Washington<sup>6</sup>, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana<sup>7</sup>, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Allows one year to meet testing requirements.
- 4. Maine grants waiver for basic skills and pedagogy tests.
- 5. Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification; all others given two years to meet testing requirements.
- 6. Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification.
- 7. No subject-matter testing for any teacher certification.

- 1. State conducts transcript reviews.
- 2. Recency requirement is for alternate route.
- 3. For traditionally prepared teachers only.
- 4. Teachers with less than 3 years' experience are subject to transcript review.

Figure 56	UCENSE RECIPROCITY WILL	Submission of trans-	Recency requirements
	177.0 477.0	of tranc	uireme,
What do states require of	NCS NCS	sion	Vreg
teachers transferring from	STR	bmis	Guyo Guyo
other states?	30 ×	2 <sup>ri</sup>	Re
ALABAMA			
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa		<b>1</b>	2
Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine		1	
Maryland			
Massachusetts		1	
Michigan			
Minnesota		1	
Mississippi			
Missouri			
Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada		1	
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York	<b>3</b>		
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania		1	
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont		<b>'</b>	
Virginia			
Washington	4		
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming	3		
	6	44	11

E

Figure 57	į	S 20 /	ate ate
Do states treat out-of-state teachers the same whether they were prepared in a traditional or an alternate	FIATE REATS TEACLE	State Specific different	ate has policies altern ate has policies wit octention to create teachers alternate
route program?	EQU REP.	Sta. Sta. Tequ	St. St. obsi oute
ALABAMA		· _ `	
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia Hawaii			
Idaho Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			
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			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	4	6	41

#### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

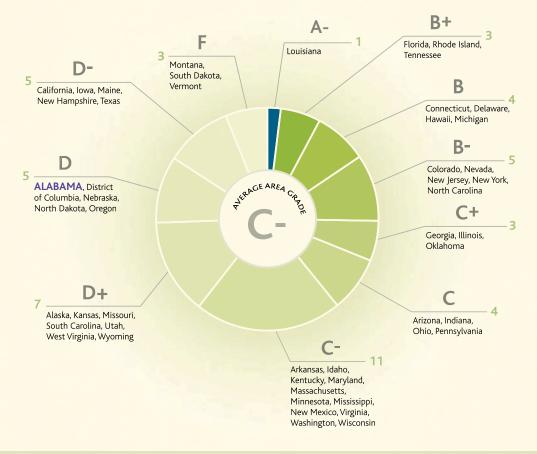
Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet Alabama's and Texas's own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate route teachers. Also worthy of mention is Delaware for its reciprocity policy that limits the evidence of "successful" experience it will accept to evaluation results from states with rigorous requirements similar to its own.



# Area 3 Summary

# How States are Faring in Identifying Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



## **Topics Included In This Area**

- 3-A: State Data Systems
- **3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness**
- **3-C: Frequency of Evaluations**

- 3-D: Tenure
- 3-E: Licensure Advancement
- 3-F: Equitable Distribution

# Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

## Goal A – State Data Systems

The state should have a data system that contributes some of the evidence needed to assess teacher effectiveness.

## Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

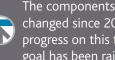
1. The state should establish a longitudinal data system with at least the following key components:

a. A unique statewide student identifier number that connects student data across key databases across years;

b. A unique teacher identifier system that can match individual teacher records with individual student records and

c. An assessment system that can match individual student test records from year to year in order to measure academic growth.

- 2. Student growth or value-added data provided through the state's longitudinal data system should be considered among the criteria used to determine teachers' effectiveness.
- 3. To ensure that data provided through the state data system is actionable and reliable, the state should have a clear definition of "teacher of record" and require its consistent use statewide.
- 4. Data provided through the state's longitudinal data system should be used to publicly report information on teacher production.



The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

## Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

## Figure 58

How States are Faring in State Data Systems



**Best Practice States** Hawaii, New York

States Meet Goal

- - 19 States Nearly Meet Goal Arizona<sup>1</sup>, Arkansas, Connecticut<sup>1</sup>, Delaware, District of Columbia 1, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan 1, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas 1, Washington, Wyoming



25 States Partly Meet Goal ALABAMA, Alaska 1, California 1, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana<sup>+</sup>, Nebraska, Nevada1, New Hampshire, New Jersey1, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon 1, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont 1, Virginia<sup>1</sup>, West Virginia, Wisconsin

2

States Meet a Small Part of Goal Colorado, Pennsylvania

States Do Not Meet Goal 3 Maine, Oklahoma, South Dakota

## Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

↔:36 1:13 ↓:2



## ANALYSIS

Alabama has a data system with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Alabama has all three necessary elements of a student- and teacher-level longitudinal data system. The state has assigned unique student identifiers that connect student data across key databases across years and has assigned unique teacher identifiers that enable it to match individual teacher records with individual student records. It also has the capacity to match student test records from year to year in order to measure student academic growth.

Alabama does not have a teacher of record definition. The state's teacher-student data link cannot connect more than one educator to a particular student in a given course, and it does not have in place a process for teacher roster verification.

Alabama does not publish any data on teacher production that connects program completion, certification and hiring statistics. The state does report the total number of graduates recommended for their first teaching certificate within each institution's report card. However, only the aggregate number is presented, rather than the totals for individual endorsements and no connection is made to district-level hiring. Further, Alabama has only posted report cards through 2009.

## Supporting Research Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org Report Cards https://tcert.alsde.edu/Portal/Public/Pages/Services/Education.aspx

## RECOMMENDATION

Develop a definition of "teacher of record" that can be used to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

To ensure that data provided through the state data system are actionable and reliable, Alabama should articulate a definition of teacher of record and require its consistent use throughout the state. This definition should reflect instruction rather than grading, and Alabama should develop a process for teacher roster verification as well as an ability to link more than one educator to a particular student.

### Publish data on 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. While it is certainly desirable to produce a big enough pool to give districts a choice in hiring, the substantial oversupply in some teaching areas is not good for the profession. Alabama should look to Maryland's "Teacher Staffing Report" as a model whose primary purpose is to determine teacher shortage areas, while also identifying areas of surplus. By collecting similar hiring data from its districts, Alabama will form a rich set of data that can inform policy decisions.

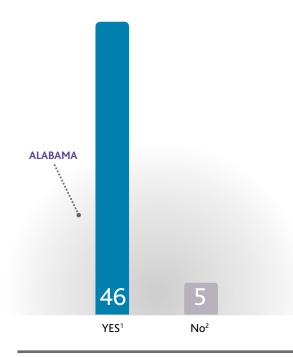
## ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

#### LAST WORD

This analysis was revised subsequent to the state's review based on updated data from the Data Quality Campaign.

Do states' data systems have the basic elements needed to assess teacher effectiveness: unique teacher and student identifiers that can be matched to test records over time?



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

2. Colorado, Maine, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota

## Figure 60

Do states' data systems include more advanced elements needed to assess teacher effectiveness?



Figure 61		~ /	1
Figure 61	SOME TEACHER PRODUCT	Some data published his	la l
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teacher production?	HER, SHED	Publi	ind e <sub>t</sub>
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Connecticut			
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Georgia			
Hawaii			
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Maryland Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
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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			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	6	8	37

## **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

Hawaii and New York have all three necessary elements of a student- and teacher-level longitudinal data system. Both states have developed definitions of "teacher of record" that reflect instruction. Their data links can connect multiple teachers to a particular student, and there is a process for teacher roster verification. In addition, Hawaii and New York publish teacher production data. Also worthy of mention is Maryland for its "Teacher Staffing Report," which serves as a model for other states. The report's primary purpose is to determine teacher shortage areas, while also identifying areas of surplus.

# Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

## Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

The state should require instructional effectiveness to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.

## Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should either require a common evaluation instrument in which evidence of student learning is the most significant criterion or should specifically require that student learning be the preponderant criterion in local evaluation processes. Evaluation instruments, whether state or locally developed, should be structured so as to preclude a teacher from receiving a satisfactory rating if found ineffective in the classroom.
- 2. Evaluation instruments should require classroom observations that focus on and document the effectiveness of instruction.
- The state should encourage the use of student surveys, which have been shown to correlate strongly with teacher effectiveness.
- 4. The state should require that evaluation instruments differentiate among various levels of teacher performance. A binary system that merely categorizes teachers as satisfactory or unsatisfactory is inadequate.

## Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

## Figure 62

*How States are Faring in Evaluation of Effectiveness* 



Best Practice States

19 States Meet Goal Alaska<sup>↑</sup>, Colorado, Connecticut<sup>↑</sup>, Delaware, Florida, Georgia<sup>↑</sup>, Hawaii<sup>↑</sup>, Louisiana<sup>↑</sup>, Michigan, Mississippi<sup>↑</sup>, Nevada, New Mexico<sup>↑</sup>, North Carolina<sup>↑</sup>, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania<sup>↑</sup>, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Wisconsin<sup>↑</sup>

# 5 Stat

States Nearly Meet Goal Arizona, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Virginia

16 States Partly Meet Goal Arkansas, District of Columbia 1, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas 1, Kentucky 1, Maine 1, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri 1, Oregon 1, South Carolina 1, South Dakota 1, Utah, West Virginia 1, Wyoming 1



States Meet a Small Part of Goal ALABAMA, California, Idaho↓, Iowa↑, Nebraska, Texas, Washington↓

4 States Do Not Meet Goal Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont

## Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

**1**:22 ↔:27 ↓:2

## 3-B Analysis: Alabama

State Meets a Small Part of Goal ( Progress Since 2011

## ANALYSIS

Alabama does not require that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations.

All teachers in Alabama are required to be evaluated under the state's new EDUCATEAlabama system. However, objective evidence of student learning is not the preponderant criterion of these teacher evaluations.

Alabama has received a waiver from portions of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which requires the state to include growth in student achievement as a significant factor in the evaluation framework, as well as a multitiered rating system. Alabama will need to address these stipulations in board rule or statute to maintain compliance with the waiver.

Alabama requires at least two observations and provides "a compilation of observable definition items, indicators and standards," which is available to both teachers and evaluators and details the behaviors and practices the observer will be looking for.

Supporting Research EDUCATEAlabama http://www.educatealabama.net/ Alabama Teacher Evaluation System AQTS: Observation http://www.educatealabama.net/resources/AQTSObservation100109.pdf

## RECOMMENDATION

# Require instructional effectiveness to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.

Alabama should require that evidence of student learning be the most significant criterion in its new teacher evaluation system. Further, a teacher should not be able to receive a satisfactory rating if found to be ineffective in the classroom.

Utilize rating categories that meaningfully differentiate among various levels of teacher performance.

To ensure that the evaluation instrument accurately differentiates among levels of teacher performance, Alabama should require districts to utilize multiple rating categories, such as highly effective, effective, needs improvement and ineffective. A binary system that merely categorizes teachers as satisfactory or unsatisfactory is inadequate.

#### **ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Do states consider	
classroom effectiveness	
as part of teacher	
evaluations?	

Figure 63	REQURES THAT STUDENT ACHEVENENT ASTUDENT PREPONDERANT ROUNT	Requires that student achievenent student crieven (spokerver) a success	Requires that student achievement's student 'significant's student without's ant's student	e explicit "enon " a Requires some object. Of student 6.0me object.	vidence
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Minnesota					
Mississippi					
Missouri					
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	19	7	9	6	10
	19	1	9	0	10

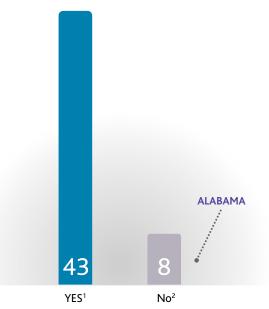
1. The state has an ESEA waiver requiring an evaluation system that includes student achievement as a significant factor. However, no specific guidelines or policies have been articulated.

2. Explicitly defined for the 2013-2014 school year.

Figure 64			· /	<sup>1</sup> Jpe of survey.	P /
<i>Is survey data used as part</i>					Sureys not permited
of teacher evaluations?	\$				<sup>not s</sup>
of teacher evaluations:	Student surveys	Parent surveys	Peer surveys	"Inverv	to be
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California					
Colorado	2	2	2		
Connecticut <sup>3</sup>					
Delaware					
District of Columbia	2	2			
Florida					
Georgia					
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lowa <sup>1</sup>					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine			2		
Maryland					
Massachusetts					
Michigan					
Minnesota	2				
Mississippi	2				
Missouri	2	2 <sup>2</sup>	2 <sup>2</sup>		
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Virginia Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	14		•	-	22
	14	11	6	2	33

#### Figure 65

Do states require more than two categories for teacher evaluation ratings?



 Strong Practice: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Despectivenza, Bhade Island, Scuth Carolina, Chio, Scuth Despectatore Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

2. Alabama, California, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont

1. Input from students, teachers and peers is required, but there is no explicit indication that this must come from surveys.

2. Explicitly allowed but not required.

3. Requires parent or peer surveys; whole-school student learning or student surveys.

## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

NCTQ has not singled out any one state for "best practice" honors. Many states continue to make significant strides in the area of teacher evaluation by requiring that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion. Because there are many different approaches that result in student learning being the preponderant criterion, all 19 states that meet this goal are commended for their efforts.

Figure 66		Presumptions are evaluation model Presumptions are evaluation model	District-designed evaluation 9xtem consigned evaluation frame work criteria with state
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evaluated?	ewide Ivsten	e sta with p	tesign nsiste (criter,
evaluated:	e stat tion s	mpti, tricts	mict-a m co work
	Single statewide evaluation 3stern	Pres for dis	Dist Syst fame
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lowa			
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Rhode Island			
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South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	9	12	30
	9	12	50

1. New Hampshire is in the process of developing a state model/criteria for teacher evaluations.

igure 67				HER
What requirements have	MULTIPLE EVALUATION	EVALUATOR TRAIL	EVALUATORS MUST RE	EVALUATOR CENTELACHER
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evaluators?	1741	1 A	S NS	Ë B
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Minnesota				
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New Hampshire				
New Jersey				
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South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee				
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Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				

Maryland requires multiple observers for ineffective teachers.
 Multiple evaluators are explicitly allowed but not required.

# Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

# Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require that all teachers receive a formal evaluation rating each year.
- 2. While all teachers should have multiple observations that contribute to their formal evaluation rating, the state should ensure that new teachers are observed and receive feedback early in the school year.

## Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

## Figure 68





## ANALYSIS

Commendably, all teachers in Alabama must be evaluated at least annually.

The state's evaluation system, EDUCATEAlabama, requires that every teacher is observed at least twice, with both observations being unannounced. One observation must occur in the fall (October-mid December), and the other must occur in the spring (late January-March). A postobservation conference follows each formal classroom observation.

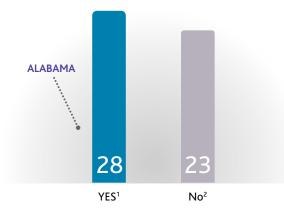
## Supporting Research

EDUCATEAlabama Lesson 6, Teacher Orientation Module http://www.educatealabama.net/orientation/lesson6.htm

## ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland<sup>3</sup>, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

2. Alaska, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia

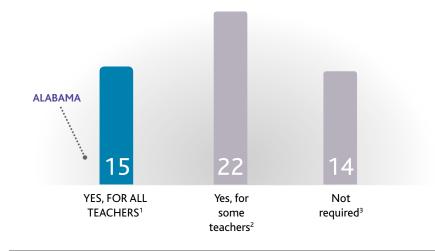
3. Regulations sunset on September 30, 2014.

## Figure 70

Figure 70	AMNUAL EVALUATION	ANNUAL EVALUATION OF ALL PROBATIONARY TEACHERS
Do states require districts	NO	in the second
to evaluate all teachers	(UA)	MAR)
each year?	FLA	410 410
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South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	28	44
	20	77

Figure 71

Do states require multiple classroom observations?



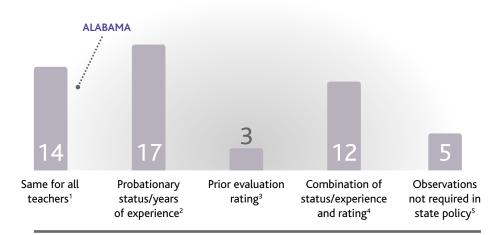
1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington

 Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin

3. California, District of Columbia, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Wyoming

#### Figure 72

What is the determining factor for frequency of observations?



