# 2013 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Wyoming





### Acknowledgments

### **STATES**

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

#### **FUNDERS**

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### **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.

### Wyoming at a Glance



### Overall 2013 Yearbook Grade

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: D

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

Goal Breakdown	2013
★ Best Practice	0
Fully Meets	0
Nearly Meets	2
Partially Meets	7
Meets Only a Small Part	4
O Does Not Meet	18

	Progress on Goals Since 2011	
•	Progress has increased	1
<b>(2)</b>	No change in progress	30
•	Progress has decreased	0

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

# How is **Wyoming** Faring?

ion into Teacher Preparation		Page 5
tary Teacher Preparation  Preparation in Reading Instruction Preparation in Mathematics School Teacher Preparation  ary Teacher Preparation	Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science Special Education Teacher Preparation Assessing Professional Knowledge Student Teaching Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	
Weaknesses		
ademic proficiency as a criterion for admission to acher preparation programs.  ementary teacher candidates are not required pass a content test with individually scored btests in each of the core content areas, including athematics.  ementary teacher candidates are not required to ass a science of reading test to ensure knowledge effective reading instruction, and preparation orgams are not required to address this critical pic.  though middle school teachers may not teach on a 8 generalist license, not all candidates must pass a ngle-subject content test.	<ul> <li>The state offers a K-12 special educat and does not require any content test education teacher candidates.</li> <li>Only elementary and alternate route required to pass a pedagogy test.</li> <li>Requirements for teacher preparation high-quality student teaching experies</li> <li>The teacher preparation program approached approached to the teachers they produce.</li> </ul>	teachers are do not ensure nce. roval process
		Page 51
2: Expanding the Pool of Teach	iers l	480 31
2: Expanding the Pool of Teach te Route Eligibility te Route Preparation	Part-Time Teaching Licenses Licensure Reciprocity	
te Route Eligibility	Part-Time Teaching Licenses	
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te Route Eligibility  te Route Preparation  te Route Usage and Providers	Part-Time Teaching Licenses	

# How is **Wyoming** Faring?

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teacher	s Page 71
State Data Systems  Evaluation of Effectiveness	Tenure Licensure Advancement
Frequency of Evaluations	Equitable Distribution
Policy Strengths	
■ The state has established a data system with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness and has taken other meaningful steps to maximize the system's efficiency and potential.	All teachers must be evaluated annually.
Policy Weaknesses	
Objective evidence of student learning is not the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.	<ul> <li>Licensure advancement and renewal are not based on teacher effectiveness.</li> </ul>
Tenure decisions are not connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness.	No school-level data are reported that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.
Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	Page 101
nduction	Compensation for Prior Work Experience
Professional Development	Differential Pay
Pay Scales	Performance Pay
Policy Strengths	
Teachers receive feedback from their evaluations, and professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.	salary schedules solely on years of experience and advanced degrees.
<ul> <li>Districts are given full authority for how teachers are paid, although they are not discouraged from basing</li> </ul>	Teachers can receive additional compensation for working in high-need schools.
Policy Weaknesses	
All new teachers do not receive mentoring or other induction support.	<ul> <li>Teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations are not placed on structured improvement plans.</li> <li>The state does not support performance pay or additional compensation for relevant prior work experience or teaching in shortage subject areas.</li> </ul>
Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers	Page 125
Extended Emergency Licenses  Dismissal for Poor Performance	Reductions in Force
Policy Weaknesses	
i oney weakinesses	■ Performance is not considered in determining which
■ The state could do more to ensure teachers' subject-	Dartarmanca is not considered in determining which

Figure A	Overall State Grade 2013	Overall State Grade 2011	Overall State Grade 2009
Florida	B+	В	С
Louisiana	В	C-	C-
Rhode Island	В	B-	D
Tennessee	В	B-	C-
Arkansas	B-	С	C-
Connecticut	B-	C-	D+
Georgia	B-	С	C-
Indiana	B-	C+	D
Massachusetts	B-	С	D+
Michigan	B-	C+	D-
New Jersey	B-	D+	D+
New York	B-	С	D+
Ohio	B-	C+	D+
Oklahoma	B-	B-	D+
Colorado	C+	С	D+
Delaware	C+	С	D
Illinois	C+	С	D+
Virginia	C+	D+	D+
Kentucky	С	D+	D+
Mississippi	С	D+	D+
North Carolina	С	D+	D+
Utah	С	C-	D
Alabama	C-	C-	C-
Arizona	C-	D+	D+
Maine	C-	D-	F
Minnesota	C-	C-	D-
Missouri	C-	D	D
Nevada	C-	C-	D-
Pennsylvania	C-	D+	D
South Carolina	C-	C-	C-
Texas	C-	C-	C-
Washington	C-	C-	D+
West Virginia	C-	D+	D+
California	D+	D+	D+
District of Columbia	D+	D	D-
Hawaii	D+	D-	D-
Idaho	D+	D+	D-
Maryland	D+	D+	D
New Mexico	D+	D+	D+
Wisconsin	D+	D	D
Alaska	D	D	D
lowa	D	D	D
Kansas	D	D	D-
New Hampshire	D	D-	D-
North Dakota	D	D	D-
Oregon	D	D-	D-
WYOMING	D	D	D-
Nebraska	D-	D-	D-
South Dakota	D-	D	D
Vermont	D-	D-	F
	F	F	F

### How to Read the Yearbook

### **GOAL SCORE**

The extent to which each goal has been met:



**Best Practice** 



**Fully Meets** 



**Nearly Meets** 



**Partially Meets** 



Meets Only a Small Part



**Does Not Meet** 

### **PROGRESS INDICATOR**

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



Goal progress has increased since 2011



Goal progress has decreased since 2011



Goal progress has remained the same since 2011

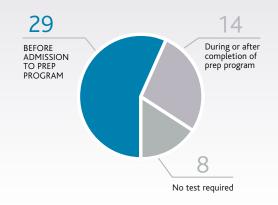
### BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



Indicates the criteria to meet the goal have been raised since the 2011 Yearbook.

#### **READING CHARTS AND TABLES:**

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

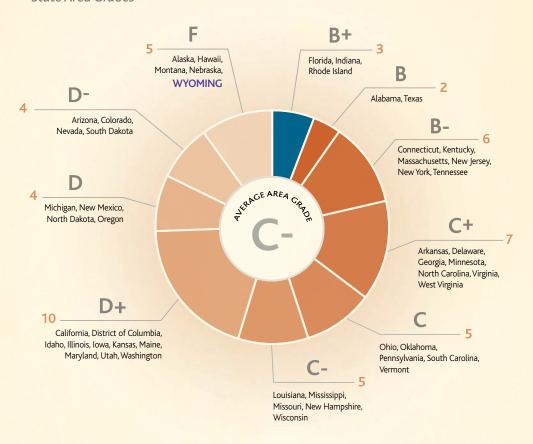


# **Area 1 Summary**



# How States are Faring on Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

State Area Grades



### Topics Included In This Area

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

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

### Goal A – Admission into Teacher Preparation

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

### Goal Components

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

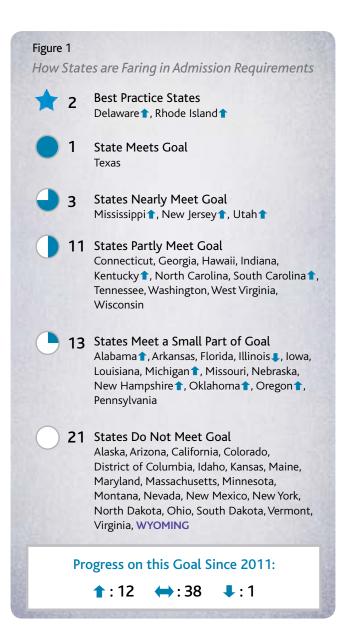
- 1. The state should require teacher candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- 2. All preparation programs in a state should use a common admissions test to facilitate program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



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

### Background

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



### 1-A Analysis: Wyoming







Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming does not require prospective teachers to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs or any time thereafter.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

 Require that teacher preparation programs screen candidates for academic proficiency prior to admission.

Teacher preparation programs that do not screen candidates invest considerable resources in individuals who may not be able to successfully complete the program and pass licensing tests. Candidates in need of additional support should complete remediation before entering the program to avoid the possibility of an unsuccessful investment of significant public tax dollars. Wyoming should require candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, mathematics and writing prior to program admission.

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

Wyoming 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, Wyoming 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.

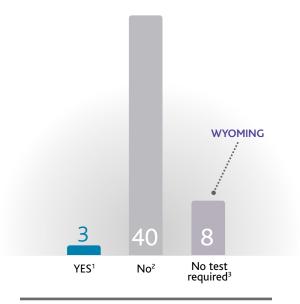
#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

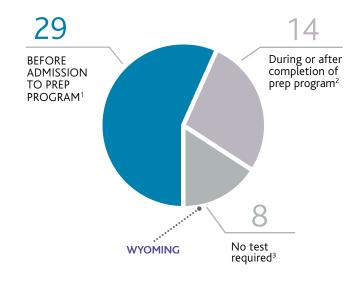
For admission to teacher preparation programs, Rhode Island and Delaware require a test of academic proficiency normed to the general collegebound population rather than a test that is normed just to prospective teachers. Delaware also requires teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or be in the top 50th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

Figure 2 Do states require an assessment of academic proficiency that is normed to the general college-going population?



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

Figure 3 When do states test teacher candidates' academic proficiency?



