2013 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Tennessee





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.

FUNDERS

The primary funders for the 2013 Yearbook were:

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Gleason Family Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- The Walton Family Foundation

The National Council on Teacher Quality does not accept any direct funding from the federal government.

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Special thanks to Leigh Zimnisky, Brittany Atkinson and Justin Rakowski at CPS Gumpert for their design of the 2013 *Yearbook*. Thanks also to Colleen Hale and Jeff Hale at EFA Solutions for the original *Yearbook* design and ongoing technical support.



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.

Tennessee at a Glance



Overall 2013 Yearbook Grade

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: B-

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

Goal Breakdown	2013
★ Best Practice	2
Fully Meets	10
Nearly Meets	5
Partially Meets	7
Meets Only a Small Part	4
O Does Not Meet	3

	Progress on Goals Since 2011	
•	Progress has increased	4
(2)	No change in progress	27
•	Progress has decreased	0

¹ 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.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science Admission into Teacher Preparation **Elementary Teacher Preparation** Special Education Teacher Preparation Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction Assessing Professional Knowledge Teacher Preparation in Mathematics Student Teaching

Policy Strengths

Middle School Teacher Preparation

Secondary Teacher Preparation

- Elementary teacher candidates must pass a science of reading test to ensure knowledge of effective reading instruction, and teacher preparation programs are required to address this critical topic.
- All secondary teachers must pass a content test.
- All new teachers must pass a pedagogy test.

Policy Weaknesses

- Although teacher candidates are required to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs, the test is not normed to the general college-going population.
- Elementary teacher candidates are not required to pass a content test with individually scored subtests in each of the core content areas, including mathematics.

Requirements for teacher preparation ensure a highquality student teaching experience.

Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

Page 5

- The state is on the right track in addressing program accountability by connecting student achievement data to teacher preparation programs.
- Although middle school teachers may not teach on a K-8 generalist license, they are not required to pass a single-subject content test.
- Content testing is not required for elementary or secondary special education candidates.

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Alternate Route Eligibility

Alternate Route Preparation

Alternate Route Usage and Providers

Part-Time Teaching Licenses



Page 51

Licensure Reciprocity

Policy Strengths

There are no restrictions on alternate route usage or providers.

Policy Weaknesses

- Although they provide flexibility for nontraditional candidates, admission criteria for the alternate route to certification are not sufficiently selective.
- Alternate route programs do not provide efficient preparation that is geared toward the immediate needs of new teachers.
- The state offers a license with minimal requirements that would allow content experts to teach part time.
- Out-of-state teachers are not required to meet the state's testing requirements until renewal or advancement.

How is **Tennessee** Faring?

Page 73 **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers** State Data Systems Tenure **Evaluation of Effectiveness** Licensure Advancement Frequency of Evaluations **Equitable Distribution Policy Strengths** Tenure decisions are connected to evidence of teacher Objective evidence of student learning is the effectiveness. preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations. Licensure advancement and renewal are based on All teachers must be evaluated annually. teacher effectiveness. **Policy Weaknesses** Little school-level data are reported that can help Although the state has established a data system support the equitable distribution of teacher talent. with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness, it has not taken other meaningful steps to maximize the system's efficiency and potential. **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers** Page 103 Induction Compensation for Prior Work Experience Professional Development Differential Pay Pay Scales Performance Pay **Policy Strengths** Teachers can receive performance pay as well as All new teachers receive mentoring. additional compensation for working in high-need ■ Teachers receive feedback from their evaluations, and schools or shortage subject areas. professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations. **Policy Weaknesses** degrees; however, districts must differentiate Teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations are compensation based on a variety of factors. not placed on structured improvement plans. The state does not support additional compensation Teacher compensation is controlled by a state salary for relevant prior work experience. schedule based on years of experience and advanced Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers **Page 127 Extended Emergency Licenses** Reductions in Force Dismissal for Poor Performance **Policy Strengths** Ineffective classroom performance is grounds for Performance is the top criterion for districts to consider dismissal. when determining which teachers to lay off during reductions in force, and a last hired, first fired layoff **Policy Weaknesses** policy is prohibited.

Teachers can teach for up to two years before having to pass required subject-matter tests.

Figure A	Overall State Grade 2013	Overall State Grade 2011	Overall State Grade 2009
Florida	B+	В	С
Louisiana	В	C-	C-
Rhode Island	В	B-	D
TENNESSEE	В	B-	C-
Arkansas	B-	С	C-
Connecticut	B-	C-	D+
Georgia	B-	С	C-
Indiana	B-	C+	D
Massachusetts	B-	С	D+
Michigan	B-	C+	D-
New Jersey	B-	D+	D+
New York	B-	С	D+
Ohio	B-	C+	D+
Oklahoma	B-	B-	D+
Colorado	C+	С	D+
Delaware	C+	С	D
Illinois	C+	С	D+
Virginia	C+	D+	D+
Kentucky	С	D+	D+
Mississippi	С	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
		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



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:



Goal progress has increased since 2011



Goal progress has decreased since 2011



Goal progress has remained the same since 2011

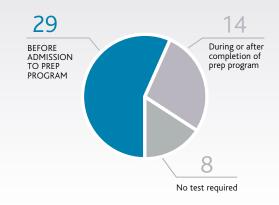
BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



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:

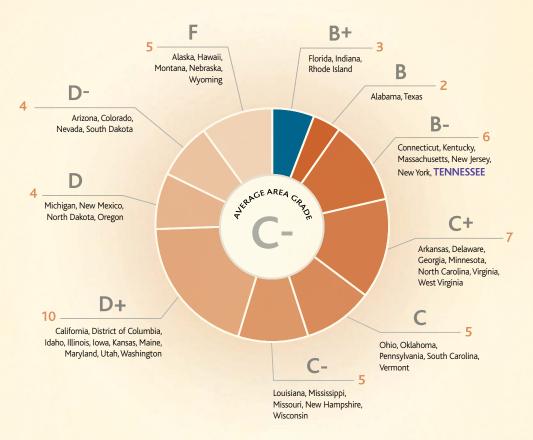


Area 1 Summary



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.)

- 1. 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



1-A Analysis: **Tennessee**







ANALYSIS

Tennessee requires that approved undergraduate teacher preparation programs only accept teacher candidates who have passed a basic skills test, the Praxis I. Although the state sets the minimum score for this test, it is normed just to the prospective teacher population.

Tennessee also allows candidates to qualify by means of equivalent scores on the SAT or ACT.

Supporting Research

Tennessee Licensure Standards and Induction Guidelines http://www.tennessee.gov/education/lic/doc/accttchlicstds.pdf Tennessee State Board of Education Rule 0520-2-4-.01 http://state.tn.us/sos/rules/0520/0520-02/0520-02-04.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

Tennessee 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.

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, Tennessee 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.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

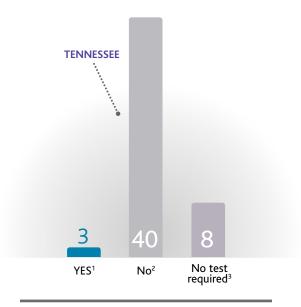
Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it will continue to require the Praxis I or qualifying scores on the ACT or SAT for admission to preparation programs. Praxis I will be regenerated this year to align with Common Core; however, it will remain normed to the prospective teacher population. Tennessee also indicated that as it explores a partnership with CAEP and new program approval standards, it will continue to look for ways to give programs incentive to select only applicants who show potential to be effective teachers.



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

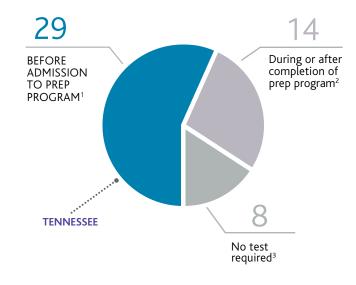
For admission to teacher preparation programs, Rhode Island and Delaware require a test of academic proficiency normed to the general collegebound population rather than a test that is normed just to prospective teachers. Delaware also requires teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or be in the top 50th 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?



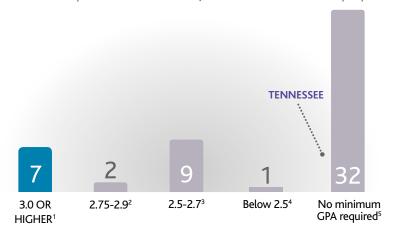
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- 2. Alaska, California, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Vermont
- 3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Wyoming

Figure 4 Do states measure the academic proficiency of teacher candidates? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California 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 Newada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin		Completion of prep program No test required
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^{1.} Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission with a 3.0 GPA.

Figure 5

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



- 1. Strong Practice: Delaware, Mississippi⁶, New Jersey⁶, Oklahoma⁷, Pennsylvania⁸, Rhode Island⁶, Utah
- 2. Kentucky, Texas
- 3. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut⁹, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wisconsin¹⁰
- 4. Louisiana
- 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



1-B Analysis: **Tennessee**







ANALYSIS

Tennessee 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. However, the state does not ensure that its early childhood teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with these standards.

Tennessee requires candidates to pass the Praxis II general elementary content test, which does not report teacher performance in each subject area, meaning that it is possible to pass the test and still fail some subject areas, especially given the state's low passing score for the test. Further, based on available information on the Praxis II, there is no reason to expect that the current version required by Tennessee would be well aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

Early childhood education (PK-3) candidates must also pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge test.

Elementary teacher candidates must also complete a major "consisting of courses offered primarily by faculty from arts and sciences disciplines." Examples include an interdisciplinary major that includes study in English, science and social studies, an interdisciplinary major in two disciplines from the arts and sciences and a major in a single discipline from the arts and sciences.

Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirement www.ets.org

Tennessee Licensure Standards and Induction Guidelines (pages 2-1 and 6-1)

RECOMMENDATION

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

Tennessee should require both a rigorous content test as a condition of certification and separate, meaningful passing scores for each area on the test. Use of a composite passing score offers no assurance of adequate knowledge in each subject area. A candidate may achieve a passing score and still be seriously deficient in a particular subject area.

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

Tennessee 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. Tennessee requires all candidates to complete a general education core curriculum, which must comprise approximately 50 percent of the 120 semester hours of coursework required for the baccalaureate degree. Coursework must include communication, humanities and the arts, social science and culture, and science and technology. These are good requirements, but they may be too broad to guarantee that the courses used to meet them will be relevant to the topics taught in the PK-6 classroom. Tennessee has also articulated elementary teaching standards that allude to important areas of academic knowledge. For example, the state's social studies standards make mention of civics, culture, geography, history and economics. However, Tennessee's standards lack specificity, leaving gaps in a number of important areas, such as American, world, British and children's literature; world history; and art history..

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

Tennessee's policy requiring elementary candidates to earn an academic major is undermined because it may be met with an interdisciplinary major. Unlike an academic major, an interdisciplinary major will not necessarily enhance teachers' content knowledge or ensure that prospective teachers have taken higher-level academic coursework. Further, it does not provide an option for teacher candidates unable to fulfill student teaching or other professional requirements to still earn a degree, as an academic major does.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it will continue to require the Praxis II general content test for elementary teachers, as well as the Teaching Reading and Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment tests. Assessments will be regenerated this year to better align with the Common Core State Standards, and passing scores will be set to ETS recommendations. Previously, cut-scores were set one standard deviation below.

Tennessee also noted that it intends to adopt incremental increases of its Praxis cut-scores so that the state is among the top one-third in the nation.

Supporting Research

http://www.tn.gov/education/lic/doc/SBE_presentation.pdf

LAST WORD

While NCTQ applauds Tennessee's intention to raise its cut scores on its elementary content tests, a significant problem will remain if the state continues to allow passage by means of a composite score. Higher cut scores lessen—but do not eliminate—the possibility of a candidate with considerable weakness in a subject area compensating with a stronger performance in other areas.

Figure 7	EEMENTARY CONTENT SCORE FOR E. SPARATENT	Sementary Content tees	Elementary content to	st with
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Vermont				
Virginia				
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West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
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TEXAMPLE 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

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

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

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Figure 10
What subjects does *Tennessee* expect elementary teachers to know?

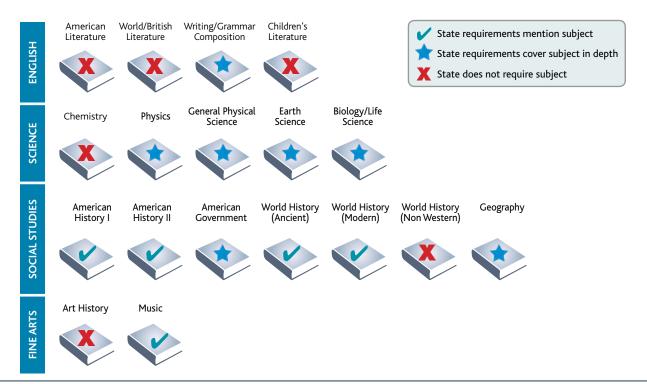
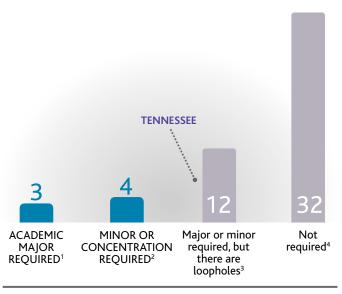


Figure 11

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



1-C Analysis: **Tennessee**







State Meets Goal 🥋 Bar Raised for this Goal 🤲 Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee now requires all early childhood, elementary, middle and special education teacher candidates to pass the Praxis Teaching Reading: Elementary Education test as a condition of initial licensure. This test addresses all five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

In its reading standards pertaining to what early childhood, elementary and middle school teachers must know, Tennessee also requires teacher preparation programs to address the science of reading.

Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirements www.ets.org Standards

http://www.tennessee.gov/education/lic/doc/accttchlicstds.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that the science of reading test is meaningful.

To ensure that its science of reading test is meaningful, Tennessee should set its passing score to reflect a high level of performance. The passing score for the Praxis Reading Across the Curriculum test—the state's previous reading assessment—was set just above the 7th percentile.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state added that the designated cut score for its new reading assessment is the score recommended by ETS.

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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

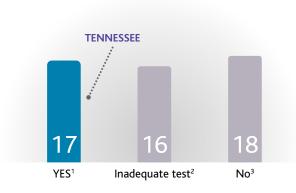
Fifteen states meet this goal by requiring that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Independent reviews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

^{1.} Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum.

^{2.} Teachers have until their second year to pass the reading test.

Figure 14

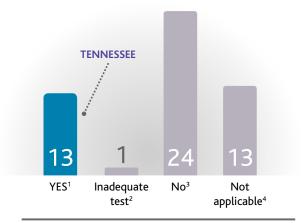
Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



- Strong Practice: Alabama⁴, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁵, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. 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.
- $5. \, \text{Teachers}$ 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: Alabama⁵, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- Idaho
- Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, lowa, 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).
- 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



1-D Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Meets a Small Part Goal Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2011





ANALYSIS

Tennessee requires that all new early childhood and elementary teacher candidates pass a general subject-matter test, the Praxis II. This commercial test lacks a specific mathematics subscore, so one can fail the mathematics portion and still pass the test. Further, while this test does cover important elementary school-level content, it barely evaluates candidates' knowledge beyond an elementary school level, does not challenge their understanding of underlying concepts and does not require candidates to apply knowledge in nonroutine, multistep procedures.

Tennessee has articulated teaching standards that its approved teacher preparation programs must use to frame instruction in elementary mathematics content. The state's standards address content in mathematics foundations, but although they mention areas such as algebra, geometry and statistics, the standards lack the specificity needed to ensure that teacher preparation programs deliver mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates.

Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirement www.ets.org

Tennessee Licensure Standards and Induction Guidelines http://www.tennessee.gov/education/lic/doc/accttchlicstds.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Require all teacher candidates who teach elementary grades to pass a rigorous mathematics assessment.

Tennessee should assess mathematics content with a rigorous assessment tool, such as the test required in Massachusetts that evaluates mathematics knowledge beyond an elementary school level and challenges candidates' understanding of underlying mathematics concepts. Such a test could also be used to allow candidates to test out of coursework requirements. Teacher candidates who lack minimum mathematics knowledge should not be eligible for licensure.

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

Tennessee must ensure that new teachers are prepared to teach the mathematics content required by the Common Core State Standards. Although Tennessee requires knowledge in some key areas of mathematics, the state should require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers. This includes specific coursework in foundations, algebra and geometry, with some statistics coursework.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

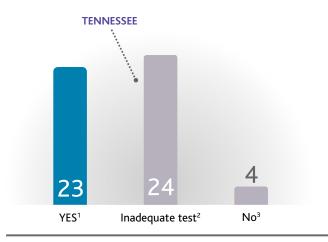


** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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.

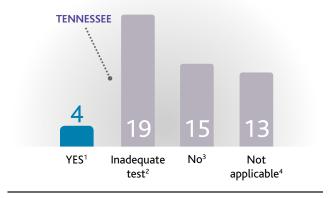
Figure 17

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, Texas⁴, 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. Alaska⁵, Hawaii, Montana, Ohio⁶
- 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
- 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.)

- 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



1-E Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

In Tennessee, candidates are required to earn middle-grades certification (grades 4-8), which includes one of the following: an interdisciplinary major that includes study in English, mathematics, science and social studies; an interdisciplinary major in two disciplines from the arts and sciences; or a major in a single discipline from the arts and sciences with an area of emphasis in at least one additional discipline outside the major.

All new middle school teachers in Tennessee are also required to pass a Praxis II subject-matter test to attain licensure. Regrettably, candidates are only required to pass the general middle school content test, in which subscores are not provided.

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

Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirement www.ets.org

Tennessee Licensure Standards and Induction Guidelines www.tn.gov/education/lic/doc/accttchlicstds.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Require content testing in all core areas.

Tennessee should require subject-matter testing for all middle school teacher candidates in every core academic area they intend to teach as a condition of initial licensure. To ensure meaningful middle school content tests, the state should set its passing scores to reflect high levels of performance.

■ Differentiate between single- and multiple-subject middle school teachers.

Tennessee may want to consider only requiring two minors for middle school teachers who intend to teach multiple subjects, rather than two majors, or a major and a minor.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it has recently approved a middle grades restructure that includes a middle grades 6-8 license with a specialty area focus in either math or science. These two endorsements will require content-specific Praxis II exams.

Supporting Research

http://www.tn.gov/education/lic/policy.shtml

LAST WORD

This is certainly a step in the right direction for Tennessee. The state is encouraged to expand its policy and require all middle school teachers to pass a content-specific licensure test.

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***** 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.

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



1-F Analysis: **Tennessee**



Best Practice State



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

Commendably, Tennessee does not offer certification in general social studies for secondary teachers. Teachers must be certified in a specific discipline within the subject area of social studies.

Further, to add an additional field to a secondary license, teachers must also pass a Praxis II content test.

