2013 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Virginia





Acknowledgments

STATES

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

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National Council on Teacher Quality

Executive Summary

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

Virginia at a Glance



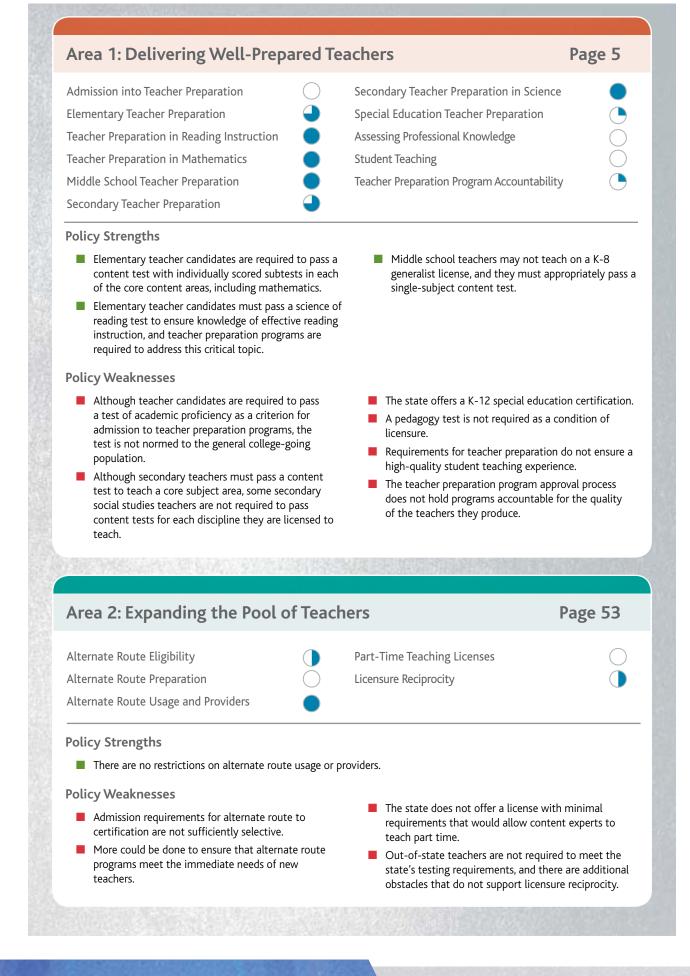
Overall 2013 Yearbook Grade

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: D+

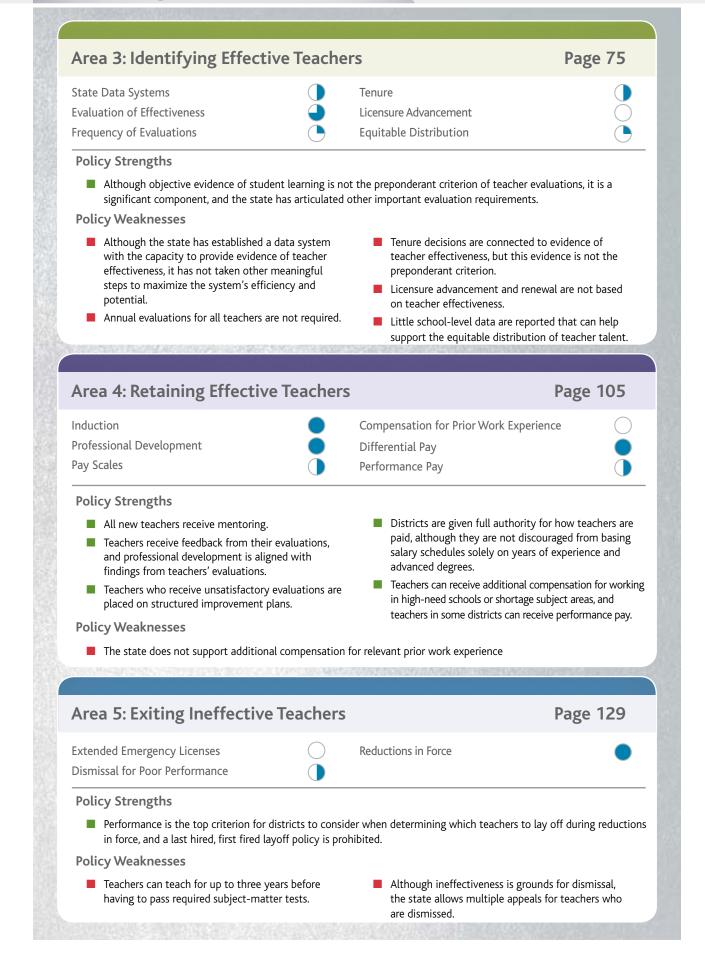
| Area Grades | 2013 | 2011 |
|--|------|-----------------------|
| Area 1 Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers | C+ | C- |
| Area 2 Expanding the Teaching Pool | C- | С |
| Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers | C- | F |
| Area 4 Retaining Effective Teachers | В | C ¹ |
| Area 5 Exiting Ineffective Teachers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

| Goal Breakdown | 2013 | Progress on Goals |
|-------------------------|------|--|
| 🚖 Best Practice | 0 | Since 2011 |
| Fully Meets | 9 | Progress has increased 12 |
| Nearly Meets | 3 | No change in progress19 |
| Partially Meets | 8 | |
| Meets Only a Small Part | 4 | Progress has decreased0 |
| O Does Not Meet | 7 | |

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.



How is **Virginia** Faring?



| Figure A | Overall _{State} Grade 2013 | Overall _{State} Grade 2017 | Overall State Grade 2009 |
|----------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Florida | B+ | В | С |
| Louisiana | в | C- | C- |
| Rhode Island | В | B- | D |
| Tennessee | В | B- | C- |
| Arkansas | B- | C | C- |
| Connecticut | B- | C- | D+ |
| Georgia | B- | C | C- |
| Indiana | B- | C+ | D |
| Massachusetts | B- | C | D+ |
| Michigan | B- | C+ | D- |
| New Jersey | B- | D+ | D+ |
| New York | B- | C | D+ |
| Ohio | B- | C+ | D+ |
| Oklahoma | в- В- | B- | D+ |
| Colorado | Б- С+ | C | D+ |
| Delaware | C+ C+ | C | D+ |
| | C+ C+ | C | _ |
| Illinois | | | D+ |
| VIRGINIA | C+ | D+ | D+ |
| Kentucky | C | D+ | D+ |
| Mississippi | C | D+ | D+ |
| North Carolina | С | D+ | D+ |
| Utah | С | C- | D |
| Alabama | C- | C- | C- |
| Arizona | C- | D+ | D+ |
| Maine | C- | D- | F |
| Minnesota | C- | C- | D- |
| Missouri | C- | D | D |
| Nevada | C- | C- | D- |
| Pennsylvania | C- | D+ | D |
| South Carolina | C- | C- | C- |
| Texas | C- | C- | C- |
| Washington | C- | C- | D+ |
| West Virginia | C- | D+ | D+ |
| California | D+ | D+ | D+ |
| District of Columbia | D+ | D | D- |
| Hawaii | D+ | D- | D- |
| Idaho | D+ | D+ | D- |
| Maryland | D+ | D+ | D |
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| Oregon | D | D- | D- |
| Wyoming | D | D | D- |
| Nebraska | D- | D- | D- |
| South Dakota | D- | D | D |
| Vermont | D- | D- | F |
| Montana | F | F | F |

How to Read the Yearbook

GOAL SCORE

The extent to which each goal has been met:

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

PROGRESS INDICATOR

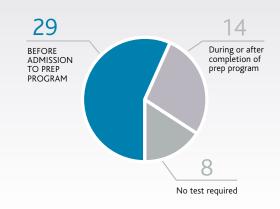
Whether the state has advanced on the goal, policy has remained unchanged or the state has lost ground on that topic:

| \mathbf{O} | Goal progress has increased since 2011 |
|--------------|--|
| \bigcirc | Goal progress has decreased since 2011 |
| Ð | Goal progress has remained the same since 2011 |

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

READING CHARTS AND TABLES:

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

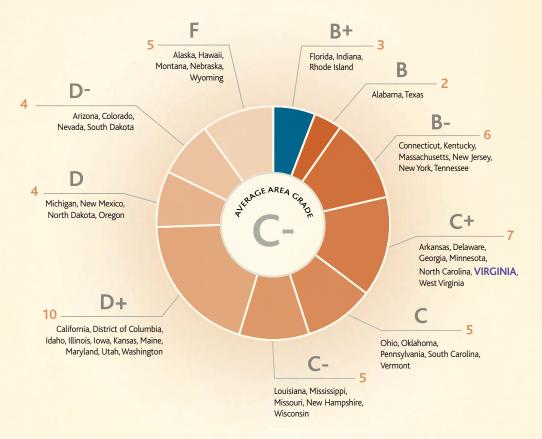




Area 1 Summary

How States are Faring on Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

- 1-A: Admission into Teacher Preparation
- **1-B:** Elementary Teacher Preparation
- 1-C: Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction
- 1-D: Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics
- 1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation

- 1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation
- 1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science
- 1-H: Special Education Teacher Preparation
- 1-I: Assessing Professional Knowledge
- 1-J: Student Teaching
- 1-K: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

Goal A – Admission into Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

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

Background

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

Figure 1 How States are Faring in Admission Requirements Best Practice States 2 Delaware¹, Rhode Island¹ State Meets Goal Texas States Nearly Meet Goal Mississippi¹, New Jersey¹, Utah¹ 11 States Partly Meet Goal Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky 1, North Carolina, South Carolina 1, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin 13 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alabama 1, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois 1, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan 1, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire 1, Oklahoma 1, Oregon 1, Pennsylvania 21 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont, **VIRGINIA**, Wyoming **Progress on this Goal Since 2011:** 12:12 ⇔:38 1:1

1-A Analysis: Virginia

State Does Not Meet Goal 🛛 💦 Bar Raised for this Goal

(+) Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Virginia requires that approved undergraduate teacher preparation programs only accept teacher candidates who have passed a basic skills test, the Praxis I, or who have earned a minimum score on the SAT or ACT as established by the state. Although the state sets the minimum scores for passing the basic skills test, the test is normed just to the prospective teacher population. Further, Virginia also permits programs to accept students that have not passed the basic skills test and give them an opportunity to "address any deficiencies."

Supporting Research

Code of Virginia 23-9.2:3.6 and 22.1-298.2. Entry Assessment to Virginia Approved Programs http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/educator_preparation/college_programs/entry_assessment.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Require all 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.

Virginia's policy is seriously undermined by the loophole that allows programs to essentially waive the admission requirement for candidates as they see fit. While it may be reasonable to allow limited exemptions, Virginia's policy essentially nullifies the basic skills requirement. Teacher preparation programs that do not screen candidates end up investing considerable resources in individuals who may not be able to successfully complete the program and pass licensing tests. Candidates needing additional support should complete remediation prior to program entry, avoiding the possibility of an unsuccessful investment of significant public tax dollars.