1. Alabama, District of Columbia<sup>6</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island

2. Alaska, Arkansas<sup>7</sup>, California<sup>7</sup>, Colorado, Florida, Kansas<sup>7</sup>, Minnesota<sup>7</sup>, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, Oregon, Pennsylvania<sup>7</sup>, South Carolina, South Dakota<sup>7</sup>, Utah<sup>7</sup>, Washington, West Virginia<sup>8</sup>

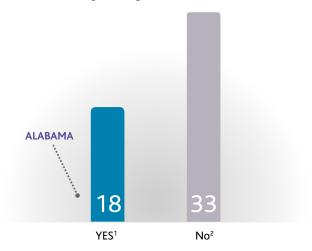
- 3. Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio
- 4. Arizona<sup>9</sup>, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts<sup>7</sup>, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas<sup>7</sup>, Virginia<sup>7</sup>, Wisconsin<sup>7</sup>
- 5. Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming
- 6. Depends on LEA requirements.
- 7. Frequency is based on evaluation cycle, not year.
- 8. No observations required after year 5.
- 9. Second observation may be waived for tenured teachers with high performance on first observation.

## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

NCTQ is not awarding "best practice" honors for frequency of evaluations but commends **Alabama**, **Hawaii**, **Idaho**, **Mississippi**, **New Jersey**, **Tennessee** and **Washington**. These states not only require annual evaluations and multiple observations for all teachers, but they also ensure that new teachers are observed and receive feedback during the first half of the school year.

#### Figure 73

Do states require that new teachers are observed early in the year?



 Strong Practice: Alabama, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota<sup>3</sup>, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia

- Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia<sup>4</sup>, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. New teachers must be evaluated early in the year; observations not explicit.
- 4. Teachers in their first year are informally evaluated early in the year.

# Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

## Goal D – Tenure

The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- A teacher should be eligible for tenure after a certain number of years of service, but tenure should not be granted automatically at that juncture.
- 2. Evidence of effectiveness should be the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.
- The minimum years of service needed to achieve tenure should allow sufficient data to be accumulated on which to base tenure decisions; four to five years is the ideal minimum.

## Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

## Figure 74 How States are Faring in Tenure **Best Practice States** 2 Connecticut<sup>1</sup>, Michigan 3 States Meet Goal Colorado, Florida, Louisiana 1 States Nearly Meet Goal 7 Delaware, Hawaii 1, Nevada, New Jersey 1, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee States Partly Meet Goal 7 Arizona<sup>1</sup>, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina<sup>1</sup>, Virginia<sup>1</sup> States Meet a Small Part of Goal 7 Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio, Washington 25 States Do Not Meet Goal ALABAMA, Alaska, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

## Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

## 3-D Analysis: Alabama

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2011

## ANALYSIS

Alabama does not connect tenure decisions to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Teachers in Alabama are awarded tenure automatically after a three-year probationary period, absent an additional process that evaluates cumulative evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Supporting Research Alabama Code 16-24C-4

## RECOMMENDATION

#### **End the automatic awarding of tenure.**

The decision to grant tenure should be a deliberate one, based on consideration of a teacher's commitment and actual evidence of classroom effectiveness.

### **Ensure evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.**

Alabama should make evidence of effectiveness, rather than the number of years in the classroom, the most significant factor when determining this leap in professional standing.

# Articulate a process that local districts must administer when deciding which teachers get tenure.

Alabama should require a clear process, such as a hearing, to ensure that the local district reviews a teacher's performance before making a determination regarding tenure.

## Require a longer probationary period.

Alabama should extend its probationary period, ideally to five years. This would allow sufficient time to collect data that adequately reflect teacher performance.

## ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 75		/	/	/	/	/	/
How long before a teacher earns tenure?							STATE ON VANJARS
	No policy	<sup>7</sup> Y <sub>ear</sub>	<sup>2</sup> Y <sub>éars</sub>	<sup>3</sup> Jears	4 YEARS	5 YEARS	VALE ONLY WUALCON
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South Carolina							
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Vermont							
Virginia				6			
Washington				7			
West Virginia							
Wisconsin							
Wyoming							
	1	1	4	32	4	6	3

- 1. Idaho limits teacher contract terms to one year.
- 2. A teacher can receive up to a 4-year contract if deemed proficient on evaluation.
- 3. Teachers must hold an educator license for at least seven years and have taught in the district at least three of the last five years.
- 4. Teachers may also earn career status with an average rating of at least effective for a four-year period and a rating of at least effective for the last two years.
- 5. While technically not on annual contracts, Rhode Island teachers who receive two years of ineffective ratings are dismissed.
- 6. Local school board may extend up to five years.
- 7. At a district's discretion, a teacher may be granted tenure after the second year if he/she receives one of the top two evaluation ratings.

## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Connecticut and Michigan appropriately base tenure decisions on evidence of teacher effectiveness. In Connecticut, tenure is awarded after four years and must be earned on the basis of effective practice as demonstrated in evaluation ratings. Michigan requires a probationary period of five years, with teachers having to earn a rating of effective or highly effective on their three most recent performance evaluations. Both states require that student growth be the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.

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lowa			
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Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	11	9	21
	11	9	31

1. Florida only awards annual contracts.

- 2. North Carolina has recently eliminated tenure. The state requires some evidence of effectiveness in awarding multipleyear contracts.
- 3. Oklahoma has created a loophole by essentially waiving student learning requirements and allowing the principal of a school to petition for career-teacher status.

# Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

## Goal E – Licensure Advancement

The state should base licensure advancement on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should base advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license on evidence of effectiveness.
- 2. The state should not require teachers to fulfill generic, unspecified coursework requirements to advance from a probationary to a nonprobationary license.
- 3. The state should not require teachers to have an advanced degree as a condition of professional licensure.
- 4. Evidence of effectiveness should be a factor in the renewal of a professional licenses.

## Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



## 3-E Analysis: Alabama

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2011

## ANALYSIS

Alabama's requirements for licensure advancement and renewal are not based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

The state provides three levels of licenses: Bachelor's Professional Educator certificate (Class B), Master's Professional Teacher license (Class A), and Sixth Year Professional Teacher license (Class AA). While it is not required that a teacher advance beyond the Class B license, to advance to a Class A license a teacher must earn a master's degree. To advance to a Class AA license, a teacher must meet the requirements of the Class A license as well as complete an additional approved sixth-year teacher education program with 30 semester hours of graduate credit.

Alabama also does not require that teachers demonstrate effectiveness in order to renew a professional license. All three levels of teaching licenses in Alabama are valid for five years and can be renewed based on the following requirements: three years of "satisfactory" educational experience and either five continuing education units or three semester hours of credit, or six semester hours of credit.

#### Supporting Research

Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-2-.01; 290-3-2-.03(1); 290-3-2-.04; 290-3-3-.42 http://www.alsde.edu/html/sections/documents.asp?section=66&sort=7&footer=sections

## RECOMMENDATION

## Require evidence of effectiveness as a part of teacher licensing policy.

Alabama should require evidence of teacher effectiveness to be a factor in determining whether teachers can renew their licenses or advance to a higher-level license. Alabama's requirement of satisfactory educational experience does not accomplish this purpose, since the state's requirements do not ensure that classroom effectiveness is considered in teachers' evaluations (see Goal 3-B).

Discontinue licensure requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

While some targeted requirements may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Alabama's general, nonspecific coursework requirements for license advancement and renewal merely call for teachers to complete a certain amount of seat time. These requirements do not correlate with teacher effectiveness.

### **End requirement tying teacher advancement to master's degrees.**

Alabama should remove its mandate that teachers obtain a master's degree for license advancement. Research is conclusive and emphatic that master's degrees do not have any significant correlation to classroom performance. Rather, advancement should be based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

## ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 78				
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Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
	6	4	9	32

1. Evidence of effectiveness is required for license renewal but not for conferring of professional license.

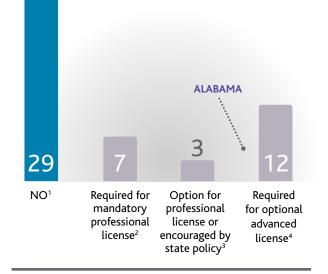
2. Illinois allows revocation of licenses based on ineffectiveness.

3. Maryland uses some objective evidence through their evaluation systems for renewal, but advancement to professional license is still based on earning an advanced degree.

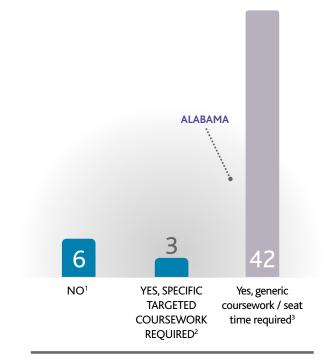
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?

### Figure 80

Do states require teachers to take additional coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?