Supporting Research

Praxis Testing Requirements www.ets.org Rules of the Tennessee Department of Education, 0520-02-04-.02, -.09 Tennessee Licensure Standards and Induction Guidelines

http://www.tennessee.gov/education/lic/doc/accttchlicstds.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure meaningful content tests.

To ensure that its secondary content tests are meaningful, Tennessee should reevaluate its passing scores so that all tests reflect high levels of performance. For example, the passing score for the Praxis II World and U.S. History: Content Knowledge test is set just above the 9th percentile.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

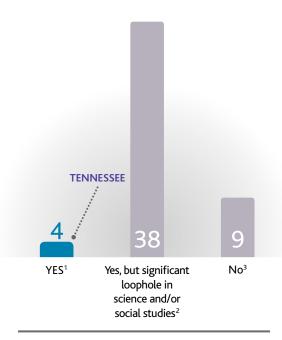
Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it intends to adopt incremental increases to its Praxis cut scores over the next 10 years so that they will be among the top one-third in the nation.



** 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.

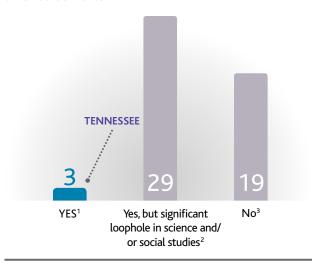
Figure 23 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



- 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 Carolina⁴, 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, Arizona⁵, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire⁵, Washington, Wyoming⁶
- 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
- 2. 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.)
- 3. 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? **TENNESSEE** YES, OFFERS ONLY YES, OFFERS GENERAL No, offers general SINGLE SUBJECT **SOCIAL STUDIES**

- SOCIAL STUDIES LICENSES¹
- LICENSE WITH ADEQUATE TESTING²
- social studies license without adequate testing3
- 1. Strong Practice: Georgia, Indiana, South Dakota, Tennessee
- 2. Strong Practice: Minnesota⁴, 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, Oklahoma⁵, 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.)

- The state should require secondary science teachers to pass a subject-matter test in each science discipline they are licensed to teach.
- 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



1-G Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Commendably, Tennessee does not offer certification in general science for secondary teachers. Teachers must be certified in a specific discipline within the subject area of science.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it continues to issue science discipline-specific licenses.

Figure 27	<i>[</i>]		f /	
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eachers have adequate	JA STER			
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Washington				
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Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
	10	5	1	35



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 science that 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.)

- 1. 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



1-H Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Meets a Small Part Goal



ANALYSIS

Commendably, as of August 31, 2017, Tennessee will no longer offer its special education K-12 modified program endorsement. Beginning September 1, 2015, the state will offer special education interventionist endorsements for either the K-5 or 6-12 grade levels.

All special education teachers must earn a passing score on the Praxis Teaching Reading: Elementary Education assessment. It is not clear at this time whether additional content tests will be required for the newly adopted endorsements.

Supporting Research

New Endorsements, Appendix A, page 18 http://www.tn.gov/education/lic/doc/SBE_5-502.pdf Praxis Test Requirements www.ets.org

RECOMMENDATION

Require that elementary special education candidates pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.

To ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess sufficient knowledge of the subject matter at hand, Tennessee should require a rigorous content test that reports separate passing scores for each content area. Tennessee should also set these passing scores to reflect high levels of performance. Failure to ensure that teachers possess requisite content knowledge deprives special education students of the opportunity to reach their academic potential.

Ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.

Secondary special education teachers are frequently generalists who teach many core subject areas. While it may be unreasonable to expect secondary special education teachers to meet the same requirements for each subject they teach as other teachers who teach only one subject, Tennessee'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, Tennessee 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.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

Figure 29		Offers K-12 and	ion(s)
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and secondary special	FR TIF	SK-7	Sonly
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TENNESSEE			
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Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
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	10	1	20



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?

for special education tea	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 ¹ , Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia ² , 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 ³				
Test in at least one subject required for secondary special education license	Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania ¹ , Rhode Island, West Virginia ²				
Required for a K-12 special education license	None				
1. In Pennsylvania, a candidate who opts for dual certification in elementary or secondary					

- 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:

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.)

 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



1-I Analysis: **Tennessee**





State Meets Goal (Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee requires all new teachers to pass a popular pedagogy test from the Praxis series or the edTPA in order to attain licensure.

Supporting Research

http://www.ets.org/praxis/tn

RECOMMENDATION

- Verify that commercially available tests of pedagogy actually align with state standards. Tennessee should ensure that its selected test of professional knowledge measures the knowledge and skills the state expects new teachers to have.
- Ensure that performance assessments provide a meaningful measure of new teachers' knowledge and skills.

While Tennessee is commended for allowing the use of a performance-based assessment, the state should proceed with caution until additional data are available on the Teacher Performance Assessment. Additional research is needed to determine how the edTPA compares to other teacher tests as well as whether the test's scores are predictive of student achievement. The track record on similar assessments is mixed at best. The two states that currently require the Praxis III performancebased assessment report pass rates of about 99 percent. Given that it takes significant resources to administer a performance-based assessment, a test that nearly every teacher passes is of questionable value.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

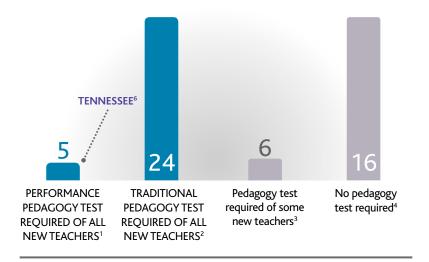
Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it intends to adopt incremental increases to its Praxis cut scores over the next 10 years so that it will be among the top one-third in the nation.



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, Illinois⁵, New York, Tennessee⁶, Washington
- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina⁷, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia
- 3. Connecticut, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Utah⁸, 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



1-J Analysis: **Tennessee**



Best Practice State



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Commendably, Tennessee requires candidates to complete at least 15 weeks in full-day student teaching experiences. The state also articulates that cooperating teachers—in addition to having at least four years' experience, appropriate certification, the willingness to assume the roles expected of a mentor, and the ability to work as a team member and facilitate learning experiences, including pedagogical instruction—must be evaluated as highly competent through either local assessment and/or state evaluation procedures.

Supporting Research

Tennessee Licensure Standards and Induction Guidelines, page 48-1 www.tennessee.gov/education/lic/doc/accttchlicstds.pdf

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it continues to adhere to the clinical practices of either a one-semester (minimum 15 weeks) full-time student teaching experience or a year-long internship. The six public educator preparation campuses of the state's Board of Regents system are in the process of implementing a two-semester residency (senior year) component of undergraduate preparation.

Do states ensure a high-quality student teaching experience? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California 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 Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Carolina South Carolina South Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Caro	STS AT LEAST TO WEEK.
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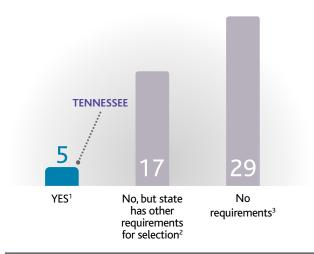
EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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.

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

Figure 35

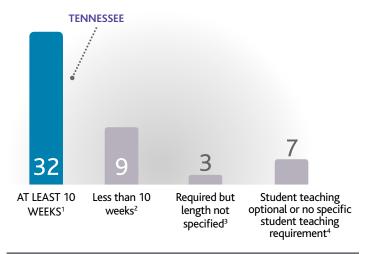
Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



- 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 Virginia⁵, 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.
- 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, Rhode Island , TENNESSEE, Texas 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 1, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas 1, Maine 1, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire 1, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon 1, 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: ← : 38 **1**:13

1-K Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee's approval process for its traditional and alternate route teacher preparation programs is on the right track but could do more to hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

Most importantly, Tennessee requires an assessment on the effectiveness of teacher training programs, with a focus on the institutions' graduates and teacher effect data.

In addition, the state also requires programs to gather other objective, meaningful data, including:

- Recruitment, graduation and placement rates in teacher education, including minority teacher candidates:
- Academic measures of teacher education graduates, including GPA and test scores;
- School system feedback on the performance of graduates during apprentice years using results from local evaluations;
- Feedback from graduates using a common instrument; and
- Faculty involvement in schools.

However, it does not appear that Tennessee applies any transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval, and there is no evidence that the state's standards for program approval are resulting in greater accountability. In the past three years, no programs in the state have been identified in required federal reporting as low performing.

Commendably, Tennessee's website does include a report card that allows the public to review and compare traditional teacher preparation program performance. The report card includes placement and retention rates, performance on licensing exams and teacher effect data.

In Tennessee, 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. Tennessee conducts its own program reviews.

Supporting Research

Tennessee Licensure Standards and Induction Guidelines, page 54-1

Tennessee Code 49-5-108(f)

Title II State Reports

https://title2.ed.gov

http://www.state.tn.us/thec/Divisions/fttt/12report_card/PDF%202012%20Reports/2012%20Report%20Card%20 on%20the%20Effectiveness%20of%20Teacher%20Training%20Programs.pdf

www.ncate.org

RECOMMENDATION

Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.

Tennessee should establish precise minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category of data. Programs should then be held accountable for meeting these standards, and there should be consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.

Maintain	full au	thority o	over te	acher n	reparatio	n progra	m approval.
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Tennessee 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.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that as it considers linkages among program approval, candidate assessment and program completer performance, as well as a partnership with CAEP, performance metrics and outcomes will serve as focal points.

