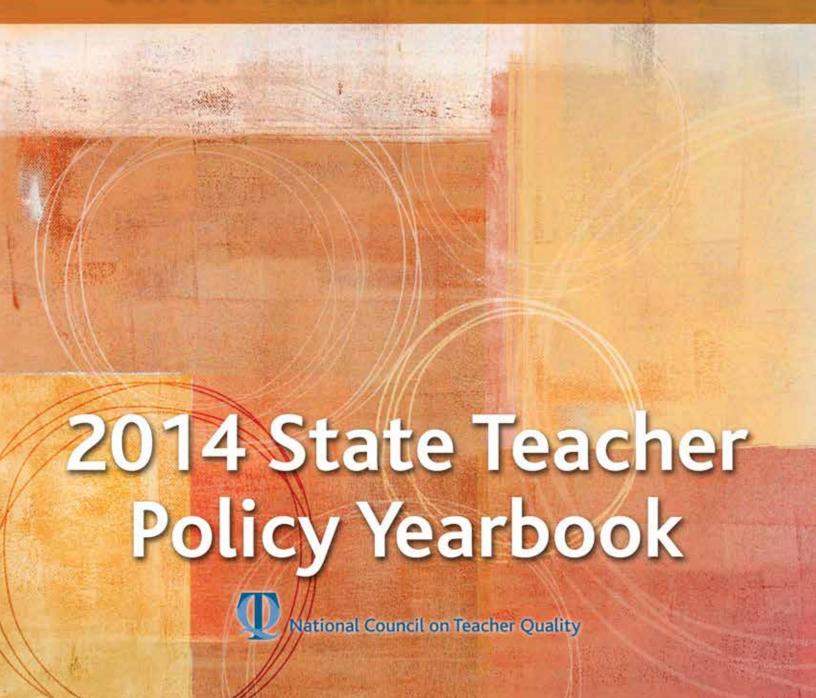
# Idaho

Are New Teachers Being Prepared for College- and Career-Readiness Standards?



#### **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. Although this year's edition did not require the extensive review that comprehensive editions require, we still wanted to make sure that we captured all relevant policy changes and that states' perspectives were represented. Every state formally received a draft of the policy updates we identified in June 2014 as well as a draft of analyses and recommendations for the new indicators related to college- and career-readiness standards 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, explain their differing points of view and often acknowledge the imperfections of their teacher policies are important steps in moving forward.

#### **FUNDERS**

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#### **STAFF**

Sandi Jacobs, *Project Director*Kathryn M. Doherty, *Special Contributor*Kelli Lakis, *Lead Researcher*Phil Lasser and Lisa N. Staresina, *Researchers* 

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### Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Idaho

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.
   Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.
   Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading. Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.

#### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

#### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach, as a condition of licensure.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

#### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

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

#### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach

#### Raise admission requirements:

• Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

#### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

### Teacher Preparation in Idaho

The 2014 State Teacher Policy Yearbook keeps the spotlight on the critical issue of teacher preparation. In addition to updating the full set of teacher preparation policies reviewed in last year's comprehensive edition, the 2014 Yearbook casts a critical eye on whether states have established requirements for teacher preparation and licensure that help to ensure that teachers are ready for the increased demands of states' college- and career-readiness standards for K-12 students.

### Current Status of **Idaho** Teacher Prep Policy

D+ 2014 Teacher Prep Gra
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Prior Grades: D+ 2013 D 2012 D 2011

Yearbook Goal	Торіс	2014 Score	2013 Score
1-A	Admission into Preparation Programs		
1-B	Elementary Teacher Preparation	•	•
1-C	Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	•	
1-D	Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	•	•
1-E	Middle School Teacher Preparation		
1-F	Secondary Teacher Preparation	•	•
1-G	Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science		
1-H	Special Education Teacher Preparation	•	
1-I	Assessing Professional Knowledge		0
1-J	Student Teaching		0
1-K	Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	•	0

### 2014 Teacher Prep Policy Update for Idaho

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

#### Elementary Teacher Preparation

Elementary teacher candidates are now required to pass the revised Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test.

Praxis Test Requirements - http://www.ets.org/praxis

### Idaho Response to Policy Update

States were asked to review NCTQ's identified updates and also to comment on policy changes related to teacher preparation that have occurred in the last year, pending changes, or teacher preparation in the state more generally.

Idaho provided the following general comment:

"NCTQ failed to review all relevant Idaho policies and procedures pertaining to the recommendations laid out in this report. Assessment was not adequate to draw accurate conclusions. Further, the research NCTQ cites cautions the reader against generalizing the findings to impact state and national policy without additional investigation and consideration. The State of Idaho will continue to make policy decisions based on what is best for the students of the state, taking research into consideration when appropriate. Generalizing limited research to impact statewide policy implications, as suggested in NCTQ's report, is potentially detrimental to the education of students."