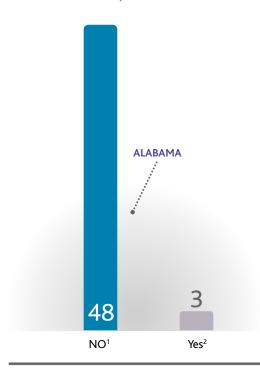


- Strong Practice: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont,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



- 1. Strong Practice: Hawaii, Louisiana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Tennessee
- 2. Strong Practice: California, Georgia, Minnesota
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina<sup>4</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyorning
- 4. Some required coursework is targeted.

Do states award lifetime licenses?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut<sup>3</sup>, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 2. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia
- 3. Although teachers in Connecticut must renew their licenses every five years, there are no requirements for renewal.

## **T** EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

**Rhode Island** is integrating certification, certification renewal and educator evaluations. Teachers who receive poor evaluations for five consecutive years are not eligible to renew their licenses. In addition, teachers who consistently receive "highly effective" ratings will be eligible for a special license designation.

# Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

# Goal F – Equitable Distribution

The state should publicly report districts' distribution of teacher talent among schools to identify inequities in schools serving disadvantaged children.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should make aggregate school-level data about teacher performance —from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness as described in Goal 3-B publicly available.
- 2. In the absence of such an evaluation system, the state should make the following data publicly available:

a. An "Academic Quality" index for each school that includes factors research has found to be associated with teacher effectiveness such as:

- percentage of new teachers;
- percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once;
- percentage of teachers on emergency credentials:
- average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions and
- teachers' average ACT or SAT scores

b. The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area.

c. The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school.

d. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school, by district and by reasons that teachers leave.

## Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

## Figure 82



## 3-F Analysis: Alabama

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2011

## ANALYSIS

Providing comprehensive reporting may be the state's most important role for ensuring the equitable distribution of teachers among schools. Alabama does not report school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent among schools within districts.

Alabama does not require districts to publicly report aggregate school-level data about teacher performance, nor does the state collect and publicly report most of the other data recommended by NCTQ. Alabama does not provide a school-level teacher-quality index that demonstrates the academic backgrounds of a school's teachers and the ratio of new to veteran teachers. The state also does not report on teacher absenteeism or turnover rates.

Alabama does report on the percentage of highly qualified teachers. However, these data are reported at the state rather than at the school level. Alabama also reports on the percentage of teachers with emergency credentials at the school level, but these data have not been updated since 2009.

## Supporting Research

Alabama's Education Report Card 2011-2012 http://www.alsde.edu/general/AlabamaEducationReportCard.pdf

Alabama's School Profile Report Cards 2008-2009 http://www.alsde.edu/html/reports.asp?menu=reports&footer=general&sort=all

### RECOMMENDATION

## Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

Alabama should make aggregate school-level data about teacher performance—from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness—publicly available. Data about the effectiveness of a school's teachers would shine a light on how equitably teachers are distributed across and within school districts.

In the absence of data from such an evaluation system, the state should use a teacher-quality index to report publicly about each school. A teacher-quality index, such as the one developed by the Illinois Education Research Council with data including teachers' average SAT or ACT scores, the percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once, the selectivity of teachers' undergraduate colleges and the percentage of new teachers, can show how equitably teachers are distributed both across and within districts. Alabama should ensure that individual school report cards include such data in a manner that translates these factors into something easily understood by the public, such as a color-coded matrix indicating a school's high or low score.

## Publish other data that facilitate comparisons across schools.

Alabama should collect and report other school-level data that reflect the stability of a school's faculty, including the rates of teacher absenteeism and turnover.

## Report data at the school level.

Alabama should ensure that it is reporting all currently collected data at the school level, rather than aggregated by district.

## Ensure that data are current.

It is important to keep data updated and current in order to provide the public with an accurate picture of teacher distribution across schools in districts. Alabama should update the data it reports on the percentage of highly qualified teachers at the school level, as the state has not done so since 2008-2009.

## ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

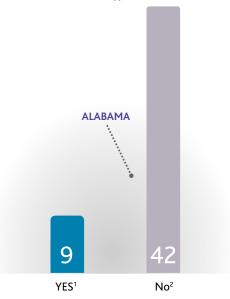
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## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Although not awarding "best practice" honors for this goal, NCTQ commends the nine states that meet the goal for giving the public access to teacher performance data aggregated to the school level. This transparency can help shine a light on on how equitably teachers are distributed across and within school districts and help to ensure that all students have access to effective teachers.

## Figure 84

Do states publicly report school-level data about teacher effectiveness?

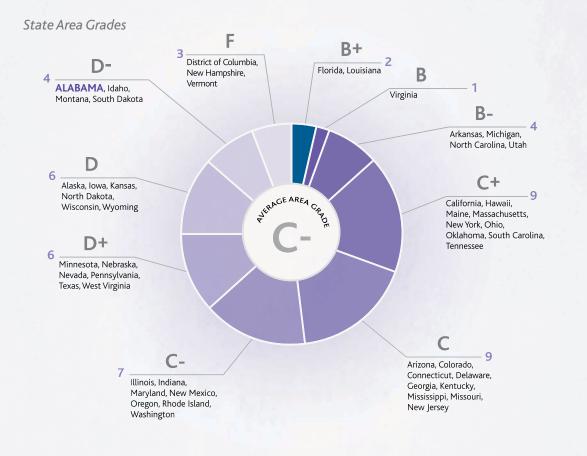


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas<sup>3</sup>, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts<sup>4</sup>, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida<sup>5</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah<sup>5</sup>, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Reporting of teacher effectiveness data will begin in 2017.
- 4. Massachusetts' evaluation system is not based primarily on evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- 5. Reports data about teacher effectiveness at the district level.

# Area 4 Summary



# How States are Faring in Retaining Effective Teachers



## **Topics Included In This Area**

- 4-A: Induction
- 4-B: Professional Development
- 4-C: Pay Scales

- 4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience
- 4-E: Differential Pay
- 4-F: Performance Pay

# Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

# Goal A – Induction

The state should require effective induction for all new teachers, with special emphasis on teachers in high-need schools.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should ensure that new teachers receive mentoring of sufficient frequency and duration, especially in the first critical weeks of school.
- 2. Mentors should be carefully selected based on evidence of their own classroom effectiveness and subject-matter expertise. Mentors should be trained, and their performance as mentors should be evaluated.
- Induction programs should include only strategies that can be successfully implemented, even in a poorly managed school. Such strategies include intensive mentoring, seminars appropriate to grade level or subject area, a reduced teaching load and frequent release time to observe effective teachers.

## Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

## Figure 85

How States are Faring in Induction Best Practice State 1 South Carolina 10 States Meet Goal ALABAMA, Arkansas, Hawaii 1, Illinois 1, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Virginia 1 15 States Nearly Meet Goal California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota<sup>1</sup>, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Utah 11 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin States Meet a Small Part of Goal Florida, Idaho, Montana 1, Texas 10 States Do Not Meet Goal District of Columbia, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: ♦:45 ↓:1 1:5

## 4-A Analysis: Alabama



Progress Since 2011

## ANALYSIS

Alabama requires that all new teachers receive mentoring through the Alabama Teacher Mentoring (ATM) program. The state requires that each new teacher receive mentoring for a minimum of two years with the option of a third year based on mastery of competencies. Mentors for new teachers must be in place within the first month of school, and the goal is an average of 2.5 hours of contact time during each week of the school year. Mentor teachers must have a minimum of three years' successful teaching experience and subject-area expertise. Mentors are chosen by a committee comprised of teachers and administrators, must complete a training course and receive a stipend of \$1,000 per year for each new teacher they mentor. Each new teacher must complete regularly scheduled assessments of the mentor program effectiveness.

## Supporting Research

ATM Program Guidelines http://ti\_sp.alsde.edu/qt/Guidelines%20for%20the%20Alabama%20Teacher%20Mentoring%20Progr/Forms/AllItems.aspx

## ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The state noted that the Alabama Teacher Mentoring Program (ATM) was not funded in the current legislative cycle. Alabama will reinstate the program when funding is allocated in the budget adopted by the legislature.

## LAST WORD

NCTQ appreciates the state's candor in disclosing that the mentoring program is not currently funded. That is especially unfortunate, as Alabama's program outlines many key elements. The *Yearbook* is a policy review, and credit is given for policy on the books, not funding status.