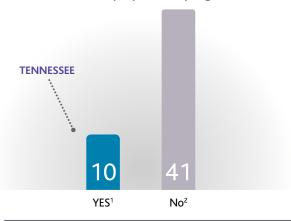
Figure 38 Do states hold teacher preparation programs accountable? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada' New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio¹ Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina¹ South Dakota TENNESSEE Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Wissonsin Wyoming Wissonsin Wyoming	Figure 38	₹.8		
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****** 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^a, Hawaii^a, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland^a, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York³, 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.

Figure 40

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, Maryland¹, 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

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

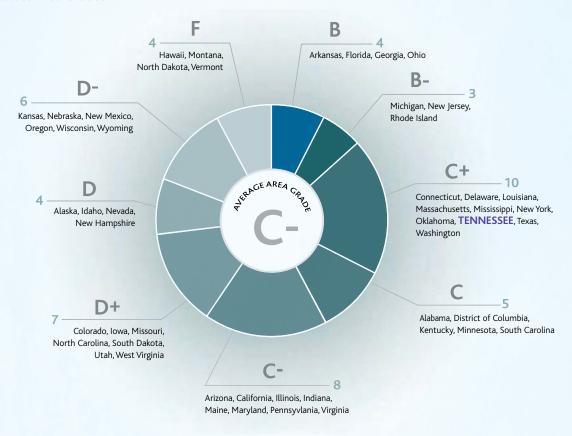
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Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
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	7	31	13	
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Area 2 Summary



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.
- 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



2-A Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Partly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee classifies the Transitional License as its alternate route to certification.

Candidates are required to demonstrate prior academic performance with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 overall or 3.0 in the last 60 hours. Tennessee further requires that candidates have a major in the subject they plan to teach, 24 semester hours in the content area they wish to teach or pass the Praxis Il subject-matter test.

A subject-matter test is not an admission requirement for all candidates.

Supporting Research

Tennessee State Board of Education Rule 050-2-4-.03

Teach Tennessee

http://www.state.tn.us/education/teachtn/index.shtml#gov

Tennessee Licensure Guidelines

http://www.tn.gov/education/lic/doc/accttchlicstds.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Increase academic requirements for admission.

While a minimum GPA requirement is a first step toward ensuring that candidates are of good academic standing, the current standard of 2.75 does not serve as a sufficient indicator of past academic performance. Accommodating candidates who may not meet that standard in their overall GPA but who can meet a 3.0 GPA in their last 60 credit hours may be a reasonable policy, but an either/or policy means that candidates need only meet the lower standard. 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.

While Tennessee is commended for allowing nontraditional candidates flexibility in demonstrating subject-matter knowledge, the state should consider requiring all candidates, including those with a major in the subject, to pass a content-knowledge test. 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.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Tennessee added that although not an explicit state requirement, in practice, admission criteria to most IHE-based transitional licensure programs are equivalent to those of graduate programs, including test requirements. If a transitionally licensed teacher has not passed the Praxis II after two years of teaching, the Transitional License is not eligible for renewal. Policy changes, recently approved by the State Board of Education, streamline initial teacher licensing (practitioner license for traditional and alternative route candidates), while maintaining a high bar for candidates from all pathways.

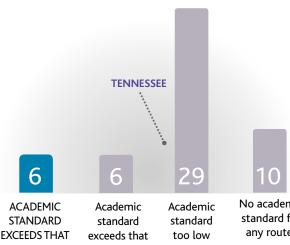
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** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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?



EXCEEDS THAT OF TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS FOR ALL ROUTES/ MAIN ROUTE1

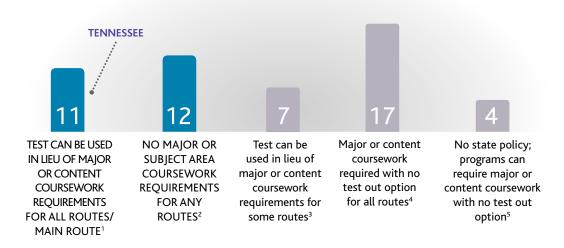
of traditional programs for some routes²

for all routes3 No academic standard for any route4

- 1. Strong Practice: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island
- 2. Alabama, Illinois⁵, Indiana, Kentucky⁶, New York, Pennsylvania
- 3. 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.

Figure 45

Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



- 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.



Background

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

2-B Analysis: Tennessee



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Transitional licensure programs must provide new teachers preparation in two phases: an orientation component and a professional development component.

Tennessee provides no specific guidelines for the nature or quantity of coursework for its alternate route during the professional development phase. 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.

During the induction and mentoring phase, new teachers are assigned one or more mentors. The mentor is required to provide field-based professional development of at least 100 hours in the first year and at least 50 hours during each subsequent year.

Candidates are eligible for standard licensure at one year on a transitional license. The license may be renewed up to three years.

Supporting Research

Licensure Standards and Induction Guidelines http://www.tn.gov/education/lic/doc/accttchlicstds.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Establish coursework guidelines for all alternate route preparation programs.

The state should articulate guidelines regarding the nature and amount of coursework required of candidates. Requirements should be manageable and contribute to the immediate needs of new teachers. Appropriate coursework should include grade-level or subject-level seminars, methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction.

Strengthen the induction experience for new teachers.

While Tennessee is commended for requiring all new teachers to work with a mentor, there are insufficient guidelines indicating that the induction 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.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee noted that this is a nuanced, contextual matter. Under existing state policy, programs offered by state institutions of higher education in partnership with local education agencies as approved through previously adopted State Board of Education policy may continue implementation as previously approved.

The previous policy under the IHE-based programs were approved and included the following course hour limits:

Alternative licensure programs that are offered for credit will consist of no more than 18 credit hours to meet the professional education core competencies and six additional credits which may be used as needed for mentoring and additional support. Candidates who are uprising licensure in early child-hood education (pre-K-K, pre-K-3, pre-K-4), elementary education (K-6, K-8), middle grades education (4-8, 5-8), special education (K-12, pre-K-12), and other K-12 and pre-K-12 licensure programs may be required to complete an additional six credit hours that address the knowledge and skills specified for the endorsement sought.

Tennessee asserted that with the exception of those programs that have included an option for candidates to earn a master's degree as part of program competition, virtually all approved IHE-based Transitional Licensure programs do not exceed the hours stated above.

Supporting Research

Alternative Preparation for Licensure Policy http://www.tn.gov/education/lic/doc/altpolicy.pdf

Figure 47		/) JR.K	/	/
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Arkansas	*	<u></u>	*		*
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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.

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.)

- 1. 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



2-C Analysis: **Tennessee**





State Meets Goal (Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee does not limit the usage or providers of its alternate route.

Tennessee is commended for having no restrictions on the usage of its alternate route with regard to subject, grade or geographic areas.

The state permits institutions of higher education, local school districts, or organizations in partnership with school districts, to provide alternate route programs. The state is commended for structuring its programs to allow a diversity of providers. A good diversity of providers helps all programs, both university- and nonuniversity-based, to improve.

Supporting Research

Tennessee State Board of Education Rule 0520-2-4-.01 Tennessee Transitional Licensure Program Providers http://www.tn.gov/education/lic/trans_prog_prov.shtml

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it intends to maintain multiple pathways and a variety of program providers.

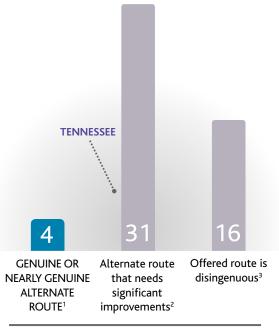
Figure 49	CROSS	15 / OFBS
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** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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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.
- 3. 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



2-D Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee offers the Adjunct License for part-time teaching.

The Adjunct License is a one-year license issued to candidates who hold at least a bachelor's degree and "have verified knowledge of the teaching content area." Candidates are also required to complete a preservice preparation program approved by the state.

Applicants working under the Adjunct License may not teach more than three classes. The Adjunct License can only be used in a critical shortage subject area. The license can be renewed up to nine times.

Supporting Research

Tennessee Administrative Rule 0520-02-04-.02 (p) http://tennessee.gov/sos/rules_all/2010/0520-02-04.20100729.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Require applicants to pass a subject-matter test.

Tennessee is commended for offering a license that increases 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. Although this license is designed to enable individuals who have significant content knowledge to teach, Tennessee should still require a subject-matter test. While the state does require "verification," only a subject-matter test ensures that teachers on the Adjunct License know the specific content they will need to teach.

■ Ensure that preservice training addresses the immediate needs of an adjunct teacher.

While Tennessee is commended for providing teachers on this license with training before they enter the classroom, the state should ensure that this training is streamlined and geared toward immediate needs, such as classroom management. Excessive preservice requirements may be a disincentive for individuals to pursue this license.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state noted that the role of the Tennessee Department of Education is to support its schools in ways that enable them to place effective teachers in every classroom and increase student achievement. The state does not prescribe training standards related to adjunct teaching, as the emergency needs of districts vary widely across Tennessee.

Figure 53		,	,
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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.)

- 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.
- 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



2-E Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Teachers with valid out-of-state certificates comparable to Tennessee's professional license are eligible for the state's practitioner license. Although these candidates are eventually required to submit qualifying scores on required content assessments the state regrettably allows a waiver by granting the practitioner license and allowing the submission of these scores prior to renewing or advancing this initial license.

Transcripts are also required for all out-of-state teachers; however, it is not clear whether the state analyzes transcripts to determine whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route or whether additional coursework will be required.

Tennessee 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.

Tennessee requires that all teachers employed at its virtual school be "qualified to teach in this state under existing law."