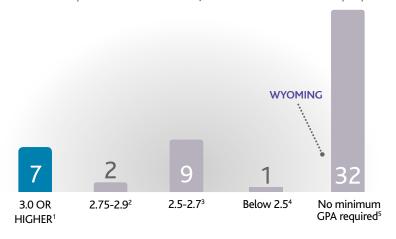
- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington,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

Figure 4		Test nomed to teach	Son to prep pogram	We text textiles of the service of t
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WYOMING				
	3	26	14	8

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

Figure 5

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



- 1. Strong Practice: Delaware, Mississippi<sup>6</sup>, New Jersey<sup>6</sup>, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, Pennsylvania<sup>8</sup>, Rhode Island<sup>6</sup>, Utah
- 2. Kentucky, Texas
- 3. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut<sup>9</sup>, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wisconsin<sup>10</sup>
- 4. Louisiana
- 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.
- Students can also be admitted with a combination of a 2.8 GPA and qualifying scores on the basic skills test or SAT/ACT.
- 9. Connecticut requires a B- grade point average for all undergraduate courses.
- 10. The GPA admission requirement is 2.5 for undergraduate and 2.75 for graduate programs.

### Goal B − Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

### Background

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



### 1-B Analysis: Wyoming







#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming has adopted the Common Core State Standards, which represent an effort to significantly raise the standards for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness. However, the state does not ensure that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with these standards.

Wyoming requires candidates to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment test, which, unfortunately, not only combines content with a pedagogy assessment but also does not report teacher performance in each subject area, meaning that it is possible to pass the test and still fail some subject areas, especially given the state's low passing score for the test. Further, based on available information on the Praxis II, there is no reason to expect that the current version required by Wyoming would be well aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

Wyoming's early childhood education certification, which allows teachers to teach up through grade 3, does not require candidates to pass a content test.

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

### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Test Requirement www.ets.org PTSB Rules and Regulations, Chapters 2, 3 and 4

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

 Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure sufficient content knowledge of all subjects.

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

Wyoming is urged to require all early childhood education teacher candidates who teach elementary grades to pass an appropriate test, either the same test as other elementary teachers or a comparably rigorous one geared to early childhood content. It is especially worrisome that the state allows teachers up through grade 3 to teach without ever having passed a content test.

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

Wyoming should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish more comprehensive coursework requirements for elementary teacher candidates that align with the Common Core State Standards to ensure that candidates will complete coursework relevant to the common topics in elementary grades. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours in the core subject areas of English, science, social studies and fine arts. In addition, Wyoming does not specify any coursework requirements for general education or elementary teacher candidates, except that all teachers must complete coursework on the U.S. and Wyoming constitutions. Wyoming has adopted NCATE/CAEP's Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) standards for approving its elementary programs. However, ACEI standards fall far short of the mark by offering no mention of world and American history; world, British and American literature; American government; or grammar and composition. ACEI standards do mention important topics in science, but even in those areas, the standards consist mainly of extremely general competencies that programs should help teacher candidates to achieve.

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

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

### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 7	EEMENTARY CONTENT  SCORE FOR E. SPARKT	Stementary Content tecs	Upers & score for With Elementary content to	with /
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West Virginia				
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WYOMING				



### **TOTAL STATE 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.

<sup>3.</sup> Massachusetts and North Carolina require a general curriculum test that does not report scores for each elementary subject. A separate score is

<sup>4.</sup> Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass content test.

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These states do not offer a standalone early childhood certification that includes elementary grades or the state's early childhood certification is the de facto license to teach elementary grades.
 May pass either multiple subjects (subscores) or content knowledge (no subscores) test.

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

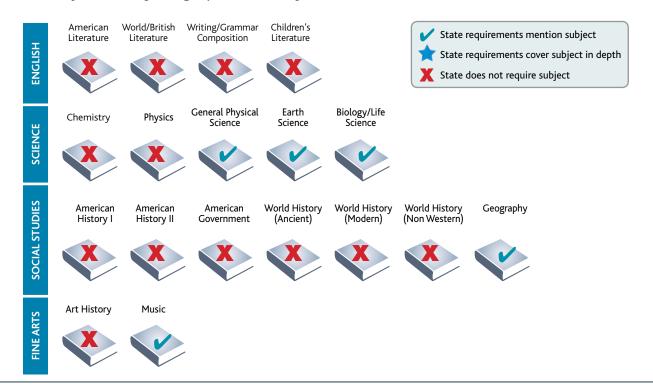
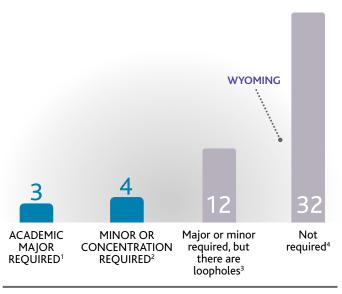


Figure 11

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



- 1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico
- 2. Strong Practice: Indiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Oklahoma
- 3. California, Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia
  - These states require a major, minor or concentration but there is no assurance it will be in an academic subject area.
- 4. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

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

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

### Background

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



### 1-C Analysis: Wyoming







### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming does not require teacher candidates to pass an assessment that measures knowledge of scientifically based reading instruction prior to certification or at any point thereafter.

Wyoming also does not require that teacher preparation programs for elementary teacher candidates address the science of reading. The state has neither coursework requirements nor standards related to this critical area.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require all teacher candidates who teach elementary grades to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.

Wyoming should require a rigorous reading assessment tool to ensure that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared in the science of reading instruction before entering the classroom. The assessment should clearly test knowledge and skills related to the science of reading, and address all five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. If the test is combined with an assessment that also tests general pedagogy or elementary content, it should report a subscore for the science of reading specifically. Elementary teachers who do not possess the minimum knowledge in this area should not be eligible for licensure.

Wyoming should also require all early childhood education teacher candidates who teach elementary grades to pass a rigorous assessment to ensure that they are adequately prepared in the science of reading instruction before entering the classroom.

■ Ensure that teacher preparation programs prepare elementary teaching candidates in the science of reading instruction.

Wyoming should require teacher preparation programs in the state to train candidates in scientifically based reading instruction.

### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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### **TOTAL SOLUTION** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

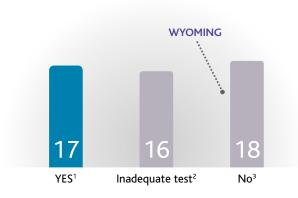
Fifteen states meet this goal by requiring that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Independent reviews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

<sup>1.</sup> Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum.

<sup>2.</sup> Teachers have until their second year to pass the reading test.

Figure 14

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

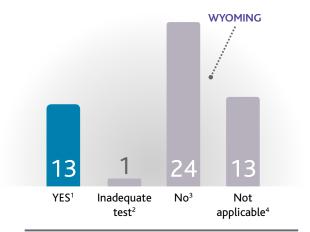


- Strong Practice: Alabama<sup>4</sup>, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia,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

Figure 15

Do states measure knowledge of the science of

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



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

### Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

### Background

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



### 1-D Analysis: Wyoming



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





### **ANALYSIS**

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

Wyoming's early childhood education teachers, who are allowed to teach through grade 3, are not required to pass a content test.

Wyoming also relies on NCATE/CAEP standards, suggesting that it uses Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) standards for approving its elementary programs. ACEI standards address content in mathematics foundations, but these standards lack the specificity needed to ensure that teacher preparation programs deliver other mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates.

### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Test Requirement

ww.ets.org

PTSB Rules and Regulations, Chapter 4 http://ptsb.state.wy.us/Home/NoticeofIntenttoAdoptRulesandRegulations/ tabid/184/Default.aspx

www.acei.org

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

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

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

### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

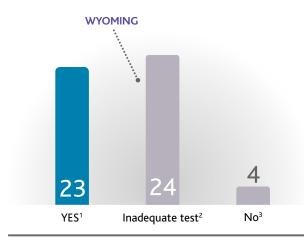


### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

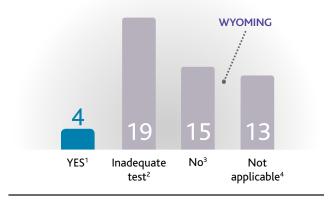
Figure 17

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas<sup>4</sup>, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia
- Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Alaska<sup>5</sup>, Hawaii, Montana, Ohio<sup>6</sup>
- 4. Test is not yet available for review.
- 5. Testing is not required for initial licensure.
- 6. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass an adequate content test.

Figure 18
Do states measure knowledge of math of early childhood teachers who can teach elementary grades?



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

### → Goal E — Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 1-E Analysis: Wyoming



State Meets a Small Part Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming requires a middle-level (grades 5-8) endorsement for middle school teachers. Candidates are not required to earn a major or minor in a subject area.

Regrettably, only new middle school teachers in Wyoming who have not acquired certification through a traditional route must pass a single-subject Praxis II content test to attain licensure. In these cases, a general content knowledge test is not an option.

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

### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Test Requirement
www.ets.org
PTSB Rules and Regulations, Chapters 3 and 4

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require content testing in all core areas.

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

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

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

■ Close the loophole that allows teachers to add elementary grade levels to an existing license without demonstrating content knowledge.

Wyoming allows teachers to add new grade levels to certificates through institutional recommendation, without having to pass a content test. The state is urged to require that all teachers who add the middle grade levels to their certificates pass a rigorous subject-matter test to ensure content knowledge of all subject areas before they are allowed in the classroom.

### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Wyoming asserted that it requires a middle-level endorsement in the specific, individual content areas, and that completion of a program in the content area that is verified with an institutional recommendation is required to acquire the endorsement. Wyoming also noted that veteran middle school teachers who hold the general middle school endorsement that is no longer issued in the state must pass content-specific tests to be highly qualified and to teach any of the content areas at the middle school level.

### **Supporting Research**

http://ptsb.state.wy.us/Licensure/EndorsementAreas/tabid/129/Default.aspx

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

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

<sup>1.</sup> Offers 1-8 license.