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

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

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

In addition to ensuring that programs require a measure of academic performance for admission, Virginia 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.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state also noted that Virginia does partially meet this goal, as it does require an admission test of reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.

LAST WORD

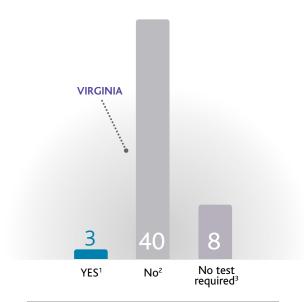
The loophole that allows programs to admit candidates without limitation who have not passed the basic skills test essentially nullifies the requirement. Other states have allowed limited flexibility for programs to admit a small percentage of candidates who do not meet entrance requirements, but Virginia allows programs to do so at their own discretion with seemingly no consequence if those candidates are then unable to pass state licensure tests.

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 2

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

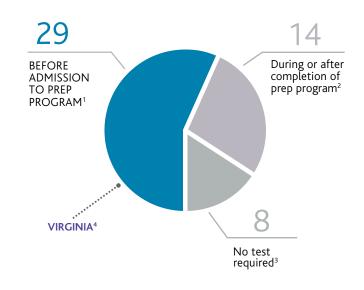


1. Strong Practice: Delaware, Rhode Island, Texas

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

Figure 3

When do states test teacher candidates' academic proficiency?



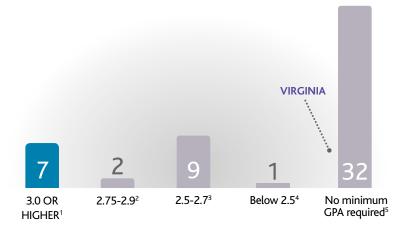
- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia⁴, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- Alaska, California, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Vermont
- 3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Wyoming
- Virginia allows programs to accept teacher candidates who have not passed the basic skills test ad give them an apportunity to address deficiencies.

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

2. Virginia allows programs to accept teacher candidates who have not passed the basic skills test and give them an opportunity to address deficiencies.

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



1. Strong Practice: Delaware, Mississippi⁶, New Jersey⁶, Oklahoma⁷, Pennsylvania⁸, Rhode Island⁶, Utah

3. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut⁹, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wisconsin¹⁰

4. Louisiana

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

9. Connecticut requires a B- grade point average for all undergraduate courses.

10. The GPA admission requirement is 2.5 for undergraduate and 2.75 for graduate programs.

^{2.} Kentucky, Texas

Goal B – Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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

Figure 6

How States are Faring in Elementary Teacher Preparation



1 Best Practice State Indiana

- 2 States Meet Goal Connecticut¹, New Hampshire¹
- 11 States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama 1, Arkansas 1, District of Columbia 1, Florida 1, Idaho 1, Kentucky 1, New Jersey 1, Rhode Island 1, Texas 1, Utah 1, VIRGINIA 1

5

14 States Partly Meet Goal California, Delaware , Georgia, Maine , Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York , North Carolina , Oklahoma, Oregon , Pennsylvania , South Carolina , Vermont , West Virginia

- States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona 1, Colorado, Mississippi, New Mexico, Washington
- 18 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio¹, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

1:24 ↔:27 ↓:0



ANALYSIS

Virginia is on the right track when it comes to ensuring that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach a broad range of elementary content.

Beginning July 1, 2014, Virginia will require all elementary and early childhood education (PK-3) teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test, which is comprised of four subtests with individual scores in math, reading and language arts, science and social studies. Candidates must pass each subtest to be eligible for licensure.

All elementary teacher candidates in Virginia must either graduate from a preparation program in elementary education or have earned a liberal arts and sciences major that includes the following 57 semester-hour requirements:

- 12 semester hours of English (including composition, oral communication and literature);
- 12 semester hours in at least two science disciplines (including a lab course);
- 9 semester hours of history (including American and world history);
- 6 semester hours of social science (including geography and economics); and
- 6 semester hours of arts and humanities.

(For math requirements, see Goal 1-D.)

Candidates that opt for the program in elementary education must complete a major in interdisciplinary studies or in Virginia's core academic areas, which include English, history and social sciences (i.e., history, government, geography and economics) and science.

Supporting Research

June 27, 2013, Board Meeting Summary http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2013/06_jun/summary.pdf Virginia Administrative Code 8 VAC 20-22-160, 8 VAC 20-542-110

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that the content test adequately measures sufficient knowledge in all subjects.

Virginia should ensure that its new subject-matter test for elementary teacher candidates is well aligned with the Common Core State Standards. To make the test meaningful, Virginia should also ensure that the passing scores on each subtest reflect high levels of performance.

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

Virginia should either articulate a more specific set of standards or require more comprehensive coursework requirements for elementary teacher candidates 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. Virginia has articulated elementary teaching standards that are better than those found in many states and allude to important areas of academic knowledge. For example, in the area of history and social sciences, elementary teacher candidates are expected to understand:

- The contributions of ancient civilizations to American social and political institutions;
- Major events in Virginia history from 1607 to the present;
- Key individuals, documents and events in United States history; and
- The evolution of America's constitutional republic, its ideas, institutions and practices.

However, the state's standards do leave gaps in a number of important areas, namely, American, world, British and children's literature. Further, the state's coursework requirements are sensible indicators of important curricular areas, but there is no guarantee that the courses used to meet these requirements will be relevant to the PK-6 classroom.

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

Virginia's policy requiring elementary candidates to earn a content 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.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis. The state asserted that it does ensure that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach a broad range of elementary content geared to college and career-readiness standards, and that its requirements for elementary education are comprehensive and it should therefore meet this goal. Virginia also noted that it offers a mathematics specialist endorsement for elementary and middle education.

LAST WORD

Virginia comes close to meeting this goal. However, the state does not meet the goal component of requiring an academic content specialization as described in the recommendation.

| Figure 7 | ELEMENTARY TEST WITH RY CONTENT SCORE FOD SEARA | Elementary Content PASSING Elementary Content tecs | Composite socie for with | / vit | |
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EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.

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

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

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

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

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

| Figure 9 | | | | GLISH | | / | | | NCE | | | | OCIA | | | | | FINE ARTS |
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What subjects does Virginia expect elementary teachers to know?

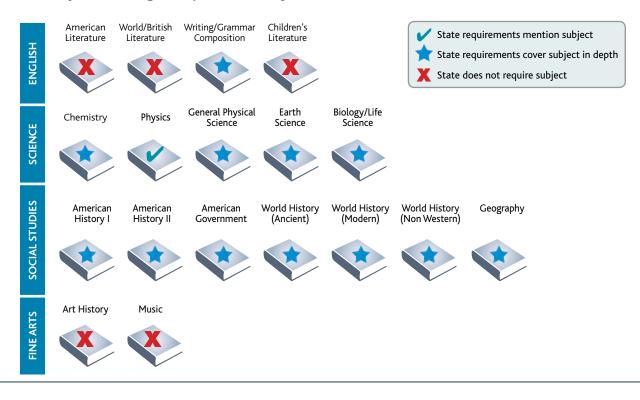
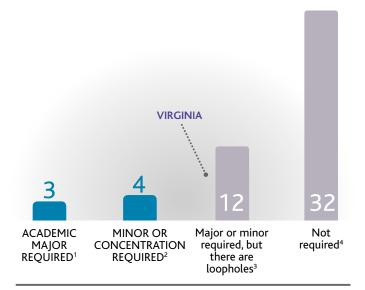


Figure 11

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico

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

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

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

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

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

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

Goal Components

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

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

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

Background

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





ANALYSIS

Virginia requires all early childhood and elementary education teacher candidates to pass the Reading for Virginia Educators Assessment 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 standards for elementary teacher preparation, Virginia also requires teacher preparation programs to address the science of reading.

Supporting Research Test Requirement http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/prof_teacher_assessment.pdf 8VAC20-542-110

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that the science of reading test is meaningful.

To ensure that its science of reading test is meaningful, Virginia should evaluate its passing score to make certain it reflects a high standard of performance.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

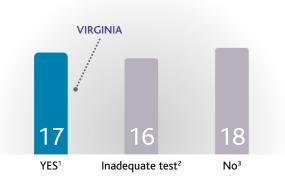
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T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

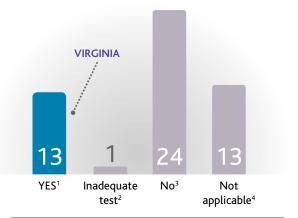
Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



- Strong Practice: Alabama⁴, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁵, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont
- Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming
- 4. Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum.
- 5. Teachers have until their second year to pass the reading test.

Figure 15

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



- Strong Practice: Alabama⁵, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Idaho
- Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming
- 4. Alaska, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas These states do not offer a standalone early childhood certification that includes elementary grades or the state's early childhood certification is the de facto license to teach elementary grades.
- 5. Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum

Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

Goal Components

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

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

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

Background

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

Figure 16 How States are Faring in Teacher Preparation in Mathematics **Best Practice States** States Meet Goal Arkansas 1, Florida 1, Indiana, Kentucky 1, New York 1, North Carolina 1, Texas 1, VIRGINIA 15 States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama¹, Connecticut¹, Delaware¹, District of Columbia 1, Idaho 1, Maine 1, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire 1, New Jersey 1, Rhode Island 1, South Carolina 1, Utah, Vermont 1, West Virginia 1 State Partly Meets Goal California 21 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon 1, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wyoming 6 States Do Not Meet Goal Colorado, Hawaii I, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Wisconsin **Progress on this Goal Since 2011:** ★:20 ↔:30 4:1



ANALYSIS

Beginning July 1, 2014, Virginia will require all teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test, which includes a separately scored math subtest.

Supporting Research

June 27, 2013, Board Meeting Summary http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2013/06_jun/summary.pdf

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

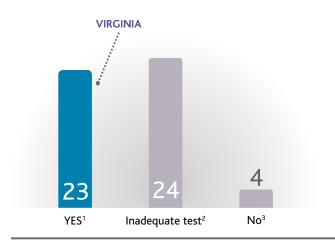
Virginia was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis.

T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 17

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



 Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, 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

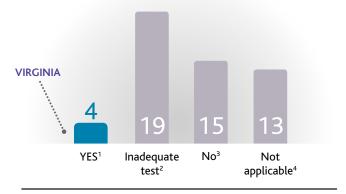
4. Test is not yet available for review.

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

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

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

Goal E – Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 19

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



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

19 States Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Iowa1, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio 1, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island 1, Texas 1, Vermont, VIRGINIA, West Virginia



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

States Partly Meet Goal Massachusetts, Minnesota, Wisconsin

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

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

Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

1:5 👄 : 45 ↓:1



ANALYSIS

Virginia requires a middle education (grades 6-8) endorsement for middle school teachers. Candidates must earn a major in interdisciplinary studies or its equivalent.

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

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

Supporting Research Praxis Test Requirement www.ets.org 8VAC20-542-20

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure meaningful content tests.