Supporting Research

State Board Policy 5.502 http://www.tn.gov/education/lic/policy.shtml Rules of the State Board of Education 0520-02-03-.06 HB 1030 (2011)

RECOMMENDATION

To uphold standards, require that teachers coming from other states meet testing requirements.

Tennessee takes considerable risk by granting a waiver for its licensing tests until the out-of-state teacher applies to renew or advance the initial license. The state should not waive any of its teacher tests unless an applicant can provide evidence of a passing score under its own standards prior to entering the classroom. The negative impact on student learning stemming from a teacher's inadequate subject-matter knowledge is not mitigated by the teacher's having experience or an out-of-state license.

Accord the same license to out-of-state alternate route teachers as would be accorded to traditionally prepared teachers.

Regardless of whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route, all certified out-of-state teachers should receive equal treatment. Tennessee should consider discontinuing its requirement for the submission of transcripts. Transcript analysis is likely to result in additional coursework requirements, even for traditionally prepared teachers; alternate route teachers, on the other hand, may have to virtually begin anew, repeating some, most or all of a teacher preparation program in Tennessee.

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

Rather than rely on transcripts to assess credentials, Tennessee should instead 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 that requirements for out-of-state online teachers are not burdensome.

Tennessee 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.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state added that its licensure restructuring policy assigns the same credential to out-of-state teachers as it does to teachers who were prepared in-state, and it ties professional advancement of all teachers to level of effectiveness as determined by the statewide evaluation system. In addition, out-of-state applicants for licensure in Tennessee must submit qualifying scores on required content assessments.

Tennessee also noted that it is reluctant to accept effectiveness data when considering out-of-state applicants due to the absence of instruments and methodologies to uniformly assess the quality of effectiveness data from one state relative to another. As the state moves toward tying licensure advancement and renewal to effectiveness, based on its statewide evaluation system, there will be multiple "checkpoints" where an educator's performance will be considered for licensure advancement and renewal purposes.

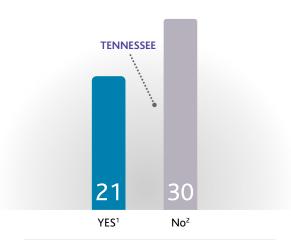
LAST WORD

Although Tennessee requires the submission of passing scores on content tests, the state allows out-of-state teachers to hold off meeting the state's testing standard until he or she renews or advances the practitioner license. The state should strengthen its policy by requiring passing scores prior to entering the classroom.

The state's point that it is reluctant to use effectiveness data as the basis for license reciprocity given the inconsistent requirements across states is quite valid. Tennessee could do what Delaware has done and limit the evidence of effectiveness it will accept as the basis for license reciprocity to evaluation results from states with rigorous requirements similar to its own.

Figure 55

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



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska³, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine⁴, Massachusetts³, Minnesota, New York⁵, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas³, Utah, Washington⁶, Wisconsin
- Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana', 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.

What do states require of teachers transferring from other states? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia П Florida Georgia П П Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Г Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota П Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island П South Carolina South Dakota **TENNESSEE** Texas П П Utah П Vermont П Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 6 44 11

Figure 56

^{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 57	ź	State specifies differ	ate /
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

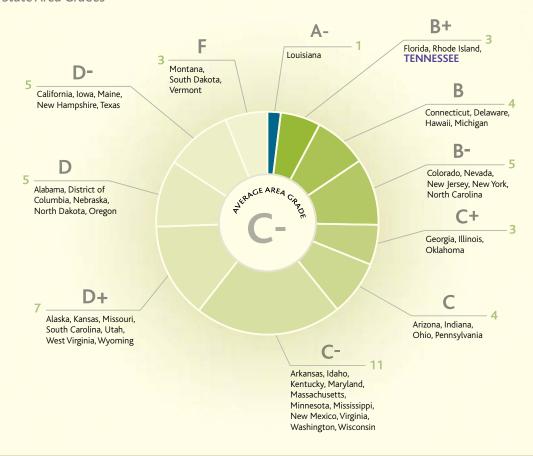
Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet Alabama's and Texas's own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate 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-D: Tenure
- 3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness 3-E: Licensure Advancement
- 3-C: Frequency of Evaluations 3-F: Equitable Distribution

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.
- 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.
- 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



3-A Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Partly Meets Goal Raised for this Goal





Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

Tennessee 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. The state also has the capacity to match student test records from year to year in order to measure student academic growth.

Tennessee requires that a student must be present for 150 days of classroom instruction per year, or 75 days per semester, before the student's record is attributable to a specific teacher. The state's teacher-student data link can connect more than one educator to a particular student in a given course, and it does have in place a process for teacher roster verification.

Tennessee publishes an annual report entitled "Report Card on the Effectiveness of Teacher Training Programs," which includes the number of program completers per teaching training program as well as their licensure status. The state also provides the number of program completers for its top endorsement areas and endorsements in STEM fields. However, no connection is made between these data and district-level hiring statistics.

Supporting Research

Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org

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, Tennessee should articulate a definition of teacher of record and require its consistent use throughout the state. The state's definition should reflect instruction rather than grading.

■ Connect supply data to district hiring statistics.

Tennessee is on the right track in reporting teacher production data. However, it should strengthen its data collection practices by using the data to inform policy decisions and connect program completion and licensure rates to district hiring statistics.

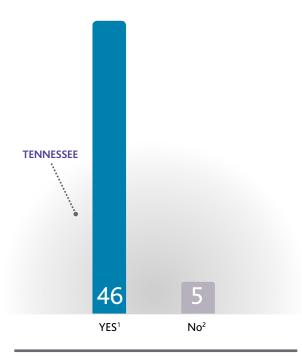
TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 59

Do states' data systems have the basic elements needed to assess teacher effectiveness: unique

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

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TEXAMPLES 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.

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.
- 3. 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



3-B Analysis: **Tennessee**





State Meets Goal (🖨) Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Commendably, Tennessee requires that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations. The state provides a model, the Tennessee Educator Acceleration Model (TEAM), but districts may develop their own systems consistent with the state framework. Approval is required.

The state requires that 50 percent of evaluations must be based on student achievement data. Thirty-five percent of a teacher's yearly evaluation must rely on student growth data from the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) or another comparable growth measure. The remaining 15 percent must be based on other measures of student achievement.

Teachers with TVAAS who teach grades 4-8 may choose among the following achievement measures: state assessments, schoolwide TVAAS, ACT/SAT suite of assessments, "off the shelf" assessments, AP/IB/ NIC suites of assessments and graduation rates.

Those teaching nontested grades and subjects are evaluated using the following weighting system: 25 percent growth, 15 percent achievement and 60 percent observation.

For each evaluation, the person being evaluated must mutually agree with the person conducting the evaluation on which measures are employed. If the teacher or principal being evaluated does not agree with the measures used, then the person responsible for conducting the evaluation will choose the evaluation measures.

Teachers must be rated using the following multiple rating categories: significantly below expectations, below expectations, at expectations, above expectations and significantly above expectations.

Classroom observations are required.

Supporting Research

Tennessee First to the Top Act of 2010 SB 7005, Chapter 2 of the Public Acts of 2010

Framework for Evaluation and Professional Growth

http://tn.gov/firsttothetop/docs/IV_C_Teacher_and_Principal_Evaluation_Policy.pdf

15% Approved Achievement Measures: 2012-2013

http://team-tn.org/assets/misc/15%25%20Achievement%20Measure%20Options_12_13(5).pdf

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state added that approximately 50 percent of teachers received individual growth scores during the 2012-2013 school year.

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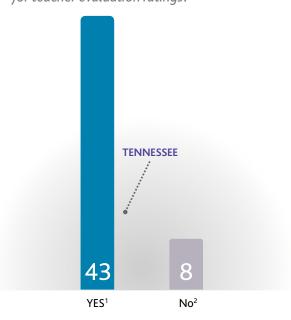
^{2.} Explicitly defined for the 2013-2014 school year.

 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.

Figure 64 Type of suriey not specified Is survey data used as part of teacher evaluations? Alabama Alaska¹ Arizona П П П Arkansas California Colorado 2 Connecticut³ П П Delaware П П District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois \Box П П Indiana Iowa1 Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana П Maine 2 Maryland П П П П Massachusetts Michigan П Minnesota Mississippi П П П Missouri 2 Montana П Nebraska Nevada П П New Hampshire П П П New Jersey П New Mexico П П П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П П П П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina П П South Dakota **TENNESSEE** Texas Utah Vermont Virginia П Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming П 2 14 11 6 33

Figure 65

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



- 1. 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, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- Alabama, California, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont

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.



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 Do states direct how teachers should be evaluated? Alabama Alaska Arizona П Arkansas California П П Colorado Connecticut П Delaware П District of Columbia П П Florida Georgia П Hawaii П П Idaho П П Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland П П Massachusetts Michigan П П Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana П Nebraska Nevada П П New Hampshire П New Jersey П New Mexico П П **New York** North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota **TENNESSEE** Texas Utah П П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming П П 9 12 30

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

Figure 67	MUTPILE EVALUATOR	. /	EVALUATORS MUSTRE.	EVALUATOR CRITICATON
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New Hampshire				
New Jersey				
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New York				
North Carolina				
North Dakota				
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South Dakota				
TENNESSEE				
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
	4	34	3	13

^{1.} Maryland requires multiple observers for ineffective teachers.