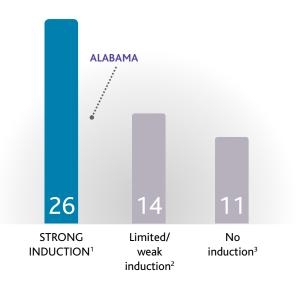
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	31	22	9	24	29	20	20	21

## T EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

**South Carolina** requires that all new teachers, prior to the start of the school year, be assigned mentors for at least one year. Districts carefully select mentors based on experience and similar certifications and grade levels, and mentors undergo additional training. Adequate release time is mandated by the state so that mentors and new teachers may observe each other in the classroom, collaborate on effective teaching techniques and develop professional growth plans. Mentor evaluations are mandatory and stipends are recommended.

### Figure 87

Do states have policies that articulate the elements of effective induction?



 Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia

2. Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

3. District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming

# Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

## Goal B – Professional Development

The state should ensure that teachers receive feedback about their performance and require professional development to be based on needs identified through teacher evaluations.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance.
- 2. The state should require that all teachers who receive a rating of ineffective/ unsatisfactory or needs improvement on their evaluations be placed on an improvement plan.
- 3. The state should direct districts to align professional development activities with findings from teachers' evaluations.

## Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

## Figure 88

*How States are Faring in Professional Development* 

Best Practice States 2 Louisiana, North Carolina 14 States Meet Goal Arizona<sup>1</sup>, Arkansas, Colorado<sup>1</sup>, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Maine<sup>1</sup>, Michigan, Mississippi<sup>1</sup>, New Jersey<sup>1</sup>, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia<sup>1</sup>, West Virginia<sup>1</sup> States Nearly Meet Goal Illinois, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Utah 13 States Partly Meet Goal Georgia, Hawaii 1, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wyoming 7 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alaska, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania<sup>1</sup>, South Dakota<sup>1</sup> 11 States Do Not Meet Goal ALABAMA, California, District of Columbia, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin Progress on this Goal Since 2011: 1:11 👄 : 39 ↓:1

### 4-B Analysis: Alabama

State Does Not Meet Goal (😓) Progress Since 2011

#### ANALYSIS

It is unclear whether Alabama's new teacher evaluation system—EDUCATE Alabama—will require that teachers receive feedback about their performance.

As part of Alabama's new teacher evaluation system, the state does require each educator to develop a professional learning plan, which is created via a dialogue between the teacher and instructional leader and must be based on the "Educator Self Assessment." The state does not specify that professional development activities must be aligned with findings from teacher evaluations, nor does Alabama mandate that teachers rated less than effective receive targeted professional improvement plans.

#### Supporting Research

EDUCATE Alabama http://alex.state.al.us/leadership/educatealabama.html Alabama Administrative Code 290-4-3

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance.

In order to increase their effectiveness in the classroom, teachers need to receive feedback on strengths and areas that need improvement identified in their evaluations. As such, Alabama should require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their classroom performance.

#### Ensure that professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.

Professional development that is not informed by evaluation results may be of little value to teachers' professional growth and aim of increasing their effectiveness in the classroom. While Alabama has taken steps in the right direction by requiring that all teachers develop professional learning plans, the state should ensure that districts utilize teacher evaluation results in determining professional development needs and activities.

## Ensure that teachers receiving less than effective ratings are placed on a professional improvement plan.

Alabama should adopt a policy requiring that teachers who receive even one unsatisfactory evaluation be placed on structured improvement plans. These plans should focus on performance areas that directly connect to student learning and should identify noted deficiencies, define specific action steps necessary to address these deficiencies and describe how and when progress will be measured.

#### ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama indicated that teacher feedback is integrated throughout the EDUCATEAlabama process. According to the state, immediately following a teacher self-evaluation, utilizing the Alabama Continuum for Teacher Development, the teacher and her or his instructional leader must discuss the self-assessment and agree on three to five indicators that will be the focus of professional learning for the upcoming year. The instructional leader must sign off on the Professional Learning Plan (PLP) before any additional work can be done. Alabama stated that the PLP then becomes the driving force of professional development and learning for the remainder of the year. The state asserted that because EDUCATEAlabama is a formative assessment system, it does not result in a single determination of effectiveness, but it does provide teachers and instructional leaders with a multidimensional view of each teacher's strengths and weaknesses.

#### LAST WORD

While connecting professional development to teachers' self-evaluation is a better approach than no targeting at all, which unfortunately is common practice in too many places, it will not help teachers to address weaknesses and deficiencies of which they are not aware. Giving teachers actionable feedback on observations and connecting professional development to areas identified through observations and objective performance data is key to helping all teachers grow and improve.

Do states ensure that evaluations are used to help teachers improve?



#### Louisiana and North Carolina require that teachers receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations and direct districts to connect professional development

**EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE** 

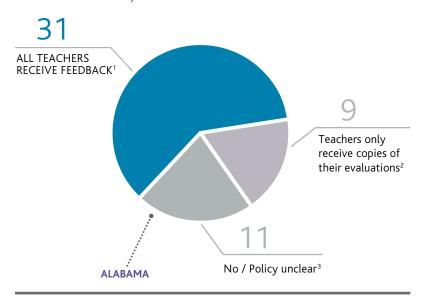
to teachers' identified needs. Both states also require that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement plans. These improvement plans include specific performance goals, a description of resources and assistance provided, as well as timelines for improvement.

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Wisconsin <sup>3</sup>			
Wyoming			

1. Improvement plans are required for tenured teachers only.

- 2. Improvement plans are required only for teachers teaching for four years or more.
- Wisconsin's educator effectiveness system includes many of these elements, but is still in the pilot stage. Full implementation will not begin until 2014-2015.

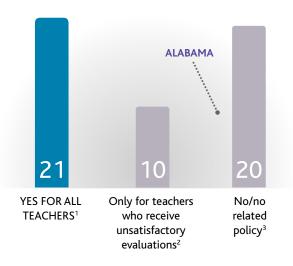
Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?



- Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska, California, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania
- Alabama, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin<sup>4</sup>
- 4. Wisconsin's educator effectiveness system requires that teachers receive feedback, but it is still in the pilot stages. Full implementation will not begin until 2014-15.

#### Figure 91

*Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?* 



- Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas
- Alabama, California, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin<sup>4</sup>
- 4. Wisconsin's educator effectiveness system requires that evaluations inform professional development, but it is still in the pilot stages. Full implementation will not begin until 2014-15.

# Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

## Goal C – Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

#### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- While the state may find it appropriate to articulate teachers' starting salaries, it should not require districts to adhere to a statedictated salary schedule that defines steps and lanes and sets minimum pay at each level.
- The state should discourage districts from tying additional compensation to advanced degrees. The state should eliminate salary schedules that establish higher minimum salaries or other requirements to pay more to teachers with advanced degrees.
- 3. The state should discourage salary schedules that imply that teachers with the most experience are the most effective. The state should eliminate salary schedules that require that the highest steps on the pay scale be determined solely be seniority.

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

#### Figure 92



### 4-C Analysis: Alabama

State Does Not Meet Goal (😓) Progress Since 2011

#### ANALYSIS

To determine teachers' salaries, Alabama provides local districts with a Minimum Salary Schedule. Because the salary schedule provided by the state is based on teachers' years of experience and earned advanced degrees, the state in effect mandates how districts will pay teachers.

#### Supporting Research

Salary Schedule FY 2014

https://docs.alsde.edu/documents/68/State%20Minimum%20Salary%20Schedule%20for%20Teachers%20for%20FY2014.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Give districts flexibility to determine their own pay structure and scales.

While Alabama may find it appropriate to articulate the starting salary that a teacher should be paid, it should not require districts to adhere to a state-dictated salary schedule.

#### Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.

The inclusion of advanced degrees in the state schedule is particularly problematic, as this sends a clear message to both districts and teachers that attaining such degrees is desirable and should be rewarded; exhaustive research has shown unequivocally that advanced degrees do not have an impact on teacher effectiveness. Further, by establishing a guideline for teacher salaries that includes advanced degrees, the state limits the ability of districts to structure their pay scale in ways that do emphasize teacher effectiveness.

## Discourage salary schedules that imply that teachers with the most experience are the most effective.

Similarly, Alabama's salary schedule sends a message to districts that the highest step on the pay scale should be determined solely by seniority.

#### ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Florida and Indiana allow local districts to develop their own salary schedules while preventing districts from prioritizing elements not associated with teacher effectiveness. In Florida, local salary schedules must ensure that the most effective teachers receive salary increases greater than the highest salary adjustment available. Indiana requires local salary scales to be based on a combination of factors and limits the years of teacher experience and content-area degrees to account for no more than one-third of this calculation.