To ensure meaningful middle school content tests, Virginia should make certain that its passing scores reflect high levels of performance.

Differentiate between single and multiple subject middle school teachers.

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

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

| Figure 20 | FFERED | br Soms | / |
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| Do states distinguish middle grade preparation from elementary preparation? | K-8 UCENSE NOT OFFERED | As license offered for self-contained dassrooms | K-Blicense offered |
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| Wisconsin | | | |
| Wyoming | | | |
| | 31 | 5 | 15 |

T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

1. Offers 1-8 license.

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

3. With the exception of mathematics.

4. Oregon offers 3-8 license.

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|-----------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Figure 21 | | No. test does not epoch | 5 | | |
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| have to pass an appropriate | | it rep | equii | test " | |
| content test in every core | | r all c | ense, | tot a | |
| subject they are licensed | | est de Vres fe | emer e | Puire | |
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- 1. Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.
- 2. Candidates teaching multiple subjects only have to pass the elementary test. Single-subject credential does not require test.
- 3. For K-8 license, Idaho also requires a single-subject test.
- 4. Maryland allows elementary teachers to teach in departmentalized middle schools if not less than 50 percent of the teaching assignment is within the elementary education grades.
- 5. For nondepartmentalized classrooms, generalist in middle childhood education candidates must pass new assessment with three subtests.
- 6. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
- 7. Candidates opting for middle-level endorsement may either complete a major or pass a content test.

Goal F – Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 22

How States are Faring in Secondary Teacher Preparation



3 Best Practice States Georgia, Indiana, Tennessee



States Meet Goal Minnesota, South Dakota

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

Vermont, VIRGINIA, West Virginia, Wisconsin

8 States Partly Meet Goal District of Columbia, Iowa¹, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska¹, Nevada, New Mexico



State Meets a Small Part of Goal North Carolina

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

Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

↑:6 👄:44 ↓:1

1-F Analysis: Virginia

State Nearly Meets Goal 🛛 🔶 Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

Unfortunately, Virginia permits a significant loophole to this important policy by allowing a general social studies endorsement, without requiring subject-matter testing for each subject area within the discipline.

Called history and social sciences by the state, candidates must pass the Praxis II Social Studies general content exam. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general social studies but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

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

Supporting Research Praxis Testing Requirements www.ets.org Virginia Administrative Code, 8 VAC 20-22-40, -70

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that for its history and social sciences endorsement, candidates must complete significant coursework in history, political science, geography and economics.

Supporting Research

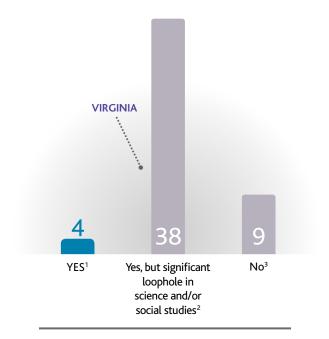
Licensure Regulations for School Personnel http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/licensure_regs.pdf

T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 23

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

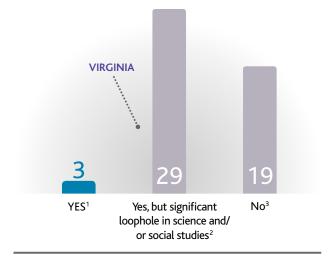


1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee

- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North 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

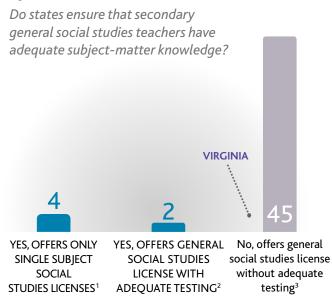
Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area to add an endorsement?



1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Minnesota, Tennessee

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

Figure 25



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.)

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

Background

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

Figure 26 How States are Faring in Preparation to Teach Science **Best Practice State** 1 Missouri 1 13 States Meet Goal Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island 1, Tennessee, VIRGINIA, West Virginia 1 States Nearly Meet Goal Arizona¹, Arkansas States Partly Meet Goal Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah States Meet a Small Part of Goal 28 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: 1:4 ↔:47 4:0



ANALYSIS

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

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

| Figure 27 | L. | OFERS GENERAL SCENE OF WITH ADEQUARY SCENE OF | . / | | |
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T EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal H – Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 28 How States are Faring in Preparation to Teach Social Studies n **Best Practice States** States Meet Goal States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama¹, New York¹, Rhode Island¹, Texas 1 8 States Partly Meet Goal Idaho¹, Iowa¹, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin 10 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Colorado, Connecticut 1, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina 1, Oregon, Tennessee 1, Vermont, VIRGINIA1 29 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas I, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas I, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: 1:9 👄 : 39 4:3

1-H Analysis: Virginia

State Meets a Small Part of Goal 🛛 🕐 Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Virginia only offers a K-12 special education certification.

All special education teachers must earn a passing score on the Reading for Virginia Educators: Elementary and Special Education assessment. No other content testing is required.

Supporting Research Virginia Administrative Code 8 VAC 20-22-540 Assessment Requirements http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/prof_teacher_assessment.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

End licensure practices that fail to distinguish between the skills and knowledge needed to teach elementary grades and secondary grades.

It is virtually impossible and certainly impractical for Virginia to ensure that a K-12 special education teacher knows all the subject matter he or she is expected to be able to teach, especially considering state and federal expectations that special education students should meet the same high standards as other students. While the broad K-12 umbrella may be appropriate for teachers of low-incidence special education students, such as those with severe cognitive disabilities, it is deeply problematic for the overwhelming majority of high-incidence special education students, who are expected to learn grade-level content.

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, Virginia should require a rigorous content test that reports separate passing scores for each content area. Virginia 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, Virginia'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, Virginia 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.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia asserted that it also offers a special education early childhood (birth-age 5) endorsement. The state added that proposed regulations include establishing the following endorsements:

- special education general curriculum K-6 (an add-on to an elementary endorsement)
- special education general curriculum middle grades 6-8 (an add-on to a middle education endorsement), and
- special education general curriculum secondary grades 6-12 (an add-on to English, history and social sciences, math, biology, chemistry, earth science, or physics endorsement).

Supporting Research

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2013/06_jun/agenda_items/item_i.pdf

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| Figure 29 | DOES NOT OFFERA | Offies K. 2 and Bade Specific Central | ^{ation(s)} |
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| and secondary special education teachers? | DESN 12 CER | Iffers k |)ffers o tificat |
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| | 10 | , | 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?

| Elementary 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 special education and as a reading specialist does not have to take a content test.

2. West Virginia also allows elementary special education candidates to earn dual certification in early childhood, which would not require a content test. Secondary special education candidates earning a dual certification as a reading specialist are similarly exempted.

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

Figure 29:

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal I – Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

Goal Component

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

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

Background

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

Figure 31

How States are Faring in Special Education **Teacher Preparation** Best Practice States 28 States Meet Goal Alabama¹, Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana 1, Iowa¹, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island¹, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington 1, West Virginia States Nearly Meet Goal Maryland, North Carolina 1 3 States Partly Meet Goal Connecticut, Pennsylvania¹, Utah States Meet a Small Part of Goal 3 Massachusetts, Missouri, Wyoming 15 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, VIRGINIA, Wisconsin Progress on this Goal Since 2011: **1**:7 (↔):43 ↓:1



ANALYSIS

Virginia does not currently require new teachers to pass a test of pedagogy in order to attain licensure.

The Virginia Reading Assessment covers an essential component of pedagogy and is required for elementary education, most special education areas and the reading specialist endorsement. However, this assessment neither covers all instructional areas nor is required of all teachers.

Virginia is also part of the Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA) consortium and began a pilot program in Spring 2011.

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

RECOMMENDATION

Require that all new teachers pass a pedagogy test.

Virginia should verify that all new teachers meet professional standards through a test of professional standards.

Ensure that performance assessments provide a meaningful measure of new teachers' knowledge and skills.

While Virginia is commended for considering 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 performance-based 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 question-able value.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

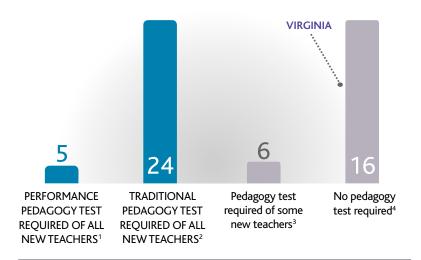
Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 32

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



1. Strong Practice: California, Illinois⁵, New York, Tennessee⁶, Washington

- 2. 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

Figure 33 How States are Faring in Student Teaching 3 **Best Practice States** Florida, Rhode Island 1, Tennessee State Meets Goal Massachusetts 1 States Nearly Meet Goal Connecticut¹, Kentucky 24 States Partly Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware 1, Georgia 1, Hawaii, Illinois 1, Iowa, Kansas, Maine 1, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri 1, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin States Meet a Small Part of Goal Indiana, Michigan, Oregon, South Dakota 17 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Louisiana, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Utah, VIRGINIA, West Virginia, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: •:42 ↓:1 1:8

1-J Analysis: Virginia

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Virginia requires candidates to complete at least 300 clock hours of field experiences for initial programs, which must include a minimum of 150 clock hours of directed student teaching requirements. The state does not articulate any requirements for cooperating teachers.

Supporting Research 8 VAC 20-542-40 (3)

RECOMMENDATION

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

In addition to the ability to mentor an adult, cooperating teachers in Virginia should also be carefully screened for their capacity to further student achievement. Research indicates that the only aspect of a student teaching arrangement that has been shown to have an impact on student achievement is the positive effect of selection of the cooperating teacher by the preparation program, rather than by the student teacher or school district staff.

Use evidence from the state's teacher evaluation system to select cooperating teachers.

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

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

Virginia should require a more extensive summative clinical experience for all prospective teachers. Student teaching should be a full-time commitment, as requiring coursework and student teaching simultaneously does a disservice to both. Alignment with a school calendar for at least 10 weeks ensures both adequate classroom experience and exposure to a variety of ancillary professional activities.

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

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

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is in the process of revising its regulations, which would change the 300 clock hours to a summative clinical experience of 10 weeks. Even though Virginia institutions require at least 10 weeks of student teaching, this will clarify the requirement. Proposed regulations will also require that cooperating teachers demonstrate effectiveness in the classroom based on evaluations.

Supporting Research

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2013/06_jun/agenda_items/item_h.pdf

LAST WORD

NCTQ looks forward to reviewing the state's progress in future editions of the Yearbook.