Board Rule 08.02.02.017.03; Idaho Standards for Elementary Education Teachers; Board Rule 08.02.02.021; Idaho Code 33-114

#### Last Word from NCTQ

In the citations offered by Idaho, NCTQ did not identity any additional information or evidence to support the state's claims that NCTQ's review of Idaho's policies was incomplete or inaccurate. In fact, in the past seven editions of the *State Teacher Policy Yearbook*, no such assertion has been made by the state. It is certainly Idaho's prerogative to disagree with the goals and recommendations, and that is exactly why the state's perspective is always included as part of the *Yearbook*. Unfortunately, there are many areas in teacher preparation where the research base for most effective practice is disappointingly thin. Yet there are clearly policy recommendations that can be made in students' best interest—for example, that a teacher must know the subject matter she will teach.

igure A				
elivering well-				
repared teachers	2014 GRADE	2013 GRADE	2012 GRADE	2011 GRADE
Alabama	B-	В	B-	С
Alaska	F	F	F	F
Arizona	D	D-	D-	D-
Arkansas	C+	C+	С	С
California	D+	D+	D	D
Colorado	D-	D-	D	D-
Connecticut	B-	B-	C+	C-
Delaware	B-	C+	D-	D-
District of Columbia	C-	D+	D	D
Florida	B+	B+	B-	B-
Georgia	C+	C+	С	С
Hawaii	D-	F	D	D
IDAHO	D+	D+	D	D
Illinois	D+	D+	D	D
Indiana	B+	B+	B-	C+
lowa	D+	D+	D	D.
Kansas	D+	D+	D+	D+
Kentucky	B-	B-	C+	C-
Louisiana	C	C-	С	С
Maine	D+	D+	D+	D
Maryland	D+	D+	D+	D+
Massachusetts	B-	B-	C+	C+
Michigan	D+	D	D+	D+
Minnesota	C+	C+	C+	C
Mississippi	C	C-	C	С
Missouri	B-	C-	D+	D+
Montana	F F	F F	F	F
Nebraska	D-	F	D-	D-
Nevada	D-	D-	D-	
	C-	C-	C-	D- D
New Hampshire				
New Jersey	B-	B-	C-	D+
New Mexico	D+	D	D+	D+
New York	В	B-	C-	D+
North Carolina	C+	C+	D-	D-
North Dakota	D	D	D	D
Ohio	С	С	C-	D+
Oklahoma	С	С	С	С
Oregon	D+	D	D-	D-
Pennsylvania	С	C	С	С
Rhode Island	B+	B+	C	D+
South Carolina	C+	С	C-	C-
South Dakota	D	D-	D	D
Tennessee	B-	B-	B-	B-
Texas	В	В	C+	C+
Utah	C-	D+	D	D
Vermont	С	С	C-	D+
Virginia	B-	C+	C-	C-
Washington	D+	D+	D+	D+
West Virginia	C+	C+	C-	C-
Wisconsin	C	C-	D+	D
Wyoming	D-	F	F	F
Average State Grade	C	C-	D+	D

Figure B	
Delivering well-	
prepared teachers	2014 GRADE
Florida	B+
Indiana	B+
Rhode Island	B+
New York	В
Texas	В
Alabama	B-
Connecticut	B-
Delaware	B-
Kentucky	B-
Massachusetts	B-
Missouri	B-
New Jersey	B-
Tennessee	B-
Virginia	B-
Arkansas	C+
Georgia	C+
Minnesota	C+
North Carolina	C+
South Carolina	C+
West Virginia	C+
Louisiana	C
Mississippi	С
Ohio	C
Oklahoma	С
Pennsylvania	С
Vermont	С
Wisconsin	С
District of Columbia	C-
New Hampshire	C-
Utah	C-
California	D+
IDAHO	D+
Illinois	D+
lowa	D+
Kansas Maine	D+
	D+
Maryland	D+
Michigan  New Mexico	D+
Oregon	D+
Washington	D+ D+
Arizona	D
North Dakota	D
South Dakota	D
Colorado	D-
Hawaii	D-
Nebraska	D-
Nevada	D-
Wyoming	D-
Alaska	F
Montana	F
Average State Grade	C
, State Glade	

## **Elementary Teacher Preparation**

#### **Key Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

- 1. The state should ensure that all elementary teachers are sufficiently prepared for the ways that college- and career-readiness standards affect instruction of all subject areas. Specifically,
  - A. The state should require that all new elementary teachers are prepared to incorporate complex texts and academic language into instruction.
  - B. The state should ensure that all new elementary teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.
  - C. The state should ensure that all new elementary teachers of English language arts are prepared to support struggling readers.
- 2. 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.
- 3. The state should ensure that all elementary teacher candidates, including those who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license, possess sufficient content knowledge in all core subjects, including mathematics.
- 4. 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 45 credit hours to ensure appropriate depth in the core subject areas of English, mathematics, science, social studies and fine arts.
- 5. 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.



### Elementary Teacher Prep Analysis: Idaho

### PREPARING ELEMENTARY TEACHERS FOR COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS

The new demands of college- and career-readiness standards for students heighten the need for elementary teachers to have a strong content background in all of the subject matter taught in the elementary grades. Idaho, like most states, has adopted such standards and must ensure that its preparation and licensure requirements for new teachers address this need.