<sup>2.</sup> California offers a K-12 generalist license for all self-contained classrooms.

<sup>3.</sup> With the exception of mathematics.

<sup>4.</sup> Oregon offers 3-8 license.

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

### Goal F − Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 1-F Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal



( Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming does not require most secondary teachers to pass content tests. Only secondary comprehensive social studies teachers must pass a Praxis II content test.

These candidates are required to pass the Praxis II Social Studies content test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general social studies but rather can teach any of the topical areas. It also appears that the state offers endorsements in the specific subject areas of social studies, such as history, geography and political science; however, a content test is not required.

### Supporting Research

**Praxis Testing Requirements** www.ets.org

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

As a condition of licensure, Wyoming should require its secondary teacher candidates to pass a content test in each subject area they plan to teach to ensure that they possess adequate subjectmatter knowledge and are prepared to teach grade-level content.

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—Wyoming is not ensuring that its secondary teachers possess adequate subjectspecific 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.

Require subject-matter testing when adding subject-area endorsements.

Wyoming should require passing scores on subject-specific content tests, regardless of other coursework or degree requirements, for teachers who are licensed in core secondary subjects and wish to add another subject area, or endorsement, to their licenses. While coursework may be generally indicative of background in a particular subject area, only a subject-matter test ensures that teachers know the specific content they will need to teach.

### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



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

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

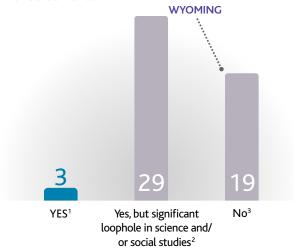
Figure 23 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



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

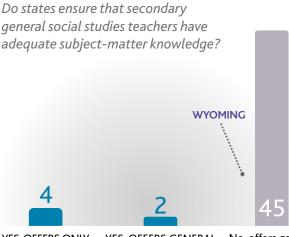
Figure 24

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



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

Figure 25



YES, OFFERS ONLY SINGLE SUBJECT SOCIAL STUDIES LICENSES<sup>1</sup> YES, OFFERS GENERAL No, offers general **SOCIAL STUDIES** LICENSE WITH ADEQUATE TESTING<sup>2</sup>

social studies license without adequate testing3

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

→ Goal G — Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science The state should ensure that secondary science teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach.

### Goal Components

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

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

### Background

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



### 1-G Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming does not offer an endorsement in general science for secondary teachers. However, it does allow an endorsement in physical science, which combines chemistry and physics. Further, the state does not require subject-matter testing for any of its secondary science teachers.

### **Supporting Research**

**Praxis Testing Requirements** www.ets.org

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Wyoming should require content assessments, as a condition of initial licensure, for that is the only way to ensure that teachers possess adequate knowledge of the subject area.

### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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### **EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

<sup>1.</sup> Teachers with the general science license may only teach general science courses.

<sup>2.</sup> Georgia's science test consists of two subtests.

# Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

# Goal H - Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



# 1-H Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal



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Progress Since 2011

## **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming offers a K-12 special education certification, in addition to grade-specific options: K-6, 5-8 and 6-12.

The state does not require content testing for any of its special education teacher candidates.

### **Supporting Research**

List of Endorsements

http://ptsb.state.wy.us/Licensure/EndorsementAreas/tabid/129/Default.aspx

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

## WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Wyoming asserted that its K-12 exceptional generalist special education certification allows one to be an inclusion or resource room special education teacher. Special education teachers who are the teacher of record—the primary provider of instruction—in any content area must pass the appropriate grade-level content test to be given the assignment.

#### **Supporting Research**

http://ptsb.state.wy.us/Licensure/EducatorsCurrentlyLicensedinWyoming/HighlyQualified/tabid/68/Default.aspx

#### **LAST WORD**

By tying requirements to teacher of record status, it appears that the state is putting the burden on districts to ensure that teachers have passed tests for the grades and subjects they teach. A license should mean that a teacher is prepared to teach any subjects or grades covered under that certificate.

While special educators should be valued for their critical role in working with students with disabilities and special needs, they are identified by the state not as "special education assistants" but as "special education teachers," presumably because the state expects them to provide instruction to children. Providing instruction to children who have special needs requires both knowledge of effective learning strategies and some knowledge of the subject matter at hand. Failure to ensure that teachers are well trained in content areas deprives special education students of the opportunity to reach their full academic potential.

Figure 29  Do states distinguish between elementary and secondary special education teachers?  Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Newada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Wissorin WyomlinG	gure 29			ion(s)
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# **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 30

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

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

- In Pennsylvania, a candidate who opts for dual certification in elementary or secondary special education and as a reading specialist does not have to take a content test.
- 2. West Virginia also allows elementary special education candidates to earn dual certification in early childhood, which would not require a content test. Secondary special education candidates earning a dual certification as a reading specialist are similarly exempted.
- 3. New York requires a multi-subject content test specifically geared to secondary special education candidates. It is divided into three subtests.

Figure 29:

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

# Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

# Goal I – Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

## Goal Component

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

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

# Background

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



# 1-I Analysis: Wyoming



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming only requires all new elementary teachers to pass a popular content test from the Praxis series that combines both subject-matter knowledge and pedagogy in order to attain licensure. All alternate route teachers are also required to pass pedagogy tests.

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

# **Supporting Research**

http://www.ets.org/praxis/wy http://aacte.org/index.php?/Programs/

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Require that all new teachers pass a pedagogy test.
  - Wyoming 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 Wyoming 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 questionable value.

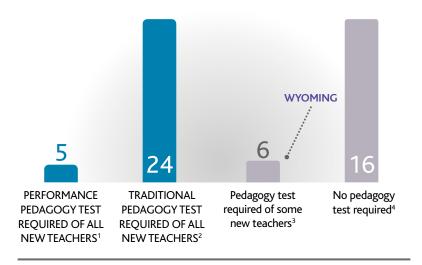
#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



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

Figure 32

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



- 1. Strong Practice: California, Illinois<sup>5</sup>, New York, Tennessee<sup>6</sup>, Washington
- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina<sup>7</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia
- 3. Connecticut, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Utah<sup>8</sup>, Wyoming
- 4. Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin
- 5. Beginning in 2015.
- 6. Teachers may pass either the edTPA or a Praxis pedagogy test.
- $7. \\ Teachers have until their second year to pass if they attempt to pass during their first year.$
- 8. Not required until teacher advances from a Level One to a Level Two license.

# Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

# Goal J − Student Teaching

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

# **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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



# 1-J Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming requires candidates to complete a minimum of eight consecutive weeks of student teaching in an accredited school setting. The state does not articulate any requirements for cooperating teachers.

### **Supporting Research**

PTSB Rules and Regulations, Chapter 4, Section 3(a)

#### **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 Wyoming 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.

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

Wyoming should require a 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.

#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 34  Do states ensure a high-quality student teaching experience?  Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Ilowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin WyominG  5 32	Figure 34	٥-	
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New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington Wyoming	Nevada		
New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin WYOMING	New Hampshire		
New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin WYOMING	New Jersey		
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Vermont  Virginia  Washington  West Virginia  Wisconsin  WYOMING			_
Virginia	Utah		
Washington  West Virginia  Wisconsin  WYOMING			
West Virginia	_		
Wisconsin	_		
Wisconsin	West Virginia		1
	Wisconsin		
5 32	WYOMING		
		5	32
		_	

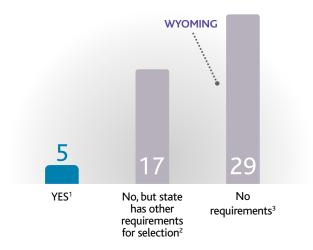


# **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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

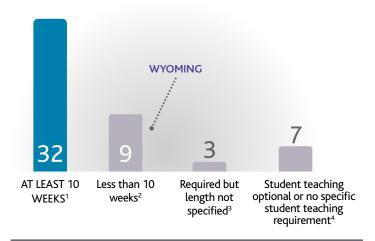
Figure 35
Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



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

Figure 36

Is the student teaching experience of sufficient length?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia<sup>5</sup>, Wisconsin
- 2. Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Illinois, New Hampshire, Utah
- 4. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Maryland, Montana
- West Virginia allows candidates to student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

# Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

# ➤ Goal K — Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

## **Goal Components**

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

- The state should collect data that connects student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.
   Such data can include value added or growth analyses conducted specifically for this purpose or evaluation ratings that incorporate objective measures of student learning to a significant extent.
- 2. The state should collect other meaningful data that reflect program performance, including some or all of the following:
  - a. Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including academic proficiency, subject-matter and professional-knowledge tests;
  - b. Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests;
  - c. Satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison and
  - d. Five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.
- 3. The state should establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data. Programs should be held accountable for meeting these standards, with articulated consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.
- 4. The state should produce and publish on its website an annual report card that shows all the data the state collects on individual teacher preparation programs.
- 5. The state should retain full authority over its process for approving teacher preparation programs.

#### Background

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

# Figure 37 How States are Faring in Teacher Preparation Program Accountability **Best Practice States** State Meets Goal Louisiana 10 States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama, Colorado, Delaware 1, Florida, Rhode Island 1, Tennessee, Texas States Partly Meet Goal Indiana 1, Kentucky, Massachusetts 1, Michigan, Nevada, South Carolina, Washington 1, Wisconsin 1 18 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, California 1, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas 1, Maine 1, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire 1, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon 1, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia 14 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, WYOMING Progress on this Goal Since 2011: **1**:13 ← : 38

# 1-K Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal



( Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming'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.

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

The state also fails to collect other objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs, and it does not apply any transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval. Wyoming collects programs' annual summary licensure test pass rates (80 percent of program completers must pass their licensure exams). However, the 80 percent pass-rate standard, while common among many states, sets the bar quite low and is not a meaningful measure of program performance.