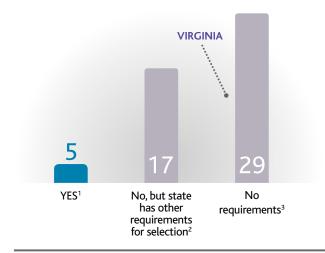
| Figure 34 | COPERATING TRACE | STUBENT FEACHING LASTS AT LEAST TO WEEKS |
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T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

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

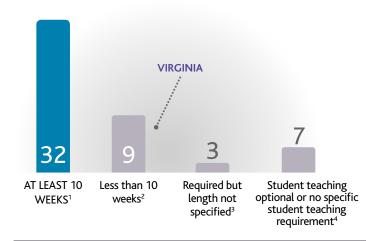


1. Strong Practice: Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Tennessee

- 2. 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.
- 5. The state should retain full authority over its process for approving teacher preparation programs.

Background

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

Figure 37

How States are Faring in Teacher Preparation Program Accountability



Best Practice States



O

State Meets Goal Louisiana





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

- 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:

1:13 ↔:38 ↓:0

1-K Analysis: Virginia

State Meets a Small Part of Goal (+) Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Virginia's approval process for its traditional and alternate route teacher preparation programs does not hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

Virginia requires "evidence of contributions to preK-12 student achievement by candidates completing the program." However, the state then articulates that one required indicator of the achievement of this standard is evidence of the ability to affect student learning, "through the use of multiple sources of data such as a culminating experience, portfolios, interviews, videotaped and observed performance in schools, standardized tests, and course grades." Regrettably, this does not ensure that objective evidence of student achievement will be used to connect student achievement gains to preparation programs.

The state relies on some other objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of traditional teacher preparation programs but not its alternate route programs. It requires evidence of employer job satisfaction with program completers. "The indicator of the achievement of this standard shall include documentation that the education program has two years of evidence regarding candidate performance based on employer surveys." However, these data are not collected for alternate route programs.

In addition, Virginia collects programs' annual summary licensure test pass rates and requires that 80 percent of program completers and exiters pass their licensure exams. However, the 80 percent pass-rate standard sets the bar quite low and is not a meaningful measure of program performance.

Further, 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 Virginia have been identified in required federal reporting as low performing.

The state's website does not include a report card that allows the public to review and compare program performance.

In Virginia, national accreditation is required for program approval.

Supporting Research 8 VAC 20-542-40, 8 VAC 20-22-90 Title II State Reports https://title2.ed.gov www.ncate.org

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance.

Although measures of student growth are an important indicator of program effectiveness, they cannot be the sole measure of program quality for several reasons, including the fact that many

programs may have graduates whose students do not take standardized tests. The accountability system must therefore include other objective measures that show how well all programs are preparing teachers for the classroom. Virginia should expand its current requirements to its alternate routes and also include such measures as:

- 1. Evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching;
- Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including academic proficiency, subject matter and professional knowledge tests;
- 3. Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests; and

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

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

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

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

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

Maintain full authority over the process for approving teacher preparation programs.

Virginia should not cede its authority and must 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.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia noted that it is in the process of revising its regulations, which propose a program report card as well as increased accountability measures, such as adding an indicator of employer job satisfaction documentation to address teacher performance, including student academic progress.

Virginia also asserted that state colleges and universities are required to have 100 percent of program completers pass assessments. The 80 percent pass rate is for program completers and program exiters.

Supporting Research

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2013/06_jun/agenda_items/item_h.pdf

LAST WORD

NCTQ looks forward to reviewing the state's progress in future editions of the Yearbook.

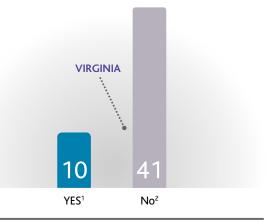
| Figure 38 | 4h, F | Gain | BSITE |
|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| <i>Do states hold teacher preparation programs accountable?</i> | OBJECTIVE PROGRAM. SPECIFIC DATA COLLECT | MINIMUM STANDARDS FERCORNANCE CR | DATA PUBLICY AVAILABLEON WEBSTE |
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T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 39

Do states connect student achievement data to teacher preparation programs?



1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas

- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia³, Hawaii³, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland³, 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.

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

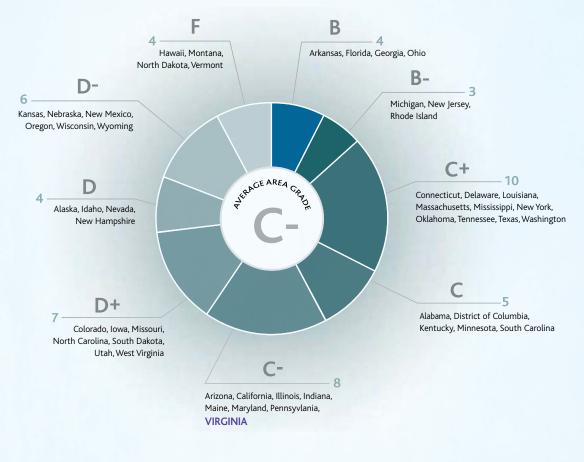
1. National accreditation can be substituted for state approval. 2. For institutions with 2,000 or more full-time equivalent students

| Figure 41 | | | Vational accreditation is required for program appro- | leno |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--|------|
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| | | 5 | 15 | |

Area 2 Summary



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

REA 2 GRADE

TRGIN

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Goal A – Alternate Route Eligibility

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

Goal Components

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

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

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

Background

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

Figure 42

How States are Faring in Alternate Route Eligibility

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

2-A Analysis: Virginia

State Partly Meets Goal

🕋 Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 🔁

Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Virginia classifies two routes, the Career Switchers Alternative Route to Licensure Program and the Alternative Route to Licensure, as alternate routes to certification. Virginia does not require candidates to either route to demonstrate prior academic performance beyond passing a basic skills test.

Applicants to the Alternative Route to Licensure must meet content coursework requirements in their intended teaching field. Candidates with five years of related work experience and a passing score on a content exam are exempt from this requirement. This exemption does not apply to elementary or special education. Candidates are also required to pass a subject-matter test.

Candidates in the Career Switcher Program must meet coursework requirements and are required to pass a subject-matter test. The state also requires candidates in this alternate route to have at least five years of full-time work experience.

Supporting Research

Alternate Route License http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/multiple_licensure_routes.pdf Career Switcher Program http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/educator_preparation/career_switcher/index.shtml 8VAC20-22-90

RECOMMENDATION

Screen all candidates for academic ability.

Virginia should require that candidates to its alternate routes provide some evidence of good academic performance. 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 the state is commended for requiring candidates to the Career Switcher Alternate Route to take a subject-matter exam, Virginia should require all candidates, including those with a major in the subject, to take such a 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.

Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

While Virginia is commended for requiring Career Switcher applicants to demonstrate content knowledge on a subject-matter test, the state's requirement that these candidates also pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffectual. Basic skills tests measure minimum competency—essentially those skills that a person should have acquired in middle school—and are inappropriate for candidates who have already earned a bachelor's degree. A test designed for individuals who already have a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be a much more appropriate measure of academic standing. At a minimum, the state should eliminate the basic skills test requirement or accept the equivalent in SAT or ACT scores.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

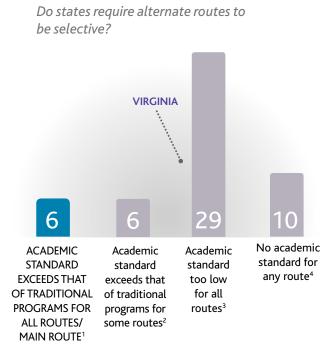
Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

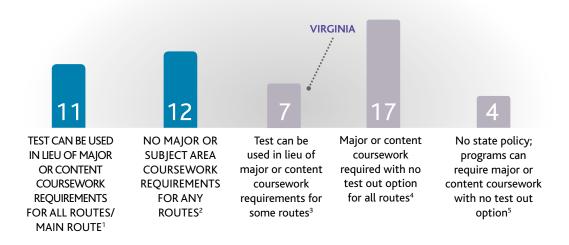
The **District of Columbia** and **Michigan** require candidates to demonstrate aboveaverage academic performance as a condition of admission to an alternate route program, with both requiring applicants to have a minimum 3.0 GPA. In addition, neither requires a content-specific major; subjectarea knowledge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

Figure 44



- 1. Strong Practice: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island
- 2. Alabama, Illinois⁵, Indiana, Kentucky⁶, New York, Pennsylvania
- Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyorning
- 4. Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah
- 5. Illinois' routes are in the process of converting to a single new license.
- 6. Only one of Kentucky's eight alternate routes has a 3.0 GPA requirement.

Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



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

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

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

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

5. Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, North Dakota

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Goal B – Alternate Route Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

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

Figure 46

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

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

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

Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

1:0 ↔:51 ↓:0

Background

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



ANALYSIS

Although Virginia offers alternate routes with streamlined preparation, it could do more to meet the immediate needs of new teachers.

Candidates in the Career Switcher Program must complete 180 clock hours of instruction, including field experience, as part of their induction program. Coursework includes curriculum and instruction methods, standards of learning, differentiation of instruction, classroom/behavior management and human growth and development. During the first year, candidates attend a minimum of five seminars for a minimum of 20 cumulative instructional hours.

Virginia is commended for both the length of its Career Switcher alternate route program and its coursework requirements, which offer the flexibility and content that new teachers need to succeed in the classroom, without being overly burdensome.

The Alternate Route to Licensure program requires pre-K-3, elementary pre-K-6 and middle school candidates to complete 18 semester hours of coursework. Secondary candidates complete 15 semester hours of coursework. Topics include human growth and development, curriculum and instructional procedures, classroom and behavior management and foundations of education. Elementary candidates also complete six semester hours of language acquisition and reading, and middle school candidates must complete six semester hours of reading in the content area and language acquisition.

Career Switcher candidates have a practice-teaching opportunity and participate in a mentoring program. Mentors assist in implementing a professional development plan; observe, assist and coach new teachers; share resources and materials; and provide support regarding school procedures.

Alternate Route to Licensure candidates do not have a practice-teaching opportunity. The school district is required to provide a mentor to all new teachers.

Upon successful completion of all program requirements, candidates are eligible for a standard certificate.

Supporting Research

8VAC20-22-90; 120 - 190 Career Switchers http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/educator_preparation/career_switcher/index.shtml

RECOMMENDATION

Establish coursework guidelines for all alternate route preparation programs.

While Virginia is commended for the coursework requirements in the Career Switcher program, the state should consider similar guidelines for those in the Alternative Route to Licensure. Simply mandating coursework without specifying the purpose can inadvertently send the wrong message to program providers—that "anything goes" as long as credits are granted. However constructive, any course that is not fundamentally practical and immediately necessary should be eliminated as a requirement. Appropriate coursework should include grade-level or subject-level seminars, methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction.

Consider providing opportunities to practice teach to all candidates.

While Virginia is commended for offering an opportunity to student teach in the Career Switcher program, the state may want to consider providing all of its candidates with a practice-teaching opportunity prior to entering the classroom.

Strengthen the induction experience for new teachers.

Virginia is commended for requiring all new teachers to work with a mentor; however, there are insufficient guidelines indicating that the induction program is structured for new teacher success. Effective strategies include 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.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

The state noted that study in the Career Switcher program does include methods in the content area, classroom and behavior management, assessment and reading instruction. In addition, the Board of Education does have approved mentor guidelines.