 $^{2. \ \ \}text{Multiple evaluators are explicitly allowed but not required}.$

➤ 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



3-C Analysis: **Tennessee**





State Meets Goal (Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

The number of required observations is differentiated based on the prior year's performance as well as license type. All teachers scoring 1 on overall evaluation or individual growth scores, and apprentice teachers scoring 2-4 on their overall evaluation score and neither a 1 nor 5 on their individual growth score, must be observed four times: two observations during the first half of the year and two during the latter half of the year. Professional teachers scoring 2-4 on their overall evaluation score and neither a 1 nor 5 on their individual growth score must be observed twice, equally distributed across the two semesters. All teachers scoring 5 on the overall evaluation or individual growth scores must be observed once during the first semester, with two walkthroughs during the second semester.

Following each observation, a postobservation conference is scheduled to discuss performance.

Supporting Research

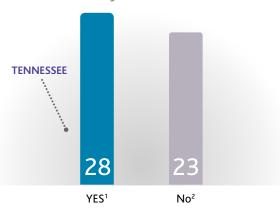
Observation Schedule

http://team-tn.org/assets/educator-resources/Suggested_Pacing_7_15_13.pdf

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

Figure 69
Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?

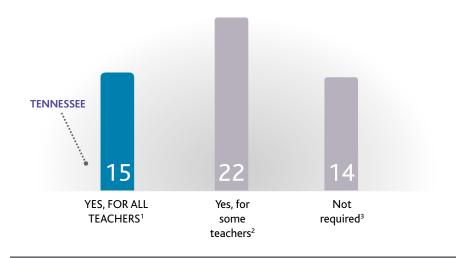


- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland³, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 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
- ${\it 3. Regulations sunset on September 30, 2014.}$

Figure 70		/ ,
rigule 70	AWWUALEBALUATON	ANNUAL EVALUATION OF ALL PROBATIONARY TEACHERS
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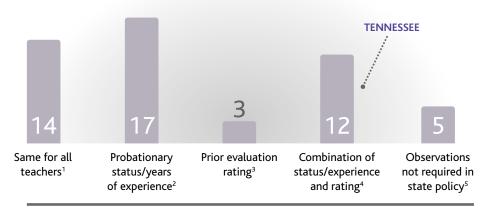
Figure 71

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
- 2. 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?



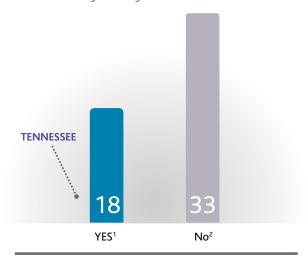
- Alabama, District of Columbia⁶, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas⁷, California⁷, Colorado, Florida, Kansas⁷, Minnesota⁷, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma⁷, Oregon, Pennsylvania⁷, South Carolina, South Dakota⁷, Utah⁷, Washington, West Virginia⁸
- 3. Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio
- 4. Arizona⁹, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts⁷, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas⁷, Virginia⁷, Wisconsin⁷
- 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.



** 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 Dakota³, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia
- 2. 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, Virginia⁴, Wisconsin,
- 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.

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



3-D Analysis: Tennessee



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee's probationary period for new teachers is five years. To earn tenure, probationary teachers must receive an overall performance effectiveness rating of above expectations or significantly above expectations during the last two years of the probationary period.

A tenured teacher who receives two consecutive overall ratings of below expectations or significantly below expectations may be reverted to probationary status until they receive two consecutive ratings of above expectations or significantly above expectations.

Because Tennessee's teacher evaluation ratings are centered primarily on evidence of student learning (see Goal 3-B), basing tenure decisions on these evaluation ratings ensures that classroom effectiveness is appropriately considered.

Supporting Research SB 1528 (2012)

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that sufficient evidence is considered in tenure decisions.

To ensure that tenure decisions are based on sufficient evidence of teacher effectiveness in the classroom, Tennessee should consider basing decisions on cumulative evidence of performance, rather than just two years' ratings.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that individual teacher effect scores are based on three years of data when available, so there is more than two years' worth of cumulative data for tested teachers.

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West Virginia							
Wisconsin							
Wyoming							

- 1. Idaho limits teacher contract terms to one year.
- A teacher can receive up to a 4-year contract if deemed proficient on evaluation.
- 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.



TEXAMPLES 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.

- 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.

Figure 76	EVDENCE OF STUDENT	> /	/
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	11	9	31

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: **Tennessee**



State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

New regulations in Tennessee tie licensure advancement and renewal to evidence of effectiveness. In Tennessee, teachers advance from a Practitioner Teacher license to a Professional license. The Professional license is a six-year renewable teacher license issued to the holder of a Practitioner Teacher license, who, in two of the last three years, achieves a rating of two or better on his or her overall level of effectiveness on a state-approved educator evaluation instrument and, when applicable, the state-approved individual growth score.

Tennessee now includes evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. As with license advancement, all educators holding a Professional license based on a bachelor's degree must achieve a rating of two or better on their overall level of effectiveness on a state-approved educator evaluation instrument and, when applicable, the state-approved individual growth score. These ratings must be achieved in two of the previous three years leading up to their renewal date.

Supporting Research

Educator Licensure Policy 5.502 http://www.tn.gov/education/lic/doc/SBE_5-502.pdf http://www.tn.gov/education/lic/policy.shtml

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

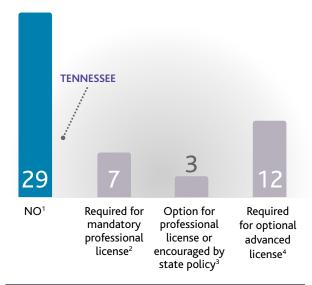
Tennessee was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis.

Figure 78 Do states require teachers	OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE OF	Colling	Consideration given to performance	Performance not considered	
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icensure?	OBJE EFFEC	Some objective evidence	tea Perfo	Perform	
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District of Columbia					
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Georgia	1				
Hawaii Idaho					
Illinois		2			
Indiana					
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West Virginia					1. Evidence of effectiven not for conferring of p
Wisconsin					2. Illinois allows revocati
Wyoming					3. Maryland uses some ob
					systems for renewal, bu

- Evidence of effectiveness is required for license renewal but not for conferring of professional license.
- 2. Illinois allows revocation of licenses based on ineffectiveness.
- Maryland uses some objective evidence through their evaluation systems for renewal, but advancement to professional license is still based on earning an advanced degree.

Figure 79

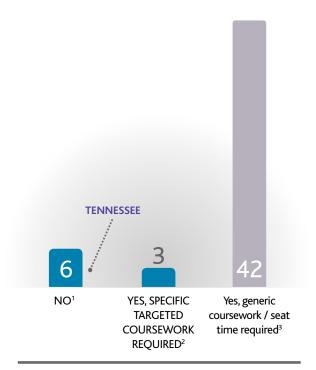
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?



- 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
- 2. 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

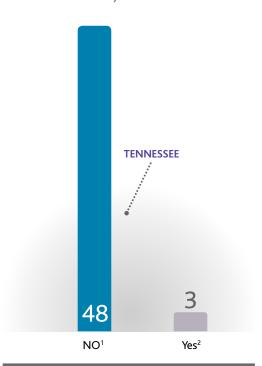
Figure 80

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



- 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 Carolina⁴, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Some required coursework is targeted.

Figure 81 Do states award lifetime licenses?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut³, 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,
- 2. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia
- 3. Although teachers in Connecticut must renew their licenses every five years, there are no requirements for renewal.



TEXAMPLE 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.

→ 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.)

- 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



3-F Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Meets a Small Part of 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. Tennessee reports little school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

Tennessee 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. Tennessee 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.

Tennessee does report on the percentage of highly qualified teachers. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. Tennessee's Equity Plan, updated in December 2009, reports the disparities between novice and experienced teachers by poverty levels and minority populations, using data from the 2008-2009 school year. However, these data have not been updated since that time.

Supporting Research

Tennessee 2012 School Report Card http://edu.reportcard.state.tn.us/pls/apex/f?p=200:70:4272657146816378::NO

RECOMMENDATION

Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

Tennessee should make aggregate school-level data about teacher performance—from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness—publicly available. Given that Tennessee requires teacher evaluations to be based to a significant extent on evidence of student learning (see Goal 3-B), data about the effectiveness of a school's teachers would shine a light on how equitably teachers are distributed across and within school districts.

Publish other data that facilitate comparisons across schools.

Tennessee 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.

Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

The state should provide comparative data for schools with similar poverty and minority populations. This would yield a more comprehensive picture of gaps in the equitable distribution of teachers.

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. Tennessee should update the data it reports on the disparities between novice and experienced teachers by poverty levels and minority populations at the school level, as the state has not done so since 2010.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that while is accurate that districts are not required to publish school-level evaluation data, there is nothing preventing districts (or the state) from publishing these data if they choose to do so.

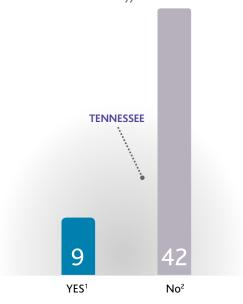
Figure 83 Do states publicly report	É	ONS ON SCH SCH	00.500	EACHERS ON VITALS	SW TEACHER.	1	RRATE
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** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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?

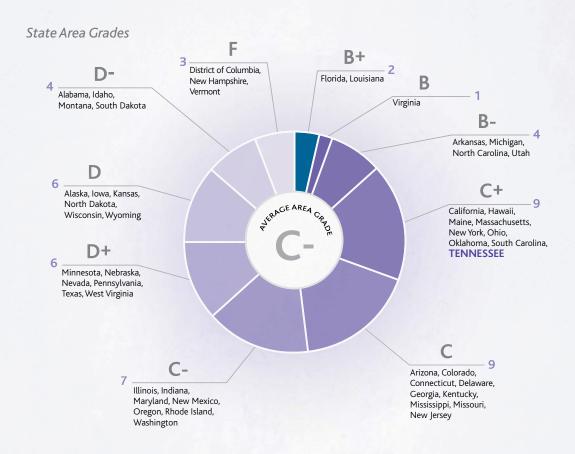


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas³, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts⁴, Missouri, New York, North Carolina,
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida⁵, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah⁵, 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-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience 4-B: Professional Development 4-E: Differential Pay 4-C: Pay Scales 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.)