Further, in the past three years, no programs in Wyoming have been identified as low performing—an additional indicator that programs lack accountability.

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

In Wyoming, there is some overlap of accreditation and state approval. Review teams are comprised solely of NCATE/CAEP members, and the state has delegated its program review process to NCATE/CAEP.

# **Supporting Research**

PTSB Rules and Regulations, Chapter 4 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, Wyoming 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 programs are preparing teachers for the classroom, such as:

- 1. Evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching;
- 2. Satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison;

- 3. Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including academic proficiency, subject matter and professional knowledge tests;
- 4. Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests; and
- 5. 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. Wyoming 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.

Wyoming 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.

Wyoming should ensure that it is the state that considers the evidence of program performance and makes the decision about whether programs should continue to be authorized to prepare teachers.

#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 38	OBJECTIVE PROGRAM.		DATA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE
Do states hold teacher	\$ \frac{1}{2} \fra	7	A DIN
preparation programs	A S	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	1. PUB
accountable?	SPECIFIC	MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE S	0274 10274 10274
Alabama		<b>■</b> <sup>1</sup>	
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware District of Columbia			
Florida			2
Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			2
Louisiana			2
Maine	1		_
Maryland	3		
Massachusetts			
Michigan		1	
Minnesota			
Mississippi	1		
Missouri			
Montana	1		
Nebraska			
Nevada <sup>1</sup>			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey	1		
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			2
North Dakota			
Ohio <sup>1</sup>			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania	1		
Rhode Island			
South Carolina <sup>1</sup>			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont	1		
Virginia	■¹		
Washington	<b>1</b>		
West Virginia	'		
Wisconsin			
WYOMING			
	36	4	19



# **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 39 Do states connect student achievement data to teacher preparation programs?



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

- $1. \ For \ traditional \ preparation \ programs \ only.$
- 2. State does not distinguish between alternate route programs and traditional preparation programs in public reporting.
- 3. For alternate routes only.

Figure 40

# Which states collect meaningful data?

#### STUDENT LEARNING GAINS

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

#### **EVALUATION RESULTS FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES**

Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas

#### **AVERAGE RAW SCORES ON LICENSING TESTS**

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

#### SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

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

#### TEACHER RETENTION RATES

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

1. For alternate route only

Figure 41

What is the relationship between state program

approval and national

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accreditation?

Alabama Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

California

Colorado

Delaware

Florida

Georgia

Hawaii

Indiana

Kansas

Kentucky

Louisiana Maine

Maryland

Michigan

Minnesota

Mississippi

Missouri

Montana

Nebraska

New Hampshire New Jersey

New Mexico

North Dakota

Oklahoma

New York North Carolina

Ohio

Nevada

Massachusetts

Iowa

Idaho Illinois

Connecticut

District of Columbia

National accreditation is required for program approval

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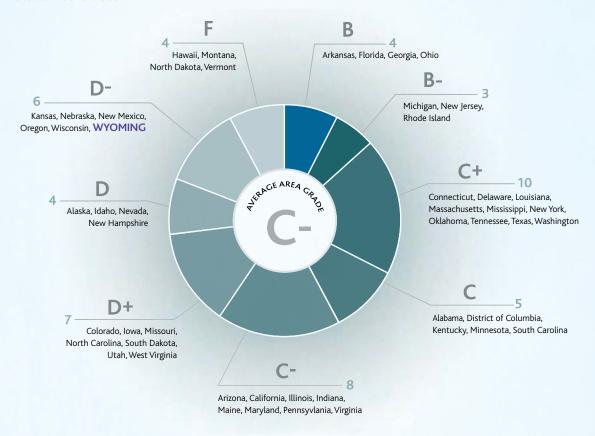
Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin **WYOMING** 1. National accreditation can be substituted for state approval. 2. For institutions with 2,000 or more full-time equivalent students 7 31

# **Area 2 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Expanding the Pool of Teachers

State Area Grades



# **Topics Included In This Area**

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

# Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

# Goal A − Alternate Route Eligibility

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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



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

#### Background

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



# 2-A Analysis: Wyoming







#### **ANALYSIS**

Candidates seeking an alternate route to teaching may participate in the Northern Plains Transition to Teaching program. This program is offered through the University of Montana. The admissions requirements for the Northern Plains alternate route do not exceed those of traditional programs and lack flexibility for nontraditional candidates.

Candidates are required to demonstrate prior academic performance with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 for a bachelor's degree or a GPA of at least 3.0 for a postbachelor's degree.

Candidates are required to have a major in the subject area they plan to teach.

A subject-matter test is not required, nor can a subject-matter test be used to test out of the coursework requirement.

#### **Supporting Research**

**Alternative Licensing Program** http://ptsb.state.wy.us/EducationResources/AlternativeLicensingPrograms/tabid/87/Default.aspx Northern Plains Transition to Teaching http://www.montana.edu/nptt/

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

# Increase academic requirements for admission.

While a minimum GPA requirement is a first step toward ensuring that candidates are of good academic standing, the current standard of 2.75 does not serve as a sufficient indicator of past academic performance. The standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Some accommodation in this standard may be appropriate for career changers. A rigorous test appropriate for candidates who have already completed a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be ideal.

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

The concept behind alternate routes is that the nontraditional candidate is able to concentrate on acquiring professional knowledge and skills because he or she has strong subject-area knowledge. Teachers without sufficient subject-matter knowledge place students at risk.

## Offer flexibility in fulfilling coursework requirements.

Wyoming should allow any candidate who already has the requisite knowledge and skills to demonstrate such by passing a rigorous test. Exacting coursework requirements could dissuade talented individuals who lack precisely the right courses from pursuing a career in teaching.

#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

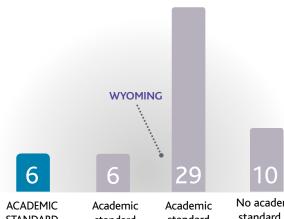
Are states' alternate	ACADEM STANDARD TRADITIONAL PREESS FOR	SUBECT-MATTER	NO MAJOR RECUIRED IN LIEU OF MAJOR SECURED
outes selective yet	SON SON	\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \	10,42
lexible in admissions?	ACAL ADMIS	SUBJE TEST RE	NO NO NO NEU IEU
Alabama Alaska			*
Arizona		<u> </u>	<u></u> →
Arkansas		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
California		Ô	Ê
Colorado			*
Connecticut	*		
Delaware			
District of Columbia	*	*	*
Florida		*	*
Georgia			
Hawaii Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			<u> </u>
Kansas		*	Ô
Kentucky			
Louisiana		*	*
Maine		*	*
Maryland			
Massachusetts		*	*
Michigan	*	*	*
Minnesota			
Mississippi Missouri		<b>X</b>	
Montana			
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Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey	*	*	
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			*
North Dakota			
Ohio Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania		*	
Rhode Island	*		*
South Carolina		*	
South Dakota		*	
Tennessee			*
Texas			*
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
WYOMING			



## \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 44 Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



**STANDARD EXCEEDS THAT** OF TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS FOR ALL ROUTES/ MAIN ROUTE1

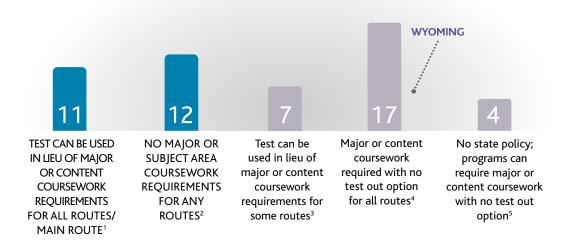
standard exceeds that of traditional programs for some routes<sup>2</sup> standard too low for all routes<sup>3</sup>

No academic standard for any route4

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

Figure 45

Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



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

# Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

# ➤ Goal B – Alternate Route Preparation

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

# **Goal Components**

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

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



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



## Background

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

# 2-B Analysis: Wyoming



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



**Progress Since 2011** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

The state uses a single specific out-of-state program. Candidates in the Northern Plains alternate route program must complete a total of 24 credit hours. Courses are offered one at a time, and each course is eight to twelve weeks in length. Courses are also offered during the summer following the first year so as not to overload new teachers during their first year. Coursework includes human development, psychology of learning, diversity, special needs, classroom discipline, curriculum design, pedagogy and assessment.

Candidates do not have the opportunity to practice teach, but they do participate in a year-long internship that includes mentoring from an on-site master teacher and a university supervisor who makes periodic visits. The program runs for two years, and candidates are eligible for full licensure upon completion.

### Supporting Research

Program Structure http://www.montana.edu/nptt/about/structure.shtml

#### RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that new teachers are not burdened by excessive requirements.

While Wyoming is commended for ensuring that new teachers are not required to take multiple courses simultaneously during the school year, the total amount of coursework required is rather high, and not all of it is geared to the immediate needs of new teachers. Coursework that provides the greatest benefit with the least burden to new teachers includes grade-level or subject-level seminars, methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction.

Ensure that new teachers are supported in the first year of teaching.

Wyoming should provide more detailed induction guidelines to ensure that new teachers will receive the support they need to facilitate their success in the classroom. Effective strategies include practice teaching prior to teaching in the classroom, intensive mentoring with full classroom support in the first few weeks or months of school, a reduced teaching load and release time to allow new teachers to observe experienced teachers during each school day.

### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Do states' alternate routes		RELEVANT COURCE	REASONABLE PROGRAM LE.	PRACTICE TEACHING	INTENSIVE SUPPORT
	78		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		1 / 1/3
provide efficient preparation that meets the immediate	F. 84	/ ½	\ \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\		SIVE
needs of new teachers?	F. F. C.	/ K/3	\\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\	750	$A_{I}^{A}$
reeds of new teachers:	EFFICIENT COURSEWORK	/ & /	~ ~ /	40/	
Alabama					
Alaska		*	*	*	
Arizona			*	*	
Arkansas	*	*	*		*
California			*		
Colorado	*		*		
Connecticut	*	*	*	*	
Delaware	*	<u></u>	<u></u>	*	<u></u>
District of Columbia				*	
Florida			*		
Georgia	*	*	*		*
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WYOMING			•		
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# **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

# Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

# ➤ Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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



# 2-C Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming limits the usage and providers of its alternate route.

The Northern Plains Transition to Teaching program only offers certification in secondary education and focuses primarily on providing teachers in high-need subject areas such as mathematics and science.

The University of Montana is the only provider of this program.

### **Supporting Research**

Wyoming Alternative Licensing Programs http://ptsb.state.wy.us/EducationResources/AlternativeLicensingPrograms/tabid/87/Default.aspx

#### RECOMMENDATION

## Broaden alternate route usage.

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

### Encourage diversity of alternate route providers.

Wyoming should specifically authorize alternate route programs run by local school districts and nonprofits, as well as institutions of higher education. A good diversity of providers helps all programs, both university and nonuniversity based, to improve.

#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

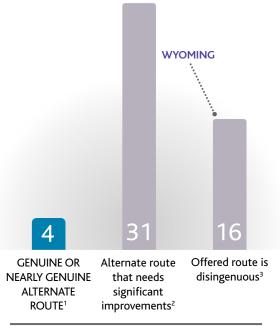
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## \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 50 Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification?



<sup>1.</sup> Strong Practice: Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, Rhode Island

<sup>2.</sup> 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

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

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# Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

# Goal D − Part-Time Teaching Licenses

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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



# 2-D Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming 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.

Wyoming 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.

#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 53 Do states offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part-time? YES Š Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine П П Maryland Massachusetts П Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey П П New Mexico **New York** North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon П П Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin **WYOMING** 10 12 29



# **TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

# Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

# ➤ Goal E – Licensure Reciprocity

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

### Goal Components

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

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

## Background

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



# 2-E Analysis: Wyoming



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Unfortunately, Wyoming requires subject-matter testing only for elementary teachers, and it grants a waiver for its licensing tests to any out-of-state teacher who has passed a similar test in another state.

Teachers with valid out-of-state certificates are eligible for comparable licensure in Wyoming. Applicants are required to complete an approved teacher education program with supervised student teaching or, for alternate route teachers, to have three years of experience within the last six years. Wyoming also requires that incoming teachers complete a course in the Wyoming Constitution and the U.S. Constitution. The state offers a test-out option for these courses.

Wyoming 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.

The state does not articulate specific certification requirements for out-of-state teachers who teach online courses to Wyoming students.

## **Supporting Research**

PTSB Rules and Regulations, Chapter 3

In-State vs. Out-of-State

http://ptsb.state.wy.us/Licensure/OutofStateCountry/tabid/70/Default.aspx

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Wyoming should adopt subject-matter testing requirements directing all teachers, without exception, to pass licensing tests within one year of hire. The negative impact on student learning stemming from a teacher's inadequate subject-matter knowledge is not mitigated by the teacher's having attained certification.

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

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

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

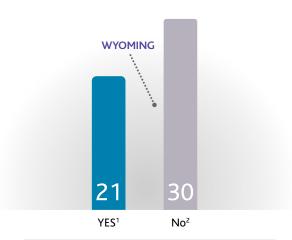
Wyoming should reconsider its recency requirement regarding experience for alternative route teachers, as it may deter talented teachers from applying for certification, namely those who participate in programs such as Teach For America, an alternate route in which teachers participate for two years.

State policies that discriminate against teachers who were prepared in an alternate route are not supported by evidence. In fact, a substantial body of research has failed to discern differences in effectiveness between alternate and traditional route teachers. Regardless of whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route, all certified out-of-state teachers should receive equal treatment.

■ Ensure that requirements for online teachers are as rigorous as those for in-state teachers. Wyoming should ensure that online teachers based in other states are at least equally as qualified as those who teach in the state. However, Wyoming should balance the interests of its students in having qualified online instructors with making certain that these requirements do not create unnecessary obstacles for out-of-state teachers. WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Wyoming had no comment on this goal.

Figure 55

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



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska<sup>3</sup>, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine<sup>4</sup>, Massachusetts<sup>3</sup>, Minnesota, New York<sup>5</sup>, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas<sup>3</sup>, Utah, Washington<sup>6</sup>, Wisconsin
- Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana<sup>7</sup>, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyorning
- 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.

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Figure 56

4. Teachers with less than 3 years' experience are subject to transcript review.

<sup>1.</sup> State conducts transcript reviews.

<sup>2.</sup> Recency requirement is for alternate route.

<sup>3.</sup> For traditionally prepared teachers only.

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# **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

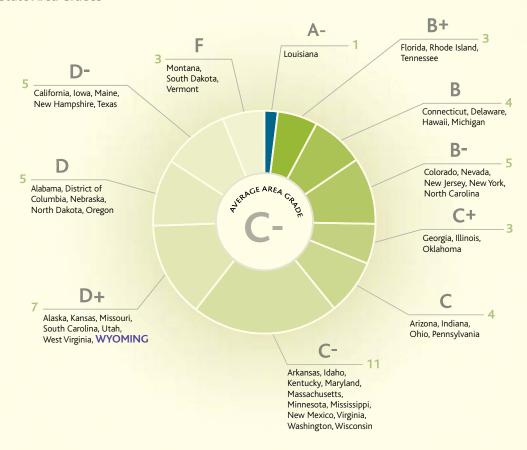
Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet Alabama's and Texas's own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate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

# **Area 3 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Identifying Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



### Topics Included In This Area

- 3-A: State Data Systems 3-D: Tenure
- 3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness 3-E: Licensure Advancement
- 3-C: Frequency of Evaluations 3-F: Equitable Distribution

## Goal A – State Data Systems

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

### **Goal Components**

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

- 1. The state should establish a longitudinal data system with at least the following key components:
  - a. A unique statewide student identifier number that connects student data across key databases across years;
  - b. A unique teacher identifier system that can match individual teacher records with individual student records and
  - c. An assessment system that can match individual student test records from year to year in order to measure academic growth.
- 2. Student growth or value-added data provided through the state's longitudinal data system should be considered among the criteria used to determine teachers' effectiveness.
- To ensure that data provided through the state data system is actionable and reliable, the state should have a clear definition of "teacher of record" and require its consistent use statewide.
- 4. Data provided through the state's longitudinal data system should be used to publicly report information on teacher production.



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

### Background

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



## 3-A Analysis: Wyoming



State Nearly Meets Goal 🕟 Bar Raised for this Goal





Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Wyoming 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.

Wyoming defines teacher of record as a certified teacher who is generally responsible for planning lessons, instruction, and assigning grades and credits. However, the state's teacher-student data link cannot connect more than one educator to a particular student in a given course, and it does not have in place a process for teacher roster verification.

Wyoming does not publish data on teacher production that connects program completion, certification and hiring statistics.

### **Supporting Research**

Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

### Strengthen data link between teachers and students.

Wyoming should develop a process for teacher roster verification as well as an ability to link more than one educator to a particular student. This is of particular importance for using the data system to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

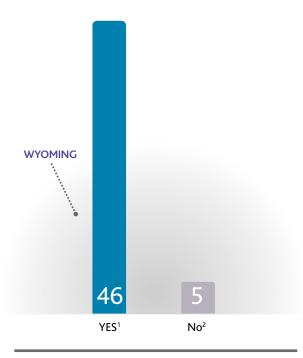
### Publish data on teacher production.

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. Wyoming 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, Wyoming will form a rich set of data that can inform policy decisions.

### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 59 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?



<sup>1.</sup> 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,

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

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### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

### Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

### **Goal Components**

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

- 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



### 3-B Analysis: Wyoming



State Partly Meets Goal Progress Since 2011



#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming does not require that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations. Districts develop a teacher evaluation system based on the state's framework.

By school year 2015-2016, Wyoming will require annual teacher evaluations based in part on student academic growth measures. Evaluations will be based on five equally weighted domains, with one domain being evidence of student learning.

Four performance ratings must be used: highly effective performance, effective performance, performance in need of improvement and ineffective performance.

### **Supporting Research**

The Teacher Accountability Act http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Enroll/SF0146.pdf HB72 (2013)

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Wyoming's policy 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 evaluations also include classroom observations that specifically focus on and document the effectiveness of instruction.

Although Wyoming requires classroom observations as part of teacher evaluations, the state should articulate guidelines that focus classroom observations on 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.

### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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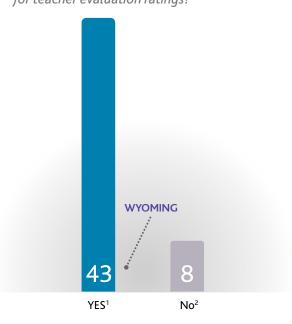
<sup>2.</sup> Explicitly defined for the 2013-2014 school year.

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

Figure 64 Type of surey not specified Is survey data used as part of teacher evaluations? Alabama Alaska<sup>1</sup> Arizona П П П Arkansas California Colorado 2 Connecticut<sup>3</sup> П П Delaware П П District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii П Idaho Illinois  $\Box$ П П Indiana Iowa1 Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana Maine 2 Maryland П П П П Massachusetts Michigan П Minnesota Mississippi П П П Missouri 2 Montana П Nebraska Nevada П П New Hampshire П П П New Jersey П New Mexico П П П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П П П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina П П South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin **WYOMING** П 2 14 11 6 33

Figure 65

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



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

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

<sup>2.</sup> Explicitly allowed but not required.