Currently, Idaho offers an elementary license to teach grades K-8. The state also offers an early childhood license from birth to grade 3. Key licensing requirements for elementary school teachers in Idaho include:



## IDAHO ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREP SNAPSHOT



State requires passing a content test in each of the four core subjects.



State requires adequate test on the science of reading.



State requires academic content specialization.



State has adequate/appropriate requirements for teachers who teach elementary grades on an early childhood license.



Yes



No

In addition to the strong content background called for by collegeand career-readiness standards, teacher candidates must also be prepared for the key instructional shifts that differentiate these standards from their predecessors. Beginning September 2015, elementary teachers in Idaho will be required to pass the revised Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test. The reading and language arts subtest includes some of the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these standards. However, although the framework now addresses complex texts, it does so only in the context of measuring text complexity and does not address how to also incorporate increasingly complex texts into instruction.

Early childhood education/blended candidates are required to pass the Praxis II Early Childhood: Content Knowledge (5022) test, which makes no mention of informational texts.

Neither teacher standards nor certification assessments address incorporating literacy into all academic subjects.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Ensure that elementary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and careerreadiness standards for students.

Incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

Idaho's adoption of the new Multiple Subjects test is a step in the right direction. However, the testing framework does not adequately capture all of the major instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards. Idaho is therefore encouraged to strengthen its teacher preparation requirements and ensure that all elementary candidates have the ability to incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction. The state's early childhood education teachers should also possess the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.

Incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.

To ensure that elementary students are capable of accessing varied information about the world around them, Idaho should also—either through testing frameworks or teacher standards—include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.

#### Support struggling readers.

Idaho should articulate specific requirements ensuring that elementary teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling. The early elementary grades are an especially important time to address reading deficiencies before students fall behind.

 Ensure that early childhood education teachers are adequately prepared to teach at the elementary level.

Idaho should require all early childhood teacher candidates who teach the elementary grades to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas, including reading/language

While the Multiple Subjects test does not address struggling readers, the Early Childhood: Content Knowledge test vaguely addresses the topic by requiring teachers to know the "major indicators of common reading difficulties (e.g., delays in learning to read, dyslexia, comprehension difficulties)."

#### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Tests www.ets.org/praxis

Comprehensive Literacy Plan Idaho Code 33-1207A http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher\_certification/literacy.htm

Idaho State Board of Education Rule 08-02-02 17.03

Comprehensive Literacy Assessment http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher\_certification/praxis.htm

Idaho Administrative Code 08.02.02.018, -.021

Idaho Standards for Initial Certification www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher\_certification/

#### **IDAHO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Idaho had no comment on this goal.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED**

arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Although requiring content testing for early childhood education teacher candidates is a sound requirement, Idaho should strengthen its policy and require separate, meaningful passing scores for each area on the test.

#### Ensure that the science of reading test is meaningful.

Idaho should ensure that its required assessment is fully aligned with scientifically based reading instruction. Further, it appears that the assessment spans K-12 literacy, which might make it possible for candidates to achieve the passing score without sufficient knowledge and skills for the elementary classroom.

#### 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 Idaho 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. Idaho's requirement of a subject-area or K-12 endorsement is undermined because it can be met with nonacademic endorsements.

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

Idaho should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish comprehensive coursework requirements for elementary teacher candidates that align with college-and career-readiness standards to ensure that candidates will complete coursework relevant to the common topics in elementary grades. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 45 credit hours in the core subject areas of English, mathematics, science, social studies and fine arts.

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Are states ensuring that new	,	Q / j	
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Maryland			
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Michigan			
Minnesota			
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New Hampshire			
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North Carolina			
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Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah Vermont			
Virginia Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
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## SUMMARY OF ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREP FIGURES

■ Figure 1

Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards

- Figure 2

  Content test requirements
- **Figure 3**Specific subject-matter requirements
- **Figure 4**Science of reading requirements
- Figure 5

  Math requirements
- **Figure 6**Requirements for academic concentrations
- **Figure 7**Requirements for early childhood teachers
- Figure 8

  Teacher Prep Review findings about elementary teacher prep

Figure 2	<u>ہ</u>	Elementary Content feet	Elementary content	<i>ts</i> : /
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#### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

Both Arkansas and California ensure that elementary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of collegeand career-readiness standards for students. These states specify that elementary teacher candidates must have the ability to not only build content knowledge and vocabulary through careful reading of informational and literary texts, but also to challenge students with texts of increasing complexity.

Candidates are also required to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject and are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

In addition, Indiana ensures that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades, including early childhood education candidates, possess the requisite knowledge of core content and of the key elements of scientifically based reading instruction before entering the classroom. Elementary and early childhood teacher candidates are required to pass a content test comprised of four independently scored subtests, including mathematics. In addition, these candidates are required to pass a comprehensive assessment that tests the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Elementary