At its June 27, 2013, meeting, the Virginia Board of Education accepted for final review (proposed stage) the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's recommendation, with the Superintendent of Public Instruction's proposed amendments, to revise the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel and authorized the Department of Education staff to proceed with the requirements of the Administrative Process Act.

Supporting Research

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/career_resources/mentor/program_creation_guidelines.pdf

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| o states' alternate routes rovide efficient preparation | EFFICIENT COURSEWORK | RELEVANT COURCE | REASONABLE PROGRAM LENS | PRACTICE TEACHING | INTENSIVE SUPPORT |
| hat meets the immediate eeds of new teachers? | EFFICIEN COURSEI | RELEVAN | REASON PROCRA | PRACTI OPPORTI | INTENS |
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TEXAMPLES 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.)

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

Background

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

Figure 48

How States are Faring in Alternate Route Usage and Providers



Best Practice States

23 States Meet Goal

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



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

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

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

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

Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

1:1 ↔:47 ↓:3



ANALYSIS

Virginia does not limit the usage or providers of its alternate routes.

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

Virginia allows institutions of higher education, local districts and private organizations, including Teach For America, to offer 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

8VAC20-22-90 Career Switcher Program http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/educator_preparation/career_switcher/index Virginia HB 2084 (2013)

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

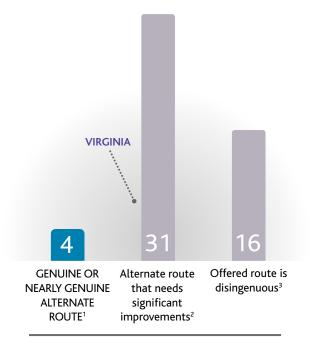
| Figure 49 | BROAD USAGE ACROSS SUBJECTS GRACE ACROSS GEORAPHICAREAE AND | ^D ERS |
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| limitations? | BROA SUBJEC GEOGR | DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS |
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| For some alternate routes E For most or n used alternat | | or all alternate routes |

T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 50

Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification?



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

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

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

| Figure 51 | DF STRONG ORMAN | OF SUBJECT | te test | SEW. | Sett. | AND. | 5 | Can | ORING | OVIDERS |
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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.
- Other requirements for this license should be limited to those addressing public safety (e.g., background screening) and those of immediate use to the novice instructor (e.g., classroom management training).

Background

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

Figure 52

How States are Faring in Part Time Teaching Licenses



Best Practice State Georgia

- 2 States Meet Goal Arkansas, Florida
- 7 States Nearly Meet Goal Kentucky, Michigan 1, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah



3 States Partly Meet Goal California, Louisiana, Oklahoma

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

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

Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

1:2 ↔:49 ↓:0

2-D Analysis: Virginia

State Does Not Meet Goal

🕒 Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia commented that it does offer licensure through "experiential learning." This allows an individual who meets specified criteria to seek a license by demonstrating knowledge in the content (teaching area) by passing the Praxis II assessment. If the individual passes the test (Virginia has among the highest test scores of those states using Praxis II), the individual is not required to take additional courses in the endorsement area.

Supporting Research

Licensure Regulations for School Personnel http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/licensure_regs.pdf

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T EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Goal E – Licensure Reciprocity

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 54

How States are Faring in Licensure Reciprocity 2 **Best Practice States** Alabama, Texas States Meet Goal North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island States Nearly Meet Goal Delaware 1, Indiana 1, Oklahoma 1, Washington, Wisconsin 22 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho4, Illinois, Iowa¹, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, VIRGINIA, West Virginia, Wyoming 12 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Carolina States Do Not Meet Goal 7 California, District of Columbia, Kansas, Kentucky, Nevada, New Jersey, Vermont Progress on this Goal Since 2011: 1:5 🛏 : 45 ↓:1

2-E Analysis: Virginia

State Partly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Regrettably, Virginia grants a waiver for its licensing tests to teachers who have three years of out-ofstate teaching at a public or accredited private school and who hold a full license with no deficiencies.

Teachers with valid out-of-state certificates are eligible for comparable licensure in Virginia. There is no state-mandated recency requirement for the standard certificate; however, transcripts are required for all out-of-state applicants. 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.

Virginia does require all incoming teachers to complete coursework in technology, for which there appears to be no test-out option. The state also requires training in child abuse recognition and intervention.

Virginia 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.

Virginia requires all teachers who deliver instruction through online courses or virtual school programs to be licensed by the state.

Supporting Research Virginia Administrative Code 8 VAC 20-22-100 Code of Virginia, 22.1-298.1; 212.26 SB 489 (2012)

RECOMMENDATION

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

Virginia takes considerable risk by waiving its licensing tests for any out-of-state teacher who has three years of experience. The state should not waive any of its teacher tests unless an applicant can provide evidence of a passing score under its own standards. The negative impact on student learning stemming from a teacher's inadequate subject-matter knowledge is not mitigated by the teacher's having experience.

Offer a standard license to certified out-of-state teachers, absent unnecessary requirements.

Virginia should consider a test-out option for its additional coursework requirement in technology.

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. Virginia 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 Virginia.

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

Rather than rely on transcripts to assess credentials, Virginia 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.

Secondary students in Virginia are required to complete one online course prior to graduation. Virginia should therefore 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.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia asserted that school divisions and colleges and universities may provide a test-out option to meet the technology standards.

The state added that transcripts are required to verify degrees, and that transcript reviews are not conducted for those becoming licensed via reciprocity, including those who gained full licensure in another state via an alternate route. Further, Virginia pointed to its code section pertaining to reciprocity: An outof-state teacher may qualify for a Virginia teaching license with comparable endorsement areas if the individual has completed a state-approved preparation program, or if he or she holds a valid out-of-state license. To be exempt from Virginia's professional teacher's assessment requirements, individuals must have three years of successful full-time experience.

Virginia's Board of Education has proposed an online license to assist individuals who may have experience in online instruction but do not have traditional preparation.

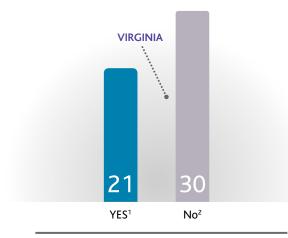
Supporting Research 8 VAC 20-22-100

LAST WORD

The submission of transcripts should be unnecessary for certified out-of-state teachers, unless the state has some reason to suspect that the certifying state routinely certifies teachers who do not have a degree.



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
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana⁷, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Allows one year to meet testing requirements.
- 4. Maine grants waiver for basic skills and pedagogy tests.
- 5. Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification; all others given two years to meet testing requirements.
- 6. Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification.
- 7. No subject-matter testing for any teacher certification.

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

| What do states require of teachers transferring from other states? | UCENSE RECIPROCITY | Submission of trans | Recency requirements |
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| Figure 57 | į | State Specifies different | ate |
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EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

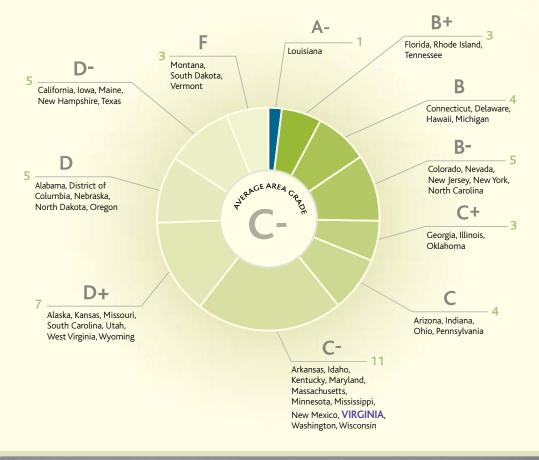
Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet Alabama's and Texas's own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate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

Area 3 Summary



How States are Faring in Identifying Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

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

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

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

Goal A – State Data Systems

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

Goal Components

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

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

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

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

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

- 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

Figure 58

How States are Faring in State Data Systems



Best Practice States Hawaii, New York

States Meet Goal

- **C**
 - 19 States Nearly Meet Goal Arizona⁺, Arkansas, Connecticut⁺, Delaware, District of Columbia⁺, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan⁺, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas⁺, Washington, Wyoming
 25 States Partly Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska⁺, California⁺, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Minimizia, Minawath, Mathematica

Mississippi, Missouri, Montana[↑], Nebraska, Nevada[↑], New Hampshire, New Jersey[↑], New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon[↑], South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont[↑], VIRGINIA[↑], West Virginia, Wisconsin

2

States Meet a Small Part of Goal Colorado, Pennsylvania

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

Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

1:13 ↔:36 ↓:2



ANALYSIS

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

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

Virginia defines teacher of record as the teacher who is responsible for the classroom and makes the final decisions about the delivered instruction and the final outcomes for the students assigned to the class. The state's teacher-student data link can connect more than one educator to a particular student in a given course, but it does not have in place a process for teacher roster verification.

Virginia does not publish data on teacher production that connects program completion, certification and 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, Virginia 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, and Virginia should develop a process for teacher roster verification.

Publish data on teacher production.

From the number of teachers who graduate from preparation programs each year, only a subset are certified, and only some of those certified are actually hired in the state. While it is certainly desirable to produce a big enough pool to give districts a choice in hiring, the substantial oversupply in some teaching areas is not good for the profession. Virginia should look to Maryland's "Teacher Staffing Report" as a model whose primary purpose is to determine teacher shortage areas, while also identifying areas of surplus. By collecting similar hiring data from its districts, Virginia will form a rich set of data that can inform policy decisions.

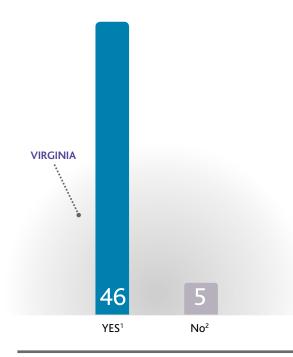
VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

LAST WORD

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

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



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

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

Figure 60

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



| Figure 61 | Some TEACHER PD | Some data published L | 8 |
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| leacher production? | ACH. | d to o | ^d data, |
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EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

Goal Components

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

- 1. 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

Figure 62

How States are Faring in Evaluation of Effectiveness



Best Practice States

19 States Meet Goal Alaska¹, Colorado, Connecticut¹, Delaware, Florida, Georgia¹, Hawaii¹, Louisiana¹, Michigan, Mississippit, Nevada, New Mexicot, North Carolina¹, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania⁺, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Wisconsin 1

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

16 States Partly Meet Goal Arkansas, District of Columbia 1, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas¹, Kentucky¹, Maine¹, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri 1, Oregon¹, South Carolina¹, South Dakota¹, Utah, West Virginia¹, Wyoming¹



States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alabama, California, Idaho, Iowa 1, Nebraska, Texas, Washington

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

Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

★:22 ↔:27 **!**:2

3-B Analysis: Virginia

State Nearly Meets Goal () Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Virginia does not require that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations. Districts develop their own teacher evaluation systems consistent with state criteria.