What role does the state play in deciding teacher pay rates?	DISTRICTS SET SALL	State sets minimum c.	Sate sets minimun salay sch
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Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
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EDULE Checkle

1. Colorado gives districts the option of a salary schedule, a performance pay policy or a combination of both.

2. Rhode Island requires that local district salary schedules are based on years of service, experience and training.

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1. For advanced degrees earned after April 2014.

- 2. Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training".
- 3. Texas has a minimum salary schedule based on years of experience. Compensation for advanced degrees is left to district discretion.
- 4. Beginning in 2015-2016.

# Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

## > Goal D – Compensation for Prior Work Experience

The state should encourage districts to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience.

#### Goal Component

(The factor considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

 The state should encourage districts to compensate new teachers with relevant prior work experience through mechanisms such as starting these teachers at an advanced step on the pay scale. Further, the state should not have regulatory language that blocks such strategies.

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

#### Figure 95 How States are Faring in Compensation for Prior Work Experience 1 **Best Practice State** North Carolina State Meets Goal California State Nearly Meets Goal Louisiana States Partly Meet Goal Delaware, Georgia, Texas, Washington State Meets a Small Part of Goal 1 Hawaii **43** States Do Not Meet Goal ALABAMA, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey,

New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin,

Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

+ : 50

Wyoming

1:1

ALABAMA NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2013 : 115

**!**:0

### 4-D Analysis: Alabama

State Does Not Meet Goal 🛛 🔶 Progress Since 2011

#### ANALYSIS

Alabama does not encourage local districts to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience. However, the state does not seem to have regulatory language blocking such strategies.

Supporting Research NCTQ Analysis Citation

#### RECOMMENDATION

Encourage local districts to compensate new teachers with relevant prior work experience.

While still leaving districts with the flexibility to determine their own pay scales, Alabama should encourage districts to incorporate mechanisms such as starting these teachers at a higher salary than other new teachers. Such policies would be attractive to career changers with related work experience, such as in the STEM subjects.

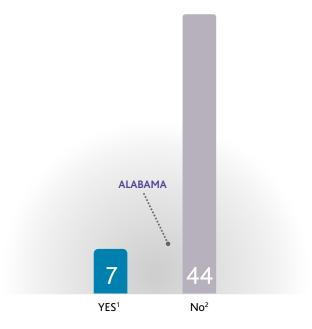
ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

#### T EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

North Carolina compensates new teachers with relevant prior-work experience by awarding them one year of experience credit for every year of full-time work after earning a bachelor's degree that is related to their area of licensure and work assignment. One year of credit is awarded for every two years of work experience completed prior to earning a bachelor's degree.

#### Figure 96

Do states direct districts to compensate teachers for related prior work experience?



1. Strong Practice: California, Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas, Washington

2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii<sup>3</sup>, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

3. Hawaii's compensation is limited to prior military experience.

# Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

## Goal E – Differential Pay

The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in shortage and high-need areas.

#### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 2. The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in high-need schools.
- 3. The state should not have regulatory language that would block differential pay.

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

#### Figure 97

How States are Faring in Differential Pay



### 4-E Analysis: Alabama

State Does Not Meet Goal 🛛 ( 🔁 Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Alabama neither supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects nor offers incentives to teach in high-need schools. However, the state has no regulatory language that would directly block districts from providing differential pay.

Teachers who are National Board Certified are eligible to receive an annual salary supplement. However, this type of differential pay is not tied to high-need schools or subject-area shortages.

#### Supporting Research

Alabama Dept. of Education National Board for Professional Teaching Standards http://www.alsde.edu/html/sections/section\_detail.asp?section=74&menu=sections&footer=sections

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Support differential pay initiatives for effective teachers in both subject shortage areas and high-needs schools.

Alabama should encourage districts to link compensation to district needs. Such policies can help districts achieve a more equitable distribution of teachers.

**Consider tying National Board supplements to teaching in high-needs schools.** 

This differential pay could be an incentive to attract some of the state's most effective teachers to low-performing schools.

#### ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Do states provide incentives to teach in high-need schools or shortage subject areas?       AREAS         ALBAMA       I       I       I         Alaska       I       I       I         Alaska       I       I       I         Alaska       I       I       I         Arizona       I       I       I         Arkansas       I       I       I         California       I       I       I         Connecticut       I       I       I         District of Columbia       I       I       I         Florida       I       I       I       I         Idaho       I       I       I       I         Idaho       I       I       I       I         Idaho       I       I       I       I         Indiana       I       I       I       I         Iouisiana       I       I       I       I         Mayand       I       I       I       I         Missouri       I       I       I       I         Maine       I       I       I       I         Massachusetts       I	ire 98	HIGH NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT	/
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 Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in subject shortage areas.

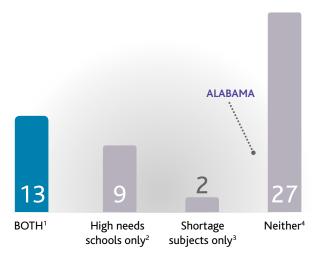
2. South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in high-need schools.

#### T EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

**Georgia** supports differential pay by which teachers can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. The state is especially commended for its compensation strategy for math and science teachers, which moves teachers along the salary schedule rather just providing a bonus or stipend. The state also supports differential pay initiatives to link compensation more closely with district needs and to achieve a more equitable distribution of teachers.

#### Figure 99

Do states support differential pay for teaching in high need schools and shortage subjects?



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

# Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

## **>** Goal F – Performance Pay

The state should support performance pay, but in a manner that recognizes its appropriate uses and limitations.

#### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should support performance pay efforts, rewarding teachers for their effectiveness in the classroom.
- 2. The state should allow districts flexibility to define the criteria for performance pay provided that such criteria connect to evidence of student achievement.
- 3. Any performance pay plan should allow for the participation of all teachers, not just those in tested subjects and grades.

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

#### Figure 100

How States are Faring in Performance Pay

 2
 Best Practice States

 Florida, Indiana

#### 16 States Meet Goal Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Hawaii<sup>↑</sup>, Louisiana<sup>↑</sup>, Maine<sup>↑</sup>, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi<sup>↑</sup>, New York<sup>↑</sup>, Ohio<sup>↑</sup>, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah

1 State Nearly Meets Goal California

5 States Partly Meet Goal Kentucky, Missouri, Nevada,

Oregon, Virginia

1 State Meets a Small Part of Goal Nebraska

26 States Do Not Meet Goal ALABAMA, Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

**1**:6 ↔:42 ↓:3

### 4-F Analysis: Alabama

State Does Not Meet Goal 🛛 ( Progress Since 2011

#### ANALYSIS

Alabama does not support performance pay. The state does not have any policies in place that offer teachers additional compensation based on evidence of effectiveness.

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Support a performance pay plan that recognizes teachers for their effectiveness.

Whether it implements the plan at the state or local level, Alabama should ensure that performance pay structures thoughtfully measure classroom performance and connect student achievement to teacher effectiveness. The plan must be developed with careful consideration of available data and subsequent issues of fairness.

#### Consider piloting performance pay in a select number of school districts.

This would provide an opportunity to discover and correct any limitations in available data or methodology before implementing the plan on a wider scale.

#### ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 101		1	1	1	. /	
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#### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

An increasing number of states are supporting performance pay initiatives. Florida and Indiana are particularly noteworthy for their efforts to build performance into the salary schedule. Rather than award bonuses, teachers' salaries will be based in part on their performance in the classroom.

1. Nebraska's initiative does not go into effect until 2016.

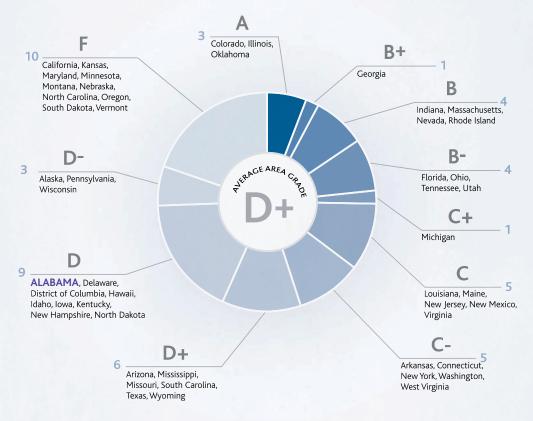
2. Nevada's initiative does not go into effect until 2015-2016.