- The state should ensure that new teachers receive mentoring of sufficient frequency and duration, especially in the first critical weeks of school.
- 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.
- 3. 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



4-A Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee requires that all new teachers receive mentoring. New teachers must participate in a mentoring program throughout their first year of employment. Programs include experiences in school settings such as classroom observations and in-service seminars, as well as "regular and frequent contact with teacher mentors throughout the school year."

Supporting Research

Tennessee Rules 0520-02-03-.11

RECOMMENDATION

■ Ensure that mentoring is of sufficient duration and frequency.

Tennessee statute requires "regular and frequent contact" between new teachers and their mentors throughout the year. The state could strengthen its mentoring program by specify the amount and frequency of contacts between mentors and teachers.

Require induction strategies that can be successfully implemented, even in poorly managed schools.

To ensure that the experience is meaningful, Tennessee should make certain that induction includes strategies such as intensive mentoring, seminars appropriate to grade level or subject area and a reduced teaching load and/or frequent release time to observe other teachers.

Set more specific parameters.

To ensure that all teachers receive high-quality mentoring, Tennessee should set a timeline in which mentors are assigned to all new teachers throughout the state, soon after the commencing of teaching, to offer support during those first critical weeks of school. Mentors should be required to be trained in a content area or grade level similar to that of the new teacher, and to attract the most qualified participants to the mentor program, guaranteed compensation is also a wise inclusion.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

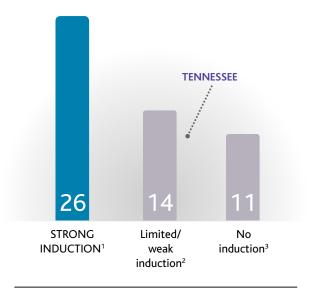
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T EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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?



- 1. 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



4-B Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Partly Meets Goal (



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee requires that all evaluation models developed by districts include observations of all teachers four times per year with a postobservation conference after each occurrence. Teachers must be provided with written feedback prior to the postobservation conference. During these conferences, the teacher's strengths and weaknesses are discussed. Evaluations are used "to determine individual professional development plans." The state does not indicate whether teachers with less than effective ratings are placed on improvement plans.

Supporting Research

Tennessee Code Annotated 49-1-302

Teacher and Principal Evaluation Policy 5.201

http://www.state.tn.us/sbe/Policies/5.201_Teacher_and_Principal_Evaluation_Policy_revised_4-19-2013.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

Tennessee 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.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee stated that initial coaching conversations are expected for all teachers receiving a rating of 1 overall on individual growth. The state indicated that approximately 75 percent of level 1 teachers received an initial coaching conversation during the 2012-2013 school year. Level 1 teachers received more observations and feedback compared to other experienced teachers and more than in previous years.



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

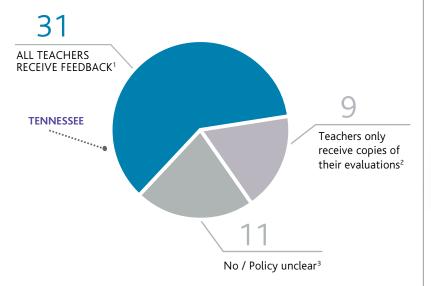
Louisiana and North Carolina require that teachers receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations and direct districts to connect professional development to teachers' identified needs. Both states also require that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement plans. These improvement plans include specific performance goals, a description of resources and assistance provided, as well as timelines for improvement.

- 1. Improvement plans are required for tenured teachers only.
- 2. Improvement plans are required only for teachers teaching for four years or more.
- 3. 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.

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Figure 90

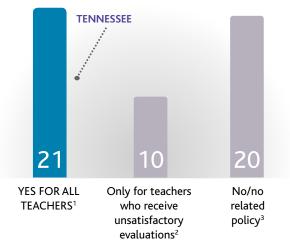
Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?



- 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
- 3. Alabama, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin⁴
- 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, Wisconsin⁴
- 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.)

- 1. While the state may find it appropriate to articulate teachers' starting salaries, it should not require districts to adhere to a state-dictated salary schedule that defines steps and lanes and sets minimum pay at each level.
- 2. 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



4-C Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

As of July 1, 2013, Tennessee adopted new compensation requirements for implementation in the 2014-2015 school year. Districts must differentiate teacher compensation based on at least one of the following criterion: additional roles or responsibilities, hard-to-staff schools or subject areas and performance based on teacher evaluations. However, Tennessee still provides local districts with a Minimum Salary Schedule determined by base salary, years of experience and type of degree. Although districts may establish their own schedules that exceed the state minimums, the salary schedule provided by the state is based on teachers' years of experience and earned advanced degrees.

Supporting Research

2013-14 State Minimum Salary Schedule

http://www.state.tn.us/sbe/2013_documents/June2013_Board_Meeting/III_A_2013-2014_State_Minimum_Salary_ Schedule_Cover_Sheet.pdf

Tenn Dept of Ed State Salary Schedule

http://www.tn.gov/sbe/2013_documents/June2013_Board_Meeting/III_A%202013-2014_State_Minimum_Salary_ Schedule_Attachment.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee was helpful in proving NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis. The state added that it also requires districts to develop and implement differentiated pay plans. While the policy has been in place since 2007, the revised differentiated pay plan policy prevents districts from basing across-theboard pay increases solely on years of experience or advanced degrees.



TEXAMPLES 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.

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

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

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- 1. For advanced degrees earned after April 2014.
- $\hbox{2. Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training". } \\$
- 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



4-D Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee does not encourage local districts to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience. In fact, the state explicitly delineates the kinds of experiences recognized for salary purposes; subject-area work is not on the list.

Supporting Research

Tennessee Administrative Rules and Regulations 0520-1-2-.02

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, Tennessee should expand its policy and 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.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee noted that the state also requires districts to develop and implement differentiated pay plans. While the policy has been in place since 2007, the revised differentiated pay plan policy prevents districts from basing across-the-board pay increases solely on years of experience or advanced degrees. Districts must differentiate teacher compensation based on at least one additional criterion. Differentiated pay criteria can include any of the following: additional roles or responsibilities, hard-to-staff schools or subject areas and performance based on State Board-approved teacher evaluation criteria. The new plans must be implemented beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

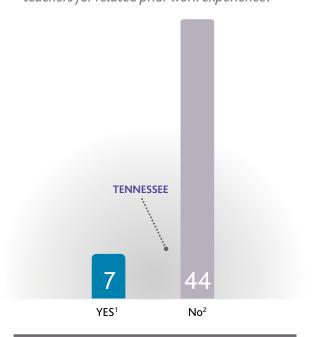
This increased flexibility will allow districts to develop plans to accommodate specific needs that may be addressed with subject-area work experience, such as math-and science-content expertise.

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, Hawaii³, 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



4-E Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee supports differential pay, decided at the local level, whereby a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects or in a high-need school. The state requires each school district to implement a differentiated pay plan, which may include pay based on hard-to-staff subjects or schools, criteria for which is determined at the local level.

Supporting Research

Tennessee Code 49-3-306(h)

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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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.

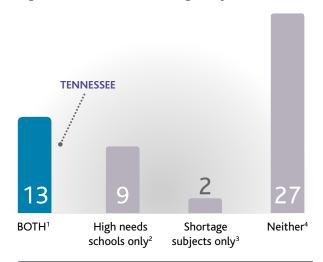
^{2.} South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in high-need schools.



TEXAMPLE 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?



- 1. 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



4-F Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee supports performance pay. The state requires local districts to develop differentiated pay plans that may include pay based on performance. If a district chooses to include a performance component, it must be "based on gains in student academic achievement" and "be criterion-based so that everyone meeting a previously agreed-upon standard earns that award." The amount of the award for effective teaching is decided at the local level, but the state requires that the amount be in the thousands, not hundreds of dollars—incentives significant enough to matter to teachers.

Supporting Research

Tennessee Code 49-3-306(h)

Department of Education Public Chapter 376: Guidelines for Differential Pay Plans www.tn.gov/education/support/doc/VB_Diff_Pay_Guidelines.pdf

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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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.

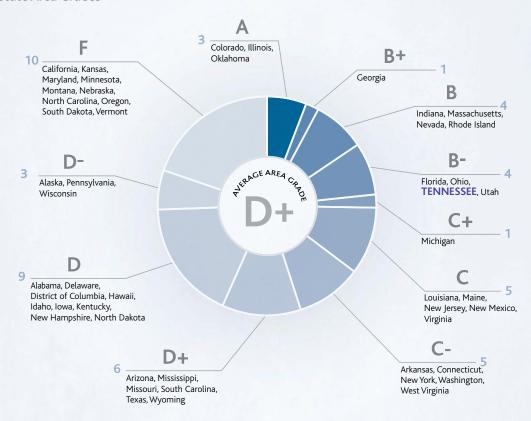
^{2.} Nevada's initiative does not go into effect until 2015-2016.

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



5-A Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee allows new teachers who have met all licensure requirements, except for passing scores on the licensing exams, to teach under the Interim License Type B. This license is valid for one year and may be renewed once.