Recent legislation now requires that teacher evaluations include student academic progress as a "significant" component. The state's framework suggests that districts weight student academic progress at 40 percent of the summative evaluation. A superintendent's memo requires this percentage for the 2013-2014 school year.

Four rating classifications are also to be used: exemplary, proficient, developing/needs improvement and unacceptable.

Classroom observations are required.

Supporting Research HB 2151 (2013) Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance_evaluation/guidelines_ups_eval_criteria_teachers.pdf Superintendent's Memo, August 2, 2013 http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2013/201-13.shtml

RECOMMENDATION

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

Virginia's requirement falls short by failing to require that evidence of student learning be the most significant criterion. The state should either require a common evaluation instrument in which evidence of student learning is the most significant criterion, or it should specifically require that student learning be the preponderant criterion in local evaluation processes. This can be accomplished by requiring objective evidence to count for at least half of the evaluation score or through other scoring mechanisms, such as a matrix, that ensure that nothing affects the overall score more. Whether state or locally developed, a teacher should not be able to receive a satisfactory rating if found ineffective in the classroom.

Ensure that classroom observations specifically focus on and document the effectiveness of instruction.

Virginia should not only specifically require that its evaluations include classroom observations, but also the state should specifically articulate that these observations focus on effectiveness of instruction. The primary component of a classroom observation should be the quality of instruction, as measured by student time on task, student grasp or mastery of the lesson objective and efficient use of class time.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

| Do states consider | |
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| classroom effectiveness | |
| as part of teacher | |
| evaluations? | |
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| Figure 63 | REQURES THAT STUDENT ACHELENENT THAT STUDENT PREDONDERANT ROUDENT | Requires thet student achievement growth is a signal | Requires that student achievenes that student 'Significant's student without's ant's chowth is' | · explicit «mon – a Requires some objens of student (a.s. the objens | evidence |
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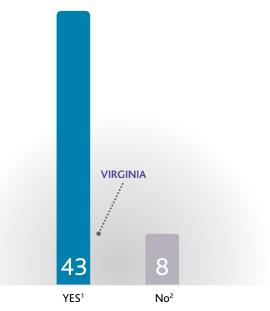
1. The state has an ESEA waiver requiring an evaluation system that includes student achievement as a significant factor. However, no specific guidelines or policies have been articulated.

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

| Figure 64 | | | · / | ¹ Jpe of surpose | , pa | 1 |
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| <i>Is survey data used as part</i> | | | | | Sureys not specifie | Peg |
| of teacher evaluations? | 2 | 5 | , / | | ⁿ not _s | 1 |
| -, | Student surveys | Parent surveys | Peer surveys | Surve | not p | |
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Figure 65

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



 Strong Practice: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Despectivenza, Bhade Island, Scuth Carolina, Chio, Scuth Torgescander, 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

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

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

2. Explicitly allowed but not required.

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

T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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| Figure 66 | | Contract and contract of the c | District-designed evaluation Sostem consistent with state hame work criteria with state |
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| teachers should be | | te ev. Possij | d ev in w ia |
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1. New Hampshire is in the process of developing a state model/criteria for teacher evaluations.

| igure 67 | | / | / | HERS |
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| What requirements have | MULTPLE EVALUATOR | EVALUATOR TRAIL | FULUATORS MUST RE | EVALUATOR CENTRICATER |
| tates established for | 5 | | NIN ISA | THIC THUE |
| evaluators? | 1/4/1 | Nel 1 | Rey Res | EF. |
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Maryland requires multiple observers for ineffective teachers.
 Multiple evaluators are explicitly allowed but not required.

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 68

How States are Faring in Frequency of Evaluations **Best Practice States** 0 12 States Meet Goal Alabama, Delaware 🕇 , Hawaii 🕇 , Idaho, Mississippi¹, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington 15 States Nearly Meet Goal Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut 1, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana¹, New Mexico¹, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah, West Virginia¹, Wisconsin¹, Wyoming 8 States Partly Meet Goal Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, South Carolina States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa¹, Maine¹, VIRGINIA¹ 11 States Do Not Meet Goal California, District of Columbia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont Progress on this Goal Since 2011: 1:11 😝 : 38 J:2

3-C Analysis: Virginia

State Meets a Small Part of Goal (Progress Since 2011)

ANALYSIS

Regrettably, Virginia does not ensure that all teachers are evaluated annually.

Nonprobationary teachers must be formally evaluated at least once every three years and more often if deemed necessary by the principal. They must be informally evaluated during each year in which they are not formally evaluated. However, neither the statute nor the framework defines an informal evaluation.

Any nonprobationary teacher who receives an unsatisfactory formal evaluation and who continues to be employed by the local school board must be formally evaluated the following year.

Probationary teachers must be evaluated annually. A teacher in the first year of the probationary period must be informally evaluated at least once during the first semester of the school year.

 Supporting Research

 HB 2151 (2013)

 Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers

 http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance_evaluation/guidelines_ups_eval_criteria_teachers.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Require annual formal evaluations for all teachers.

All teachers in Virginia should be evaluated annually. Rather than treated as mere formalities, these teacher evaluations should serve as important tools for rewarding good teachers, helping average teachers improve and holding weak teachers accountable for poor performance.

Base evaluations on multiple observations.

To guarantee that annual evaluations are based on an adequate collection of information, Virginia should require multiple observations for all teachers, even those who have nonprobationary status.

Ensure that new teachers are observed and receive feedback early in the school year.

It is critical that schools and districts closely monitor the performance of new teachers. Virginia should ensure that its new teachers get the support they need, and that supervisors know early on which new teachers may be struggling or at risk for unacceptable levels of performance. The state's policy regarding teachers in their first year of the probationary period is a step in the right direction, but Virginia should consider early feedback and support for the first few years that a teacher is in the classroom.

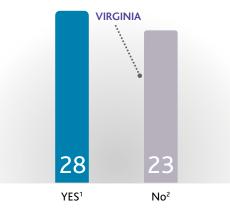
VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia asserted that teachers are evaluated annually because informal evaluations are required during the years they are not formally evaluated.

LAST WORD

Without annual formal evaluations, the state cannot ensure that teachers will receive adequate feedback to help them improve and be held accountable for ineffective performance.

Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



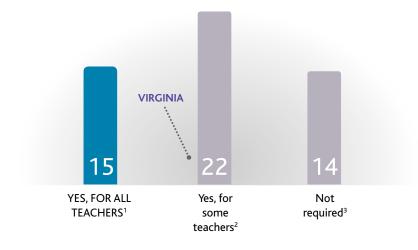
- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland³, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West Virginia,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

Figure 70

| Figure 70 | | ANNUAL EFALUATION OF ALL PROBATIONARY TEACHERS |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Do states require districts | NO. | |
| to evaluate all teachers | IN THE | N4R) |
| each year? | ELA | ATO |
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| | 28 | 44 |
| | | |

Figure 71

Do states require multiple classroom observations?



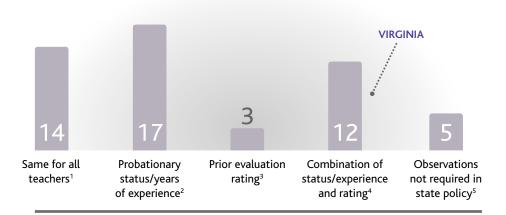
1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington

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

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

Figure 72

What is the determining factor for frequency of observations?



1. Alabama, District of 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

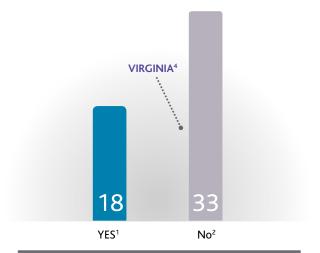
- 3. Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio
- 4. Arizona⁹, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts⁷, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas⁷, Virginia⁷, Wisconsin⁷
- 5. Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming
- 6. Depends on LEA requirements.
- 7. Frequency is based on evaluation cycle, not year.
- 8. No observations required after year 5.
- 9. Second observation may be waived for tenured teachers with high performance on first observation.

T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 73

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



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota³, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia
- Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia⁴, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. New teachers must be evaluated early in the year; observations not explicit.
- 4. Teachers in their first year are informally evaluated early in the year.

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

Goal D – Tenure

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 74 How States are Faring in Tenure **Best Practice States** 2 Connecticut¹, Michigan 3 States Meet Goal Colorado, Florida, Louisiana 1 States Nearly Meet Goal 7 Delaware, Hawaii 1, Nevada, New Jersey 1, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee 7 States Partly Meet Goal Arizona¹, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina¹, VIRGINIA¹ States Meet a Small Part of Goal 7 Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio, Washington 25 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming **Progress on this Goal Since 2011:** 1:7 👄 : 44 🦊 : O

3-D Analysis: Virginia

State Partly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Virginia could do more to connect tenure decisions to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Teachers in Virginia are awarded tenure after a three-year probationary period. However, if the teacher's performance evaluation during the probationary period is not satisfactory, the school board must not reemploy the teacher. At the option of the local school board, the probationary period may be extended up to five years in the same school division.

Because Virginia's teacher evaluation ratings are not centered primarily on evidence of student learning (see Goal 3-B), basing tenure decisions on these evaluation ratings ensures that classroom effectiveness is considered, but it does not ensure that it is the preponderant criterion.

Supporting Research HB 2151 (2013) Virginia Code 22.1-303

RECOMMENDATION

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

Virginia should require a clear process, such as a hearing, to ensure that the local district reviews a teacher's performance before making a determination regarding tenure. The state should also strengthen its policy to explicitly link its tenure policy to the earning of effective ratings as part of its teacher evaluation system.

Require a longer probationary period.

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

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis. The state asserted that effective July 1, 2013, a probationary term of service of at least three years and, at the option of the local school board, up to five years in the same school division is required before a teacher is issued a continuing contract.

| Figure 75 | | / | / | / | / | / | / |
|--|-----------|-------------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------|--|
| <i>How long before a teacher earns tenure?</i> | | | | | | | STATE ONLY A WARDS ANNUAL CONTRACTS |
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| | 1 | 1 | 4 | 32 | 4 | 6 | 3 |

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

T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

| Figure 76 | EVDENCE OF STUDENT REPONDED THE PREPONDED THE | 3 | / |
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1. Florida only awards annual contracts.

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

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

Goal E – Licensure Advancement

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



3-E Analysis: Virginia

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

In Virginia, new teachers apply for the initial Collegiate Professional license, which is valid for five years and can be renewed. The requirement for renewal is completion of 180 professional development points based on an individualized professional development plan. Points can be accrued from one or more of the following options: college credit, professional conference, curriculum development, publishing an article or book, mentorship/supervision, an educational project and employing educational agency professional development activity. A minimum of 90 points (three semester hours in a content area) in the license holder's endorsement area or areas is required of license holders without a master's degree and may be satisfied at the undergraduate (two-year or four-year institution) or graduate level.