 $<sup>{\</sup>it 3. Requires parent or peer surveys; whole-school student learning or student surveys.}\\$ 



### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 66 Do states direct how teachers should be evaluated? Alabama Alaska Arizona П Arkansas California П П Colorado Connecticut П Delaware П District of Columbia П П Florida Georgia П Hawaii П П Idaho П П Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland П П Massachusetts Michigan П П Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana П Nebraska Nevada П П New Hampshire П New Jersey П New Mexico П П **New York** North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin WYOMING П П 9 12 30

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

ingure 67  What requirements have states established for evaluators?  Alabama	Figure 67		_ /	/	THERS \
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4 34 3 13	WYOMING				
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<sup>1.</sup> Maryland requires multiple observers for ineffective teachers.

 $<sup>{\</sup>it 2. Multiple evaluators are explicitly allowed but not required.}$ 

# ➤ Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

### Goal Components

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

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

### Background

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



### 3-C Analysis: Wyoming



State Nearly Meets Goal ( Progress Since 2011



#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Both nonprobationary and probationary teachers must receive summative evaluations once a year. The state's policy does not include any guidelines on when these evaluations should occur.

### Supporting Research

Wyoming Statute 21-3-110 (xvii) and (xviii) HB 72 (2013)

#### RECOMMENDATION

Base evaluations on multiple observations.

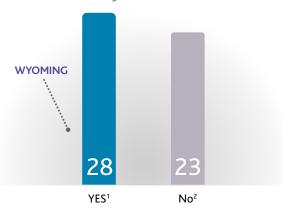
To guarantee that annual evaluations are based on an adequate collection of information, Wyoming should require multiple observations for all teachers, even those who have nonprobationary status.

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. Wyoming 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. As evaluation instruments become more data driven, it will not be feasible to issue a formal evaluation rating until applicable student data are available later in the year.

### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

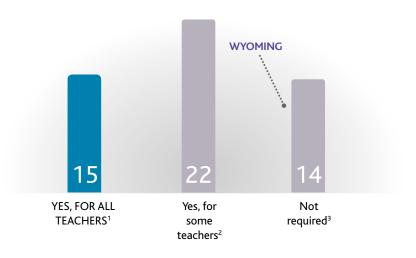


- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland<sup>3</sup>, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia
- ${\it 3. Regulations sunset on September 30, 2014.}$

Figure 70	OF ALL VETERALIATION	TACHERS AWWALEVALUATION OF TEACHERS ALL PROBATIONARY TEACHERS
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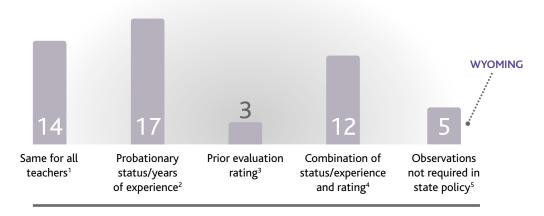
Figure 71

Do states require multiple classroom observations?



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

Figure 72
What is the determining factor for frequency of observations?



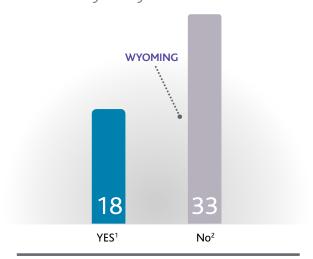
- Alabama, District of Columbia<sup>6</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas<sup>7</sup>, California<sup>7</sup>, Colorado, Florida, Kansas<sup>7</sup>, Minnesota<sup>7</sup>, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, Oregon, Pennsylvania<sup>7</sup>, South Carolina, South Dakota<sup>7</sup>, Utah<sup>7</sup>, Washington, West Virginia<sup>8</sup>
- 3. Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio
- 4. Arizona<sup>9</sup>, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts<sup>7</sup>, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas<sup>7</sup>, Virginia<sup>7</sup>, Wisconsin<sup>7</sup>
- 5. Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming
- 6. Depends on LEA requirements.
- 7. Frequency is based on evaluation cycle, not year.
- 8. No observations required after year 5.
- 9. Second observation may be waived for tenured teachers with high performance on first observation.



### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 73 Do states require that new teachers are observed early in the year?



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

### Goal D - Tenure

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 3-D Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

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

Recent legislation articulates that a continuing contract teacher must perform "satisfactorily on performance evaluations implemented by the district." However, because Wyoming's teacher evaluation ratings are not centered primarily on evidence of student learning (see Goal 3-B), basing tenure decisions on these evaluation ratings does not ensure that classroom effectiveness is sufficiently considered.

### **Supporting Research**

The Teacher Accountability Act http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Enroll/SF0146.pdf

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ End the automatic awarding of tenure.

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

- Ensure evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.
  - Wyoming should make evidence of effectiveness, rather than the number of years in the classroom, the most significant factor when determining this leap in professional standing.
- Articulate a process that local districts must administer when deciding which teachers get tenure.

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

Require a longer probationary period.

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

### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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



### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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

Figure 76	ENDENCE OF STUDENT	<i>&gt;</i> /	
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	11	9	31

### Goal E – Licensure Advancement

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 3-E Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Wyoming employs a single-tier certification, so new teachers apply for the five-year Educator License, and then, rather than advance to another level, they renew. Teachers must renew their licenses every five years by completing five semester hours and/or 75 contact hours. Professional Development/Renewal credits can be earned through a combination of approved professional development opportunities, semester credits, or contact hours obtained by working toward National Board Certification.

### **Supporting Research**

Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board, Rule 6081 and Chapter 8 http://ptsb.state.wy.us/Licensure/RenewingaLicenseorPermit/tabid/67/Default.aspx http://ptsb.state.wy.us/RulesRegulations/tabid/253/Default.aspx

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

  Wyoming should require evidence of teacher effectiveness to be a factor in determ
  - Wyoming 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, Wyoming's general, nonspecific professional development and coursework credit requirements for license renewal merely call for teachers to complete a certain amount of seat time. These requirements do not correlate with teacher effectiveness.

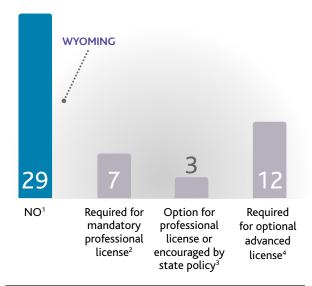
### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 78 Do states require teachers	OBICTIVE VIDENCE OF	UIRED	Consideration Siven to Performance to Classic	Performance not considered	
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WYOMING					3. Maryland uses som
					systems for renewa

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

Figure 79

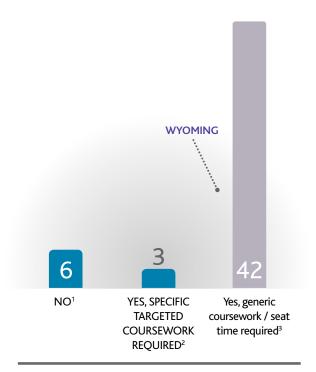
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?



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

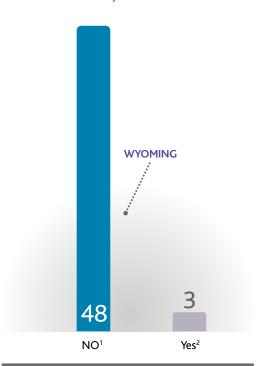
Figure 80

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



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

Figure 81 Do states award lifetime licenses?



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



### **TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

# → Goal F — Equitable Distribution

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

### **Goal Components**

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

- The state should make aggregate school-level data about teacher performance —from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness as described in Goal 3-B publicly available.
- 2. In the absence of such an evaluation system, the state should make the following data publicly available:
  - a. An "Academic Quality" index for each school that includes factors research has found to be associated with teacher effectiveness such as:
  - · percentage of new teachers;
  - percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once;
  - percentage of teachers on emergency credentials:
  - average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions and
  - teachers' average ACT or SAT scores
  - b. The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area.
  - c. The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school.
  - d. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school, by district and by reasons that teachers leave.

### Background

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



### 3-F Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Providing comprehensive reporting may be the state's most important role for ensuring the equitable distribution of teachers among schools. Wyoming does not report school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent. The data that are reported by the state are out-of-date.

Wyoming 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. Wyoming 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.

Wyoming has reported on the percentage of highly qualified teacher in high- and low-poverty schools for each district; unfortunately, the most recent data reported is for 2008-2009. For the 2009-2010 school year, the state did report on the distribution of highly qualified teachers in high- and low-poverty schools and high- and low-minority schools statewide. However, the state does not provide school-level information and data have not been updated since 2010.

### **Supporting Research**

2009-2008 Highly Qualified Teachers/Equitable Distribution of Teachers

http://edu.wyoming.gov/Libraries/Press\_Releases/HIGHLY\_QUALIFIED\_TEACHERS\_Equitable\_Distribution\_1\_4\_11.sflb.

2009-2010 Percent Teachers NOT Highly Qualified - State & District

http://edu.wyoming.gov/DataReporting/esc/2009HighlyQualifiedTeacherStateandDistrictSummary.pdf

### **RECOMMENDATION**

### Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

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

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

#### Ensure that data are current.

It is important to keep data updated and current in order to provide the public with an accurate picture of teacher distribution across schools in districts.

### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

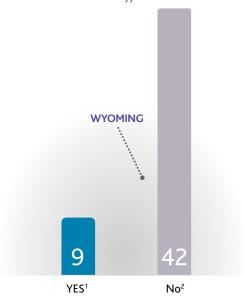
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### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 84 Do states publicly report school-level data about teacher effectiveness?