# Area 5 Summary



## How States are Faring in Exiting Ineffective Teachers

State Area Grades



### **Topics Included In This Area**

- 5-A: Extended Emergency Licenses
- 5-B: Dismissal for Poor Performance
- 5-C: Reductions in Force

# Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

## Goal A – Extended Emergency Licenses

The state should close loopholes that allow teachers who have not met licensure requirements to continue teaching.

#### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- Under no circumstances should a state award a standard license to a teacher who has not passed all required subject-matter licensing tests.
- 2. If a state finds it necessary to confer conditional or provisional licenses under limited and exceptional circumstances to teachers who have not passed the required tests, the state should ensure that requirements are met within one year.

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

#### Figure 102

How States are Faring in Licensure Loopholes

**Best Practice States** 4 Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, New Jersey 3 States Meet Goal Nevada, New Mexico, South Carolina 14 States Nearly Meet Goal ALABAMA, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Iowa<sup>+</sup>, Kentucky, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Utah, West Virginia 2 States Partly Meet Goal New York, Wyoming 2 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Michigan, Vermont 26 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin Progress on this Goal Since 2011: 1:1 👄 : 50 4:0

### 5-A Analysis: **Alabama**

State Nearly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2011

#### ANALYSIS

Alabama allows new teachers who have not passed required state licensing tests to teach up to one year on an emergency certificate. These certificates are issued at the request of the employing superintendent or headmaster to candidates who hold at least a bachelor's degree, when no certified teachers are available. Emergency certificates may not be extended or renewed.

Supporting Research Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-2-.31

#### RECOMMENDATION

## Ensure that all teachers pass required subject-matter licensing tests before they enter the classroom.

While Alabama's policy offering its provisional license for one year only minimizes the risks brought about by having teachers in classrooms who lack appropriate subject-matter knowledge, the state could take its policy a step further and require all teachers to meet subject-matter licensure requirements prior to entering the classroom.

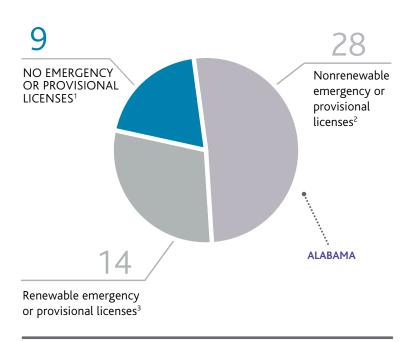
#### **ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 103		/	/	8
How long can new teachers practice without passing				e (or unspecifie
licensing tests?	NO DEFERRAL	Up to <sub>7</sub> year	Up to 2 Jears	<sup>3/earonthole</sup> (or Unspectica)
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	7	14	8	22



Do states still award emergency licenses?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alaska<sup>4</sup>, Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, Montana<sup>5</sup>, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Carolina
- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota<sup>6</sup>, Ohio<sup>6</sup>, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island<sup>6</sup>, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin
- 4. Alaska does not require subject-matter testing for initial certification.
- 5. Montana does not require subject-matter testing for certification.
- 6. License is renewable, but only if licensure tests are passed.

# Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

## Goal B – Dismissal for Poor Performance

The state should articulate that ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal and ensure that the process for terminating ineffective teachers is expedient and fair to all parties.

#### **Goal Components**

#### (The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should articulate that teachers may be dismissed for ineffective classroom performance. Any teacher that receives two consecutive ineffective evaluations or two such ratings within five years should be formally eligible for dismissal, regardless of tenure status.
- 2. A teacher who is terminated for poor performance should have an opportunity to appeal. In the interest of both the teacher and the school district, the state should ensure that this appeal occurs within a reasonable time frame.
- 3. There should be a clear distinction between the process and accompanying due process rights for teachers dismissed for classroom ineffectiveness and the process and accompanying due process rights for teachers dismissed or facing license revocation for felony or morality violations or dereliction of duties.

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



### 5-B Analysis: Alabama

State Does Not Meet Goal 🛛 🔁 Progress Since 2011

#### ANALYSIS

Alabama does not explicitly make teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal, nor does the state distinguish the due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance from those facing other charges commonly associated with license revocation, such as a felony and/or morality violations. The process is the same regardless of the grounds for cancellation, which include "incompetency, insubordination, neglect of duty, immorality, failure to perform duties in a satisfactory manner, justifiable decrease in the number of teaching positions, or other good and just cause."

In Alabama, tenured teachers who are terminated have multiple opportunities to appeal. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher has 15 days to file the first appeal, which is scheduled up to 60 days after the teacher receives notice. The teacher then has another 21 days to file an additional appeal with the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals.

Supporting Research Alabama Code 16-24-8, 9, 10

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Specify that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

Euphemistic terms such as "incompetency" are ambiguous at best and may be interpreted as concerning dereliction of duty rather than ineffectiveness. Alabama should explicitly make teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal so that districts do not feel they lack the legal basis for terminating consistently poor performers.

Ensure that teachers terminated for poor performance have the opportunity to appeal within a reasonable time frame.

Nonprobationary teachers who are dismissed for any grounds, including ineffectiveness, are entitled to due process. However, cases that drag on for years drain resources from school districts and create a disincentive for districts to attempt to terminate poor performers. Therefore, the state must ensure that the opportunity to appeal occurs only once and only at the district level. It is in the best interest of both the teacher and the district that a conclusion is reached within a reasonable time frame.

#### Distinguish the process and accompanying due process rights between dismissal for classroom ineffectiveness and dismissal for morality violations, felonies or dereliction of duty.

While nonprobationary teachers should have due process for any termination, it is important to differentiate between loss of employment and issues with far-reaching consequences that could permanently affect a teacher's right to practice. Alabama should ensure that appeals related to classroom effectiveness are decided only by those with educational expertise.

#### ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

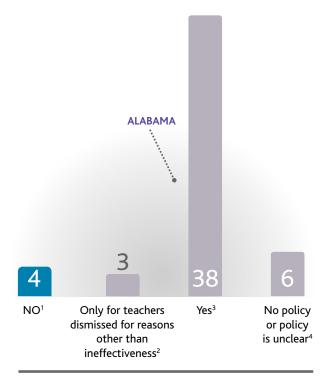
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#### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Florida and Oklahoma clearly articulate that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal. In both states, teachers are eligible for dismissal after two annual ratings of unsatisfactory performance. Each state has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed to be ineffective is expedited. Teachers facing dismissal have only one opportunity to appeal.

1. A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not articulated that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



1. Strong Practice: Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Wisconsin

- 2. Teachers in these states revert to probationary status following ineffective evaluation ratings, meaning that they no longer have the due process right to multiple appeals: Colorado, Indiana, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. District of Columbia, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada<sup>5</sup>, Utah, Vermont
- Though a teacher returns to probationary status after two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations, Nevada does not articulate clear policy about its appeals process.

# Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

## Goal C – Reductions in Force

The state should require that its school districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off when a reduction in force is necessary.

#### Goal Component

(The factor considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

1. The state should require that districts consider classroom performance and ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off.

#### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

#### Figure 108



### 5-C Analysis: Alabama

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2011

#### ANALYSIS

In Alabama, the factors used by districts to determine which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force are decided at the district level and must be based on "objective criteria."

Supporting Research Code of Alabama 16-1-33

#### RECOMMENDATION

Require that districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.

Alabama can still leave districts flexibility in determining layoff policies, but it should do so within a framework that ensures that classroom performance is considered.

Ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off. Unlike some states, Alabama does not require that districts consider seniority; however, the state should do more to prevent districts from making decisions solely on this basis.

#### **ALABAMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Alabama recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Do states prevent districts from basing layoffs solely on "last in, first out"?

#### J THE ONLY FACTOR BE PERFORMANCE MUST ALABAMA Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware $\square$ District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii $\square$ $\square$ Idaho $\square$ Illinois Indiana lowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota $\square$ Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico $\square$ $\square$ New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina $\square$ South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington

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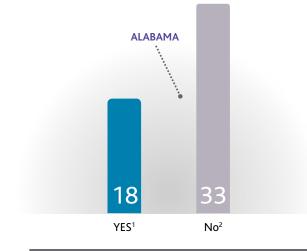
West Virginia

Wisconsin

Wyoming

#### Figure 109

Do districts have to consider performance in determining which teachers are laid off?



1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts<sup>3</sup>, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio<sup>3</sup>, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington

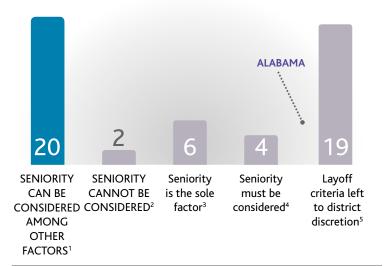
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Tenure is considered first.