The state also offers the option of a Postgraduate Professional license for teachers holding a graduate (master's or doctorate) degree.

Virginia does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Virginia teachers must renew their licenses every five years by obtaining 180 professional development points in the validity period. For applicants without a master's degree, 90 of these points must be graduate credits from an accredited master's program.

Supporting Research

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/renewal_glance.pdf http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure

RECOMMENDATION

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

Virginia should require evidence of teacher effectiveness to be a factor in determining whether teachers can renew their licenses or advance to a higher-level license.

Discontinue licensure requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

While targeted requirements may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Virginia's menu of general, nonspecific professional development requirements for license renewal merely calls for teachers to complete a certain amount of seat time. These requirements do not correlate with teacher effectiveness.

End requirement tying teacher advanced degrees to licensure advancement.

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

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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

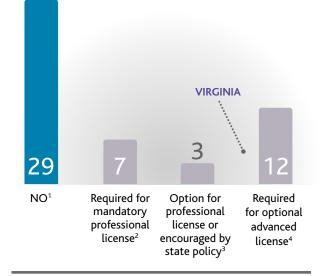
2. Illinois allows revocation of licenses based on ineffectiveness.

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

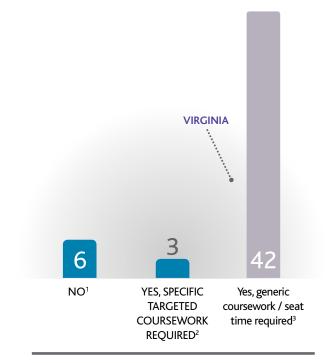
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?

Figure 80

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

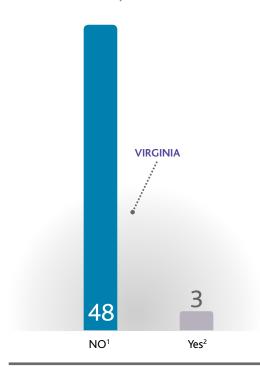


- Strong Practice: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont,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



- 1. Strong Practice: Hawaii, Louisiana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Tennessee
- 2. Strong Practice: California, Georgia, Minnesota
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina⁴, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyorning
- 4. Some required coursework is targeted.

Do states award lifetime licenses?



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

T EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

Goal F – Equitable Distribution

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

Goal Components

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Background

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

Figure 82



3-F Analysis: Virginia

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. Virginia reports little school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

Virginia 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. Virginia 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.

Virginia does report on the percentage of highly qualified teachers. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. The state is also commended for comparing the percentage of highly qualified teachers at high- and low-poverty schools. Virginia's Equity Plan, updated annually since 2009, includes recent data about years of teaching experience.

Supporting Research

2012-2013 Virginia School Report Card https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/reportcard/report.do?division=29&schooName=1298 An Update to Virginia's Equity Plan 2012 http://www.doe.virginia.gov/federal_programs/esea/title2/part_a/reports/update_equity_plan_2012.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

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

Publish other data that facilitate comparisons across schools.

Virginia 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.

As Virginia does with highly qualified teachers, 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.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

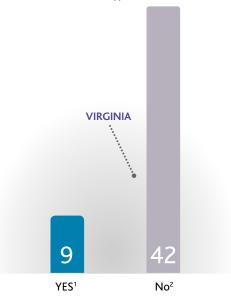
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T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 84

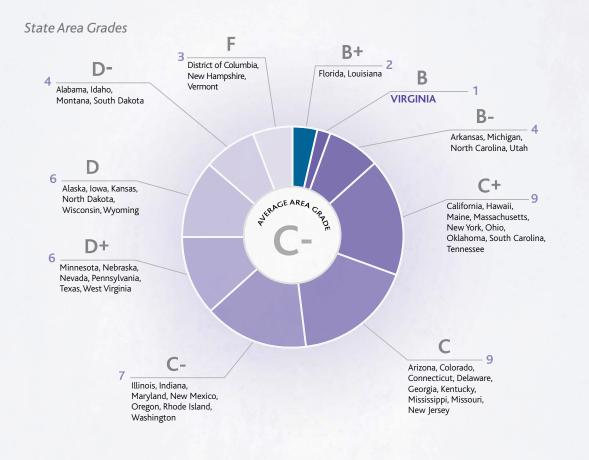
Do states publicly report school-level data about teacher effectiveness?



- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas³, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts⁴, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania
- 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-B: Professional Development
- 4-C: Pay Scales

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

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Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal A − Induction

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

Goal Components

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

- 1. The state should ensure that new teachers receive mentoring of sufficient frequency and duration, especially in the first critical weeks of school.
- 2. Mentors should be carefully selected based on evidence of their own classroom effectiveness and subject-matter expertise. Mentors should be trained, and their performance as mentors should be evaluated.
- 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

Figure 85

How States are Faring in Induction Best Practice State 1 South Carolina 10 States Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Hawaii 1, Illinois 1, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, VIRGINIA1 15 States Nearly Meet Goal California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota¹, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Utah 11 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin States Meet a Small Part of Goal Florida, Idaho, Montana 1, Texas 10 States Do Not Meet Goal District of Columbia, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: ↓:1 1:5 •:45

4-A Analysis: Virginia



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Virginia requires that all new teachers receive mentoring. For the first year of employment, new teachers must be assigned a mentor by local district administration "to assist...in achieving excellence in instruction."

Local school boards must develop criteria for the selection of mentors, including but not limited to: having achieved continuing status and work in the same building as the new teachers. All mentors must successfully complete a training program. Mentors and teachers are granted release time to take part in mentoring activities, and the observation of the new teacher in the classroom is mandatory. New teachers are given a reduced teaching load and limited nonteaching duties. Both the mentor program and the participants are evaluated by each district. Mentors receive stipends, the amount of which is left to the discretion of each district.

Supporting Research

Virginia Code 22.1-305.1 Guidelines for Mentor Teacher Program http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/career_resources/mentor/program_creation_guidelines.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Expand guidelines to include other key areas.

While still leaving districts flexibility, Virginia should articulate minimum guidelines for a high-quality induction experience. The state should require a timeline in which mentors are assigned to all new teachers, ideally soon after the commencing of teaching, to offer support during those first critical weeks of school. It should also require mentors to be trained in a content area or grade level similar to new teachers.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

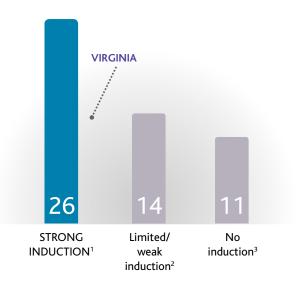
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T EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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?



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

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

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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal B – Professional Development

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 88

How States are Faring in Professional Development



4-B Analysis: Virginia



ANALYSIS

Virginia's new evaluation system requires feedback after formal observations in written form as well as a conference between evaluator and teacher. Teacher evaluations must include "identification of areas of individual strengths and weaknesses and recommendations for appropriate professional activities." Teachers rated developing/needs improvement or unacceptable are placed on a performance improvement plan.

Supporting Research

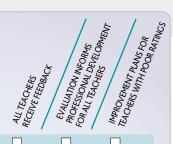
Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance_evaluation/guidelines_ups_eval_criteria_teachers.pdf Code of Virginia 22.1-253.13:5

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

Alabama

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



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

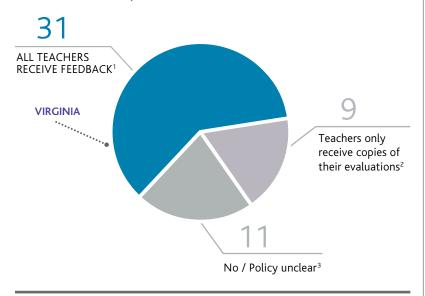
Louisiana and North Carolina require that teachers receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations and direct districts to connect professional development to teachers' identified needs. Both states also require that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement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

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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.

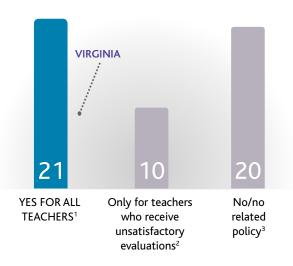
Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal C – Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 92



4-C Analysis: Virginia

State Partly Meets Goal 🛛 (Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Virginia does not address salary requirements, seemingly giving local districts the authority for pay scales and eliminating barriers such as state salary schedules and other regulations that control how districts pay teachers.

RECOMMENDATION

Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.

While still leaving districts the flexibility to establish their own pay scale, Virginia should articulate policies that definitively discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees, in light of the extensive research showing that such degrees do not have an impact on teacher effectiveness.

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

Similarly, Virginia should articulate policies that discourage districts from determining the highest steps on the pay scale solely by seniority.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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DULE

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

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

| Figure 94 | | PROHIBITS ADDITION | Leaves Pay to dist. | - / |
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1. For advanced degrees earned after April 2014.

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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal D – Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

Goal Component

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

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

Background

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

Figure 95 How States are Faring in Compensation for Prior Work Experience **Best Practice State** North Carolina State Meets Goal California State Nearly Meets Goal Louisiana States Partly Meet Goal Delaware, Georgia, Texas, Washington State Meets a Small Part of Goal 1 Hawaii **43** States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, VIRGINIA, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: **!**:0 + : 50 1:1

4-D Analysis: Virginia

State Does Not Meet Goal 🛛 (🚍) Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

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, Virginia should encourage districts to incorporate mechanisms such as starting these teachers at a higher salary than other new teachers. Such policies would be attractive to career changers with related work experience, such as in the STEM subjects.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

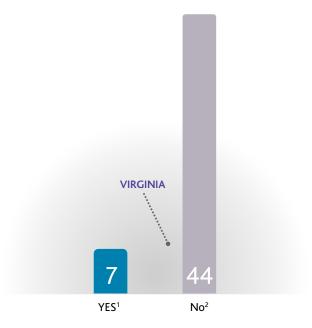
Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

T EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 96

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



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

2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii², Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal E – Differential Pay

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 97

How States are Faring in Differential Pay



19 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Rhode Island, West Virginia

Progress on this Goal Since 2011:

1:3 ↔:46 ↓:2

4-E Analysis: Virginia



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Virginia offers incentives earned to teach certain subjects. As part of its Middle School Teachers Corps, the state provides incentives for experienced middle school math teachers to teach in schools designated as "at-risk in mathematics." In addition, each year the state releases the top 10 "critical shortage teaching areas." It uses this list to determine candidate eligibility for its scholarship loan program, which offers loan repayment for teachers in subject-shortage areas. During the 2014 school year, the state will have a pilot program to provide incentives to middle and high schools teachers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Virginia also supports differential pay for those teaching in high-need schools. The state encourages local school boards to offer teachers in hard-to-staff, low-income schools incentives such as "increased compensation, improved retirement benefits...increased deferred compensation...relocation expenses, bonuses and other incentives as may be determined by the board."