The state also allows new teachers to qualify for a Transitional License who have a bachelor's degree and one of the following: 1) an acceptable major in the endorsement area, 2) documentation that they have at least 24 semester hours in the teaching content area or 3) verification that they have passed the required Praxis II content exam for the endorsement area. Teachers holding Transitional Licenses must demonstrate satisfactory annual progress toward completion of all licensure requirements. Teachers may teach on a Transitional License no more than three years. Prior to the second renewal of the Transitional License, the teacher must have passed all required Praxis II content examinations.

Supporting Research

Tennessee Department of Education: Renewal of Interim Type B License http://www.state.tn.us/education/lic/intb.shtml

Types of Licenses http://www.tn.gov/education/lic/license_types.shtml

RECOMMENDATION

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

All students are entitled to teachers who know the subject matter they are teaching. Permitting individuals who have not yet passed state licensing tests to teach neglects the needs of students, instead extending personal consideration to adults who may not be able to meet minimal state standards. Tennessee should ensure that all teachers pass licensing tests—an important minimum benchmark for entering the profession—before entering the classroom.

Limit exceptions to one year.

There might be limited and exceptional circumstances under which conditional or emergency licenses need to be granted. In these instances, it is reasonable for a state to give teachers up to one year to pass required licensing tests. Tennessee's current policy puts students at risk by allowing teachers to teach on an Interim License Type B or Transitional license for two years or more without passing required licensing tests.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state also noted that under the proposed licensure policy, the use of alternative methods of content verification will be available to all candidates, not just candidates enrolled in alternative preparation programs.

Supporting Research

http://www.tn.gov/education/lic/policy.shtml

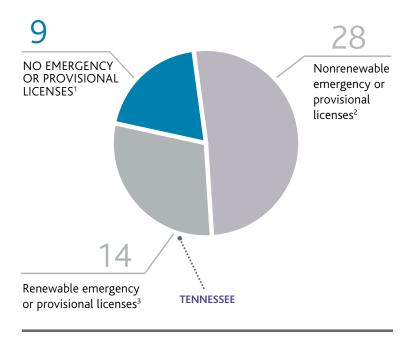
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Colorado, **Illinois**, **Mississippi**, and **New Jersey** require all new teachers to pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure.

Figure 104

Do states still award emergency licenses?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alaska⁴, Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, Montana⁵, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Carolina
- Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota⁶, Ohio⁶, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island⁶, 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.)

- 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.
- 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

How States are Faring in Dismissal for Poor Performance **Best Practice States** Florida, Oklahoma State Meets Goal Indiana States Nearly Meet Goal Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, New York, Rhode Island, TENNESSEE 20 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska ↑, Arizona ↑, Arkansas ↑, Connecticut ↑, Delaware, Georgia 1, Louisiana 1, Maine 1, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey 1, New Mexico ♠, Ohio, Pennsylvania ♠, Virginia ♠, Washington ↑, West Virginia ↑, Wisconsin, Wyoming States Meet a Small Part of Goal Idaho 1, Minnesota 1, New Hampshire, North Carolina 1, Utah 17 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, California, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont Progress on this Goal Since 2011: **1**: 16 **←**: 35 **↓**:0

5-B Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee explicitly makes teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal. The state defines "inefficiency," which is grounds for dismissal, as "having evaluations demonstrating an overall performance effectiveness level that is 'below expectations' or 'significantly below expectations'."

In addition, tenured teachers may return to probationary status if they receive two consecutive years of "below expectations" or "significantly below expectations" performance ratings (see Goal 3-D). Once on probationary status, if the teacher receives two consecutive evaluations of "above expectations" or "significantly above expectations," then he or she is again eligible for tenure. If tenure is not granted, the teacher "cannot be continued in employment."

Although the state has attempted to address issues of due process and dismissal by reverting ineffective teachers to nonprobationary status, Tennessee retains policy that does not 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 "incompetence, inefficiency, neglect of duty, unprofessional conduct and insubordination."

In Tennessee, tenured teachers who are terminated may appeal multiple times. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher may request a hearing within 30 days. A hearing officer must be selected within five days, and the hearing must occur within 30 days of the receipt of the request. The teacher may then file an additional appeal with the local board within 10 days of the hearing's conclusion. A third appeal may also be filed within 20 days with the county's chancery court.

Supporting Research

Tennessee Code Annotated 49-5-501; 49--5-511; 49-5-512

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that teachers terminated for poor performance have the opportunity to appeal within a reasonable time frame, and that due process rights are distinguished between dismissal for classroom ineffectiveness and dismissal for morality violations.

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. In addition, the state should ensure that the opportunity to appeal occurs only once and only at the district level. The decision should be made only by those with educational expertise.

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tenneessee was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis.



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Figure 106

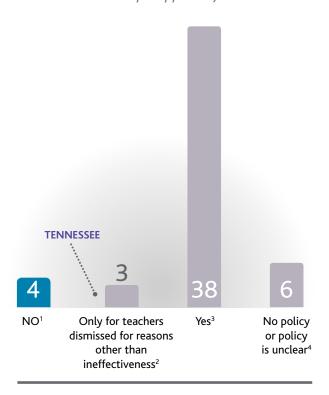
Florida and Oklahoma clearly articulate that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal. In both states, teachers are eligible for dismissal after two annual ratings of unsatisfactory performance. Each state has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed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

Do states articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal? Alabama Alaska Arizona П Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut П Delaware П District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi П Missouri Montana П Nebraska Nevada П New Hampshire П New Jersey New Mexico П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island П South Carolina South Dakota **TENNESSEE** Texas Utah П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 29 22

^{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.

Figure 107

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, Nevada⁵, Utah, Vermont
- 5. 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



5-C Analysis: **Tennessee**



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Tennessee ensures that seniority and tenure status are not the sole factors used by districts to determine which teachers are laid off during reductions in force. Beginning in 2014, whenever a reduction in force becomes necessary, school boards in Tennessee shall have the authority "to dismiss such teachers or nonlicensed employees based on their level of effectiveness determined by the evaluation" from the state's evaluation system.

Supporting Research

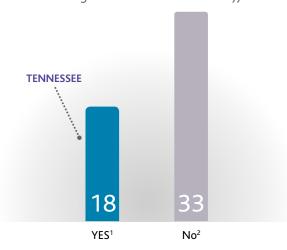
Tennessee Code Annotated Section 49-1-302(d)(1) and (2) and 49-5-511(b)(1)

TENNESSEE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Tennessee recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. However, this analysis was updated subsequent to the state's review.

Figure 109

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



- Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts³, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio³, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington
- 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.

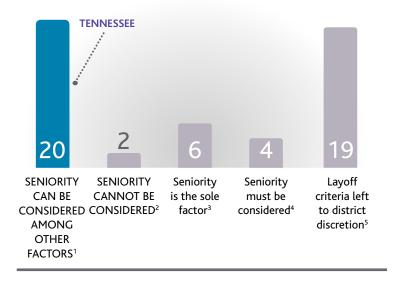
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Colorado, **Florida**, and **Indiana** all specify that in determining which teachers to lay off during a reduction in force, classroom performance is the top criterion. These states also articulate that seniority can only be considered after a teacher's 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, Massachusetts⁶, Michigan, Missouri⁶, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio⁶, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington
- 2. Strong Practice: Louisiana, Utah
- 3. Hawaii, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin⁷
- 4. California, Kentucky, New Jersey, Oregon
- 5. Alabama, Alaska⁶, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska⁶, 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.

Goals and Keywords

GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Te	achers
1-A: 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
1-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
1-C: 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
1-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.	license/certification, elementary teachers, early childhood teachers, math content tests, math coursework/standards
1-E: 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 gradelevel content.	license/certification, secondary teachers, secondary social studies, content tests, endorsements
1-G: 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
1-I: 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
1-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.	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 I	Pool
2-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.	alternate route programs, admission requirements, GPA, academic proficiency measures, subject-matter test, flexibility/test-out
2-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
2-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.	alternate routes; subject, grade or geographic restrictions; college or university providers; district-run programs; non-profit providers
2-D: 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
2-E: 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
3-A: 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
3-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
3-C: 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
3-E: 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
3-F: 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
1-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
1-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
4-D: 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
4-E : 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 schoo
4-F: 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
5-A: 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
5-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
5-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.	reduction in force, layoffs, teacher performance, seniority

Teacher Policy Priorities for Tennessee

	AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
Require that the test used by teacher preparation programs to screen candidates prior to admission is normed to the general college-bound population, and limit acceptance to those candidates demonstrating academic ability in the top 50th percentile. Adopt an elementary content test with independently scored subject-matter subtests in each of the core areas.		Goal 1-
		Goal 1-
Require a rigorous stand-alone math test for all elementary teacher candidates.		Goal 1-
	elementary and secondary special education teachers possess adequate and ent knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.	Goal 1-
	AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool	194,470,103
	on requirements to alternate route programs, including a high bar for academic bassage of a subject-matter test.	Goal 2-
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-
Require out-of-s	tate teachers to meet the state's own testing requirements.	Goal 2
	AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	
Publish aggregat	e school-level teacher evaluation ratings from an evaluation system based on	Goal 3-
	AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	
Require effective	induction for all new teachers, especially in the first critical weeks of school.	Goal 4-
Place teachers w	ith ineffective or needs improvement ratings on structured improvement plans.	Goal 4-
	AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers	
Ensure that all te	eachers pass required subject-matter licensing tests before they enter the classroom.	Goal 5-
Require that seni	fority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off during a	Goal 5-