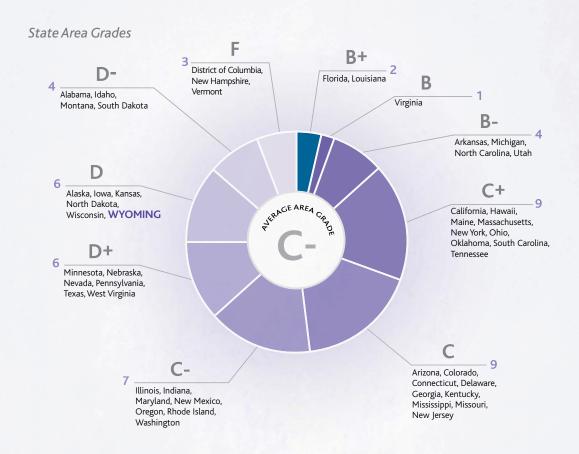


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas³, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts<sup>4</sup>, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida<sup>5</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah⁵, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Reporting of teacher effectiveness data will begin in 2017.
- 4. Massachusetts' evaluation system is not based primarily on evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- 5. Reports data about teacher effectiveness at the district level.

# **Area 4 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Retaining Effective Teachers



# Topics Included In This Area 4-A: Induction 4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience 4-B: Professional Development 4-E: Differential Pay 4-C: Pay Scales 4-F: Performance Pay

# Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

### Goal A - Induction

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 4-A Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming does not require a mentoring program or any other induction support for its new teachers.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Ensure that a high-quality mentoring experience is available to all new teachers, especially those in low-performing schools.

Wyoming should ensure that all new teachers—and especially any teacher in a low-performing school—receive mentoring support, especially in the first critical weeks of school.

Set specific parameters.

To ensure that all teachers receive high-quality mentoring, the state should specify how long the program lasts for a new teacher, who selects the mentors and a method of performance evaluation.

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

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

### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

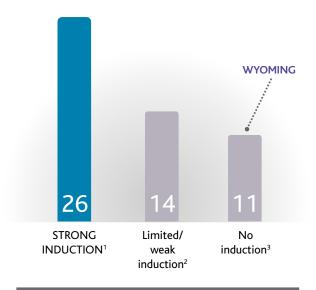
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### **TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 87 Do states have policies that articulate the elements of effective induction?



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

# Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

# ➤ Goal B – Professional Development

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 4-B Analysis: Wyoming



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming requires that teachers receive feedback from their performance evaluations, and that professional development activities must be aligned with findings from teachers' performance evaluations.

School districts are required to link their evaluation systems with individual and collective teacher professional growth. The evaluation systems must also provide feedback to each certified personnel member, as well as opportunities to identify areas that need improvement and suggestions for how improvement can occur. Districts are required to provide mentoring and professional development opportunities to teachers rated "unsatisfactorily," but there are no requirements to put teachers on structured improvement plans.

#### **Supporting Research**

HB 0072 http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2013/Bills/HB0072.pdf W.S. 21-2-304(xv); 21-3-110(xix)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Although Wyoming requires that districts "include reasonable opportunity for state and district provision of...professional development activities [be] made available to teachers performing unsatisfactorily," the state should adopt a policy requiring that teachers who receive even one unsatisfactory evaluation be placed on structured improvement plans. These plans should focus on performance areas that directly connect to student learning and should identify noted deficiencies, define specific action steps necessary to address these deficiencies and describe how and when progress will be measured.

#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



#### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

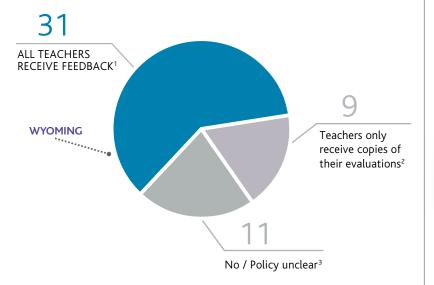
Louisiana and North Carolina require that teachers receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations and direct districts to connect professional development to teachers' identified needs. Both states also require that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement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

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

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Figure 90

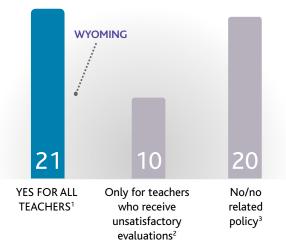
Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?



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

Figure 91

Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



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

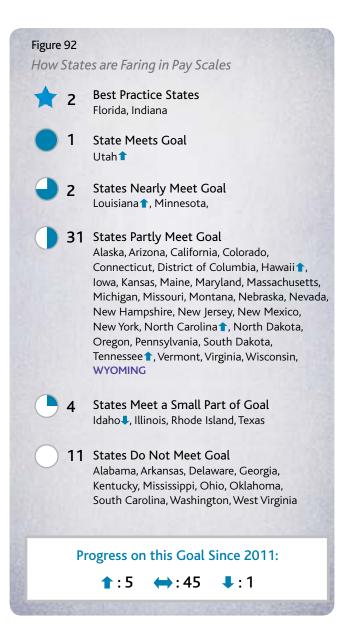
#### **Goal Components**

(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.
- 2. The state should discourage districts from tying additional compensation to advanced degrees. The state should eliminate salary schedules that establish higher minimum salaries or other requirements to pay more to teachers with advanced degrees.
- 3. The state should discourage salary schedules that imply that teachers with the most experience are the most effective. The state should eliminate salary schedules that require that the highest steps on the pay scale be determined solely be seniority.

#### Background

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



## 4-C Analysis: Wyoming



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming gives local districts the authority for pay scales, eliminating barriers such as state salary schedules and other regulations that control how districts pay teachers.

#### **Supporting Research**

Wyoming Statute 21-3-110(a)(ii)(A)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.

While still leaving districts the flexibility to establish their own pay scale, Wyoming 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, Wyoming should articulate policies that discourage districts from determining the highest steps on the pay scale solely by seniority.

#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



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

Figure 93

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.



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

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

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

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

#### Background

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



### 4-D Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming 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, Wyoming 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.s.

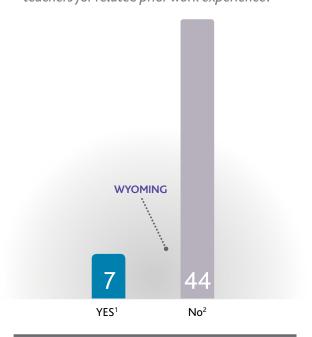
#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

### **EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 96

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



- 1. Strong Practice: California, Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas, Washington
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii³, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Hawaii's compensation is limited to prior military experience.

## **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers**

## Goal E − Differential Pay

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



### 4-E Analysis: Wyoming



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming does not support differential pay in which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. However, the state has no regulatory language preventing local districts from providing such differential pay in this area.

Wyoming does support differential pay for those teaching in high-need schools by allowing districts to offer additional compensation "to a teacher as necessary to employ teachers for providing education programs at locations that because of their unique circumstances require additional pay."

In addition, teachers who are National Board Certified are eligible to receive a \$4,000 annual salary supplement. However, this type of differential pay is not tied to high-need schools or subject-area shortages.

#### **Supporting Research**

Wyoming Statutes 21-13-324; 21-7-501(f)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Support differential pay initiatives for effective teachers in subject-shortage areas.
  Wyoming should encourage districts to link compensation to district needs. Such policies can help districts achieve a more equitable distribution of teachers.
- Consider tying National Board supplements to teaching in high-needs schools.
  This differential pay could be an incentive to attract some of the state's most effective teachers to low-performing schools.

#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 98		HIGH NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT	
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Michigan					
Minnesota					
Mississippi					
Missouri					
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Nevada					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
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North Carolina					
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Pennsylvania					
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South Carolina					2
South Dakota Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
VVISCOTISTIT					
WYOMING					

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.

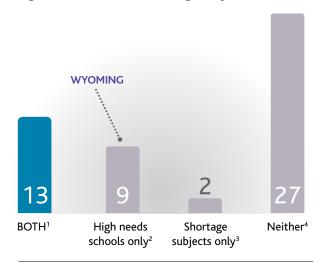
<sup>2.</sup> South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in high-need schools.



#### **TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 99 Do states support differential pay for teaching in high need schools and shortage subjects?



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

## **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers**

## Goal F − Performance Pay

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



## 4-F Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

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

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

#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 101	PERCORMANCEFACTORE	PERCORMANCE BONUES	Performance pay Pennix.	State supported per-	Juga /
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Vermont					
Virginia Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
WYOMING					
	6	2	8	9	26



#### **\*\*** 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.

<sup>1.</sup> Nebraska's initiative does not go into effect until 2016.

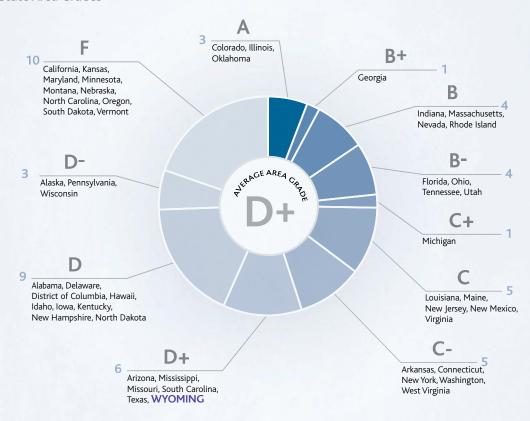
<sup>2.</sup> Nevada's initiative does not go into effect until 2015-2016.

## **Area 5 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Exiting Ineffective Teachers

State Area Grades



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

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

## Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

### Goal A − Extended Emergency Licenses

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



### 5-A Analysis: Wyoming



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming allows new teachers who have not met licensure requirements to teach under an "exception authorization." This authorization is issued in emergency situations to individuals who, due to extenuating circumstances, cannot meet the requirements for full licensure. It is only valid for one year and allows the individual to teach while completing the requirements. However, the state requires that only elementary education and social studies composite teachers pass a subject-matter test before obtaining an initial license.