In addition, Virginia has established a Strategic Compensation Grant Initiative to award incentive payments to teachers. Local school divisions may submit proposals to apply for a competitive grant process. Proposals may include pay incentives to effective teachers with essential expertise who are willing to transfer to hard-to-staff positions or low-performing schools or to reward effective teachers who are assigned to teach in critical shortages areas.

Teachers who are National Board Certified are eligible to receive an initial award of \$5,000, with subsequent awards of \$2,500. However, this type of differential pay is not tied to high-need schools or subject-area shortages.

Supporting Research

Virginia Code 22.1-199.1; 22.1-290.01; 22.1-318.1; 318.2 Virginia Middle School Teachers Corps http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/career_resources/middle_teacher_corps/index.shtml Virginia Critical Shortage Areas http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/workforce_data/shortage_areas/2012-2013.pdf Virginia Guidelines for Distributing National Board Certification Incentive Awards http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/guidelines_distributing_nbct_awards.pdf STEM Teacher Recruitment and Retention Incentive Awards http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2013/169-13.shtml

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

| Figure 98 | | HIGH NEED SCHOOLS | / | SHORTAGE SUBJECT | . / |
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 Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in subject shortage areas.

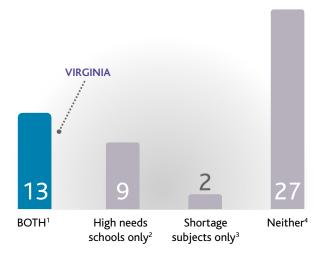
2. South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in high-need schools.

T EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 99

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



 Strong Practice: Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia

2. Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, North Carolina, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

3. Pennsylvania, Utah

^{4.} Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal F – Performance Pay

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 100

How States are Faring in Performance Pay **Best Practice States** 2 Florida. Indiana **16** States Meet Goal Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Hawaii1, Louisiana¹, Maine¹, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi¹, New York¹, Ohio¹, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah State Nearly Meets Goal California 5 States Partly Meet Goal Kentucky, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, VIRGINIA State Meets a Small Part of Goal Nebraska 26 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: **⇒**:42 4:3 1:6

4-F Analysis: Virginia

State Partly Meets Goal 🛛 (🔁 Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Virginia supports performance pay. The purpose of the Strategic Compensation Grant Initiative is to award incentive payments to teachers. Local school divisions may submit proposals to apply for a competitive grant. Proposals may include plans to reward teachers for significant student academic progress, assuming additional responsibilities, and pay incentives for a hard-to-staff position or a critical-shortage area.

Supporting Research Virginia Code 22.1-318.1; 318.2

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that performance pay is connected to student achievement.

Although Virginia is commended for recognizing performance pay, it should guarantee a connection to student achievement and prevent local districts from basing financial incentives solely on elements not indicative of performance in the classroom.

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Virginia asserted that it has two incentive programs based on performance, and teachers must meet performance requirements to be eligible for these payments. The 2013 Virginia General Assembly established the Strategic Compensation Grant Initiative for the purpose of awarding incentive payments to teachers. Also, the Virginia General Assembly appropriated funds to provide recruitment and retention incentives to teachers in STEM areas.

Supporting Research

http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?000+cod+22.1-318.2. http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2013/169-13.shtml

| Figure 101 | ÇED | / 5 | <i>s</i> , / ; | • / | ance | |
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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.

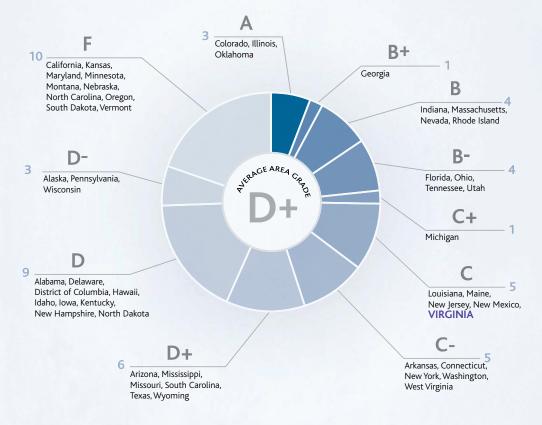
1. Nebraska's initiative does not go into effect until 2016.

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

Area 5 Summary



State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

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

REA 5 GR

RGINIA

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.)

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

Background

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

Figure 102 How States are Faring in Licensure Loopholes **Best Practice States** 4 Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, New Jersey 3 States Meet Goal Nevada, New Mexico, South Carolina 14 States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Iowa 1, Kentucky, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Utah, West Virginia 2 States Partly Meet Goal New York, Wyoming States Meet a Small Part of Goal 2 Michigan, Vermont 26 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, VIRGINIA, Washington, Wisconsin Progress on this Goal Since 2011: 1:1 👄 : 50 4:0

5-A Analysis: Virginia



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Virginia allows new teachers who have not passed required state licensing tests to teach up to three years on a Provisional License. This license is nonrenewable and requires candidates to hold an undergraduate degree. Individuals must complete all requirements for a full license within the validity period of the license.

Supporting Research

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/licensure_regs.pdf

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. Protecting the most disadvantaged children from being in classrooms with teachers who have not passed licensure tests is a step in the right direction, though it appears that this policy is not in effect in Virginia. The state should ensure that all teachers have passed their licensing tests—an important minimum benchmark for entering the profession—prior to 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. Virginia's current policy puts students at risk by allowing teachers to teach on emergency certificates for three years without passing required subject-matter licensing tests.

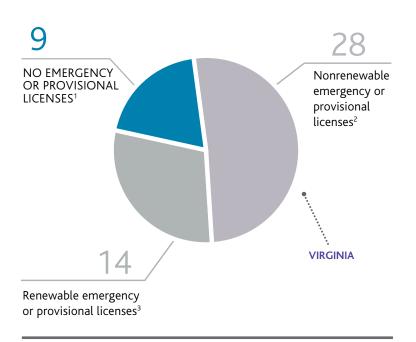
VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

| Figure 103 | | / | / | 8 |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|---|
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Do states still award emergency licenses?



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

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

Background

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

Figure 105



5-B Analysis: Virginia

State Partly Meets Goal
Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

New legislation in Virginia makes teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal. A teacher may be dismissed for incompetence, and incompetence is defined as "consistent failure to meet the endorsement requirements for the position or one or more unsatisfactory performance evaluations." However, the state 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 "incompetency, immorality, noncompliance with school laws and regulations, disability as shown by competent medical evidence when in compliance with federal law, conviction of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude or other good and just cause."

Tenured teachers who are terminated have at least one opportunity to appeal. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher may, within five days, request a hearing, which must take place within 15 days. The decision must then be rendered within 30 days. The teacher may file an additional appeal with the appellate court within 10 days. The appellate court must hear the appeal within 10 days of receipt of the request for an appeal.

Supporting Research Virginia Code 22.1-307; 309; 311; 313; 314

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

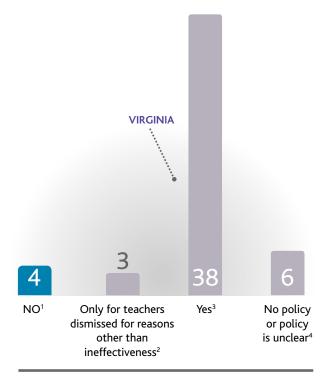
| Figure 106 | YES THROUCH DISM. | Ì Ì |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------|
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T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



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

- 2. Teachers in these states revert to probationary status following ineffective evaluation ratings, meaning that they no longer have the due process right to multiple appeals: Colorado, Indiana, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. District of Columbia, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada⁵, Utah, Vermont
- Though a teacher returns to probationary status after two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations, Nevada does not articulate clear policy about its appeals process.

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal C – Reductions in Force

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

Goal Component

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

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

Background

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

Figure 108





ANALYSIS

New legislation in Virginia requires that a district's reduction in force decisions "shall not be made solely on the basis of seniority but must include consideration of, among other things, the performance evaluations of the teachers potentially affected by the reduction in workforce."

Supporting Research Code of Virginia 22.1-304

VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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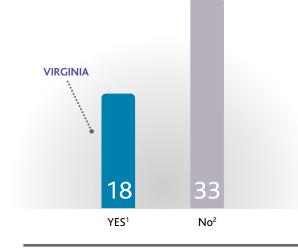
22

Wisconsin

Wyoming

Figure 109

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



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

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

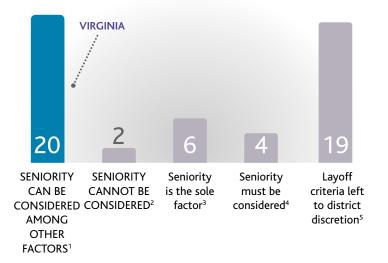
3. Tenure is considered first.

T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 111

Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?



 Strong Practice: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, 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 grade-level 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 |
| 4-B: Professional Development | The state should ensure that teachers receive feedback about their performance and should require professional development to be based on needs identified through teacher evaluations. | feedback from observations/evaluations, professional development linked to evaluations results, improvement plans |
| 4-C: Pay Scales | The state should give local districts authority over pay scales. | teacher compensation, salary schedules, pay scales, steps and lanes, advanced degrees, years of experience, teacher performance |
| 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 schools |
| 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 Virginia

| | AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers | |
|----|--|---------|
| | Specifically require secondary social studies to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach. | Goal 1- |
| | Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and ensure that both elementary and secondary special education teachers possess adequate and appropriate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach. | Goal 1- |
| | Require all new teachers to pass a pedagogy test. | Goal 1- |
| | Ensure that cooperating teachers for student teaching placements have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning, and require teacher candidates to spend at least 10 weeks student teaching. | Goal 1- |
| | Hold teacher preparation programs accountable by collecting data that connect student achievement gains to programs, as well as other meaningful data that reflect program performance, and by establishing the minimum standard of performance for each category of data. | Goal 1- |
| 15 | | |
| | AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool | |
| | Increase admission requirements to alternate route programs, including a high bar for academic proficiency for all programs. | Goal 2- |
| | Ensure that all alternate route programs provide preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers as well as intensive induction support to alternate route teachers. | Goal 2- |
| | Require out-of-state teachers to meet the state's own testing requirements. | Goal 2- |
| | | a Rost |
| | AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers | |
| | Formally evaluate all teachers annually. | Goal 3- |
| | Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions. | Goal 3- |
| 28 | | |
| | AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers | |
| | Discourage districts from basing teacher pay scales primarily on advanced degrees and seniority. | Goal 4- |
| | Ensure that performance pay initiative rewards teachers for effectiveness as measured by student achievement. | Goal 4- |
| | | 新原始 |
| | AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers | |
| | Ensure that all teachers pass required subject-matter licensing tests before they enter the classroom. | Goal 5- |
| | | |



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

> Sandi Jacobs Vice President sjacobs@nctq.org 202-393-0020