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

**Colorado**, **Florida**, and **Indiana** all specify that in determining which teachers to lay off during a reduction in force, classroom performance is the top criterion. These states also articulate that seniority can only be considered after a teacher's performance is taken into account.

#### Figure 111

*Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?* 



 Strong Practice: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts<sup>6</sup>, Michigan, Missouri<sup>6</sup>, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio<sup>6</sup>, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington

- 3. Hawaii, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin<sup>7</sup>
- 4. California, Kentucky, New Jersey, Oregon
- 5. Alabama, Alaska<sup>6</sup>, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska<sup>6</sup>, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming
- 6. Nontenured teachers are laid off first.
- 7. Only for counties with populations of 500,000 or more and for teachers hired before 1995.

<sup>2.</sup> Strong Practice: Louisiana, Utah

# Goals and Keywords

GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Te	achers
<b>1-A:</b> Admission into Teacher Preparation	The state should require teacher preparation programs to admit only candidates with strong academic records.	admission requirements, academic proficiency measures, basic skills tests, GPA
<b>1-B:</b> Elementary Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that its teacher preparation programs provide elementary teachers with a broad liberal arts education, providing the necessary foundation for teaching to the Common Core or similar state standards.	license/certification, elementary teachers, early childhood teachers, content tests, elementary coursework/standards, content specialization requirements
<b>1-C:</b> Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	The state should ensure that new elementary teachers know the science of reading instruction.	license/certification, elementary teachers, early childhood teachers, science of reading tests, science of reading coursework/standards
<b>1-D:</b> Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	The state should ensure that new elementary teachers have sufficient knowledge of the mathematics content taught in elementary grades.	license/certification, elementary teachers, early childhood teachers, math content tests, math coursework/standards
<b>1-E:</b> Middle School Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.	license/certification, middle school teachers, content tests, K-8 licenses, content specialization requirements
1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.	license/certification, secondary teachers, secondary social studies, content tests, endorsements
<b>1-G:</b> Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	The state should ensure that secondary science teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach.	license/certification, secondary general science, content tests, combination sciences
1-H: Special Education Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that special education teachers know the subject matter they are licensed to teach.	license/certification, special education teachers, content tests, K-12 special education license, elementary special education, secondary special education
<b>1-I:</b> Assessing Professional Knowledge	The state should use a licensing test to verify that all new teachers meet its professional standards.	license/certification, pedagogy, professional standards/knowledge, performance assessments, edTPA
1-J: Student Teaching	The state should ensure that teacher preparation programs provide teacher candidates with a high quality clinical experience.	student teaching, cooperating teachers, clinical preparation, placements
<b>1-K:</b> Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	The state's approval process for teacher preparation programs should hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.	teacher preparation programs, program accountability, student achievement, standard of performance, public reporting, national accreditation

# Goals and Keywords

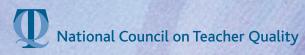
GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching	Pool
<b>2-A:</b> Alternate Route Eligibility	The state should require alternate route programs to exceed the admission requirements of traditional preparation programs while also being flexible to the needs of nontraditional candidates.	alternate route programs, admission requirements, GPA, academic proficiency measures, subject-matter test, flexibility/ test-out
<b>2-B:</b> Alternate Route Preparation	The state should ensure that its alternate routes provide efficient preparation that is relevant to the immediate needs of new teachers, as well as adequate mentoring and support.	alternate route programs, coursework requirements, length of program, student/ practice teaching, induction, mentoring
<b>2-C:</b> Alternate Route Usage and Providers	The state should provide an alternate route that is free from limitations on its usage and allows a diversity of providers.	alternate routes; subject, grade or geographic restrictions; college or university providers; district-run programs; non-profit providers
<b>2-D:</b> Part-Time Teaching Licenses	The state should offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.	part-time license/certificate, adjunct license
<b>2-E:</b> Licensure Reciprocity	The state should help to make licenses fully portable among states, with appropriate safeguards.	license reciprocity, license portability, out-of-state teachers, testing requirements, online teachers
	AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teac	hers
<b>3-A:</b> State Data Systems	The state should have a data system that contributes some of the evidence needed to assess teacher effectiveness.	longitudinal data systems, definition of teacher of record, teacher production
<b>3-B:</b> Evaluation of Effectiveness	The state should require instructional effectiveness to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.	teacher evaluation, teacher effectiveness, student learning, classroom observations, surveys, rating categories
<b>3-C:</b> Frequency of Evaluations	The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.	teacher evaluation, evaluation frequency, classroom observations, feedback
3-D: Tenure	The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.	tenure, probationary period, continuing contracts, teacher effectiveness
<b>3-E:</b> Licensure Advancement	The state should base licensure advancement on evidence of teacher effectiveness.	probationary license, professional license, license renewal, evidence of teacher effectiveness, coursework requirements
<b>3-F:</b> Equitable Distribution	The state should publicly report districts' distribution of teacher talent among schools to identify inequities in schools serving disadvantaged children.	public reporting, aggregate school-level data, evaluation ratings, school report cards, teacher absenteeism rate, turnover rate

# Goals and Keywords

GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teacl	hers
4-A: Induction	The state should require effective induction for all new teachers, with special emphasis on teachers in high-need schools.	mentoring, induction, mentor selection, reduced teaching load, release time
<b>4-B:</b> Professional Development	The state should ensure that teachers receive feedback about their performance and should require professional development to be based on needs identified through teacher evaluations.	feedback from observations/evaluations, professional development linked to evaluations results, improvement plans
4-C: Pay Scales	The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.	teacher compensation, salary schedules, pay scales, steps and lanes, advanced degrees, years of experience, teacher performance
<b>4-D:</b> Compensation for Prior Work Experience	The state should encourage districts to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience.	teacher compensation, relevant work experience
<b>4-E:</b> Differential Pay	The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in shortage and high-need areas.	teacher compensation, differential pay, shortage subject areas, high-need schools
<b>4-F:</b> Performance Pay	The state should support performance pay, but in a manner that recognizes its appropriate uses and limitations.	teacher compensation, performance pay, teacher performance, student achievement
	AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teach	ners
<b>5-A:</b> Extended Emergency Licenses	The state should close loopholes that allow teachers who have not met licensure requirements to continue teaching.	emergency licenses, provisional certificates, loopholes, subject-matter tests
<b>5-B:</b> Dismissal for Poor Performance	The state should articulate that ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal and ensure that the process for terminating ineffective teachers is expedient and fair to all parties.	dismissal, ineffectiveness, poor performance, appeals, due process
<b>5-C:</b> Reductions in Force	The state should require that its school districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off when a reduction in force is necessary.	reduction in force, layoffs, teacher performance, seniority

# Teacher Policy Priorities for Alabama

AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
Require teacher preparation programs to screen candidates prior to admission by using a common test normed to the general college-bound population, and limit acceptance to those candidates demonstrating academic ability in the top 50th percentile.	Goal 1-/
Specifically require secondary social studies and science teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.	Goal 1-I Goal 1-C
Ensure that cooperating teachers for student teaching placements have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.	Goal 1-
AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool	
Increase admission requirements to alternate route programs, including a high bar for academic proficiency and passage of a subject-matter test.	Goal 2-A
Establish guidelines for alternate route programs that require preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. Ensure programs provide intensive induction support to alternate route teachers.	Goal 2-F
Broaden alternate route usage, and allow a diversity of providers for alternate route programs.	Goal 2-0
AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	
Require evidence of student learning to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.	Goal 3-E
Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.	Goal 3-D
Base licensure advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license and licensure renewal on evidence of effectiveness.	Goal 3-E
Publish aggregate school-level teacher evaluation ratings from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness.	Goal 3-F
AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	
Link professional development activities to findings in individual teacher evaluations, and place teachers with ineffective or needs improvement ratings on structured improvement plans.	Goal 4-E
Give districts control of teachers' pay structure and scales, but discourage districts from basing teacher pay scales primarily on advanced degrees and seniority.	Goal 4-0
Support differential pay initiatives for effective teachers in both shortage subject areas and high-need schools.	Goal 4-E
Support performance pay to recognize teachers for their effectiveness.	Goal 4-I
AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers	
Make ineffective classroom performance grounds for dismissal.	Goal 5-E
Use teacher effectiveness as a factor when determining which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force.	Goal 5-0



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NCTQ is available to work with individual states to improve teacher policies. For more information, please contact:

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