#### **Supporting Research**

Wyoming Professional Teacher Standards Board Exception Authorization
http://ptsb.state.wy.us/Licensure/TypesofLicensure/ExceptionAuthorization/tabid/90/Default.aspx
Complete Requirements for Initial Licensure in Wyoming
http://ptsb.state.wy.us/Licesnure/BecomingLicensed/CompleteRequirementsforInitialLicensure/tabid/170/Default.aspx

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Award standard licenses to teachers only after they have passed all required subject-matter licensing tests.

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. Licensing tests are an important minimum benchmark in the profession, and states that allow teachers to postpone passing these tests are abandoning one of the basic responsibilities of licensure. As such, Wyoming's current policy should require all teachers—not just elementary and social studies teacher candidates—to pass subject-matter tests prior to entering the classroom. The state's current policy, although it only allows one-year, nonrenewable exception authorizations for teachers who have not met these requirements, still puts students at risk.

#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

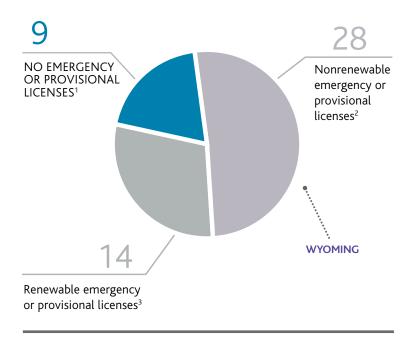
Figure 103		/	/	
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WYOMING				Ш



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

Figure 104

Do states still award emergency licenses?



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

## Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

### Goal B - Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

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

### 5-B Analysis: Wyoming



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming makes teacher ineffectiveness explicit grounds for dismissal. Teachers can be dismissed for "inadequate performance as determined through annual performance evaluation tied to student academic growth for at least two (2) consecutive years completed."

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, neglect of duty, immorality, insubordination, physical incapacity to perform job duties, failure to perform job duties in a satisfactory manner, inadequate performance as determined through annual performance evaluation tied to student academic growth and other good and just cause relating to the educational process.

In Wyoming, tenured teachers who are terminated have multiple opportunities to appeal. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher may, within seven days, request a hearing, which must occur within 45 days, and a decision must be rendered within 20 days of the hearing's conclusion. The board reviews the findings and issues its order within another 20 days. The aggrieved teacher may then file an additional appeal with the district court. The state does not specify the time frame for this appeal.

#### **Supporting Research**

Wyoming Statutes 21-7-110 and 21-3-110(a)(xix)

HB 72

#### **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, the state must ensure that the opportunity to appeal occurs only once. 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. Wyoming should ensure that appeals related to classroom effectiveness are decided only by those with educational expertise.

#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



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

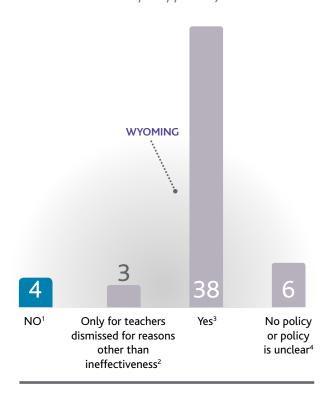
Florida and Oklahoma clearly articulate that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal. In both states, teachers are eligible for dismissal after two annual ratings of unsatisfactory performance. Each state has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed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

Figure 106 Do states articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal? Alabama Alaska Arizona П Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut П Delaware П District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois П Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi П Missouri Montana П Nebraska Nevada П New Hampshire П New Jersey New Mexico П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin **WYOMING** 29 22

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

Figure 107

Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



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

## Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

### Goal C – Reductions in Force

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

#### Goal Component

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

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

#### Background

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



### 5-C Analysis: Wyoming



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Wyoming does not have policy that addresses the factors used by districts to determine which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force.

#### **Supporting Research**

Wyoming Statutes 21-7-111

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

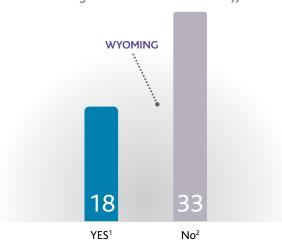
- Require that districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.
  - Wyoming can still leave districts flexibility in determining layoff policies, but it should do so within a framework that ensures that classroom performance is considered.
- Ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off.

  Unlike some states, Wyoming does not require that districts consider seniority; however, the state should do more to prevent districts from making decisions solely on this basis.

#### WYOMING RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 109

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



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

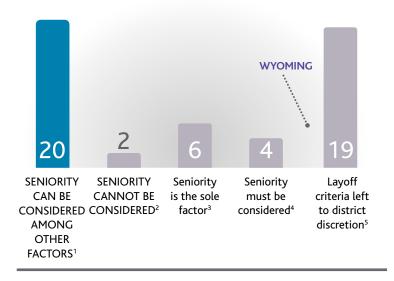




**Colorado**, **Florida**, and **Indiana** all specify that in determining which teachers to lay off during a reduction in force, classroom performance is the top criterion. These states also articulate that seniority can only be considered after a teacher's performance is taken into account.

Figure 111

Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?



- Strong Practice: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts<sup>6</sup>, Michigan, Missouri<sup>6</sup>, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio<sup>6</sup>, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington
- 2. Strong Practice: Louisiana, Utah
- 3. Hawaii, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin<sup>7</sup>
- 4. California, Kentucky, New Jersey, Oregon
- 5. Alabama, Alaska<sup>6</sup>, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska<sup>6</sup>, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming
- 6. Nontenured teachers are laid off first.
- 7. Only for counties with populations of 500,000 or more and for teachers hired before 1995.

## Goals and Keywords

GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Te	achers
<b>1-A:</b> Admission into Teacher Preparation	The state should require teacher preparation programs to admit only candidates with strong academic records.	admission requirements, academic proficiency measures, basic skills tests, GPA
<b>1-B:</b> Elementary Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that its teacher preparation programs provide elementary teachers with a broad liberal arts education, providing the necessary foundation for teaching to the Common Core or similar state standards.	license/certification, elementary teachers, early childhood teachers, content tests, elementary coursework/standards, content specialization requirements
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
<b>1-E:</b> Middle School Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.	license/certification, middle school teachers, content tests, K-8 licenses, content specialization requirements
1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate gradelevel content.	license/certification, secondary teachers, secondary social studies, content tests, endorsements
<b>1-G:</b> Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	The state should ensure that secondary science teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach.	license/certification, secondary general science, content tests, combination sciences
1-H: Special Education Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that special education teachers know the subject matter they are licensed to teach.	license/certification, special education teachers, content tests, K-12 special education license, elementary special education, secondary special education
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

AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching F	Pool
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
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
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
The state should offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.	part-time license/certificate, adjunct license
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
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
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
The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.	teacher evaluation, evaluation frequency classroom observations, feedback
The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.	tenure, probationary period, continuing contracts, teacher effectiveness
The state should base licensure advancement on evidence of teacher effectiveness.	probationary license, professional license license renewal, evidence of teacher effectiveness, coursework requirements
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
	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.  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.  The state should provide an alternate route that is free from limitations on its usage and allows a diversity of providers.  The state should offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.  The state should help to make licenses fully portable among states, with appropriate safeguards.  AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teach The state should have a data system that contributes some of the evidence needed to assess teacher effectiveness.  The state should require instructional effectiveness to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.  The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.  The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.  The state should publicly report districts' distribution of teacher talent among schools to identify

## Goals and Keywords

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

AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
Require that teacher preparation programs screen candidates prior to admission by using a common test normed to the general college-bound population, and limit acceptance to those candidates demonstrating academic ability in the top 50th percentile.	Goal 1-A
Adopt an elementary content test with independently scored subject-matter subtests in each of the core areas.	Goal 1-B
■ Require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous stand-alone science of reading test.	Goal 1-C
Adopt a rigorous stand-alone math test for all elementary teacher candidates.	Goal 1-D
■ Ensure that all middle school teacher candidates pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.	Goal 1-E
■ Require secondary teacher candidates to pass subject-matter tests. Specifically require secondary social studies and science teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.	Goal 1-F Goal 1-G
■ 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-H
Require all new teachers to pass a pedagogy test.	Goal 1-I
■ 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-J
■ 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-K)	Goal 1-K

AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool	
Increase admission requirements to alternate route programs, including a high bar for academic proficiency and passage of a subject-matter test.	Goal 2-A
■ Ensure that new alternate route teachers are not overburdened by excessive coursework requirements and that they receive intensive support during the first year of teaching.	Goal 2-B
■ Broaden alternate route usage, and allow a diversity of providers for alternate route programs.	Goal 2-C
Require out-of-state teachers to meet the state's own testing requirements.	Goal 2-E

AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	
Require student growth to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.	Goal 3-B
■ Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.	Goal 3-D
■ Base licensure advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license and licensure renewal on evidence of effectiveness.	Goal 3-E
■ Publish aggregate school-level teacher evaluation ratings from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness.	Goal 3-F

i	AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	
	■ Require effective induction for all new teachers, including mentoring of sufficient frequency and duration.	Goal 4-A
	■ Place teachers with ineffective or needs improvement ratings on structured improvement plans.	Goal 4-B
	■ Discourage districts from basing teacher pay scales primarily on advanced degrees and seniority.	Goal 4-C
	Support differential pay initiatives for effective teachers in shortage subject areas.	Goal 4-E
	■ Support performance pay to recognize teachers for their effectiveness.	Goal 4-F

ı	AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers		
	Award standard licenses to teachers only after they have passed all required subject-matter licensing tests.	Goal 5-A	
	■ Use teacher effectiveness as a factor when determining which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force.	Goal 5-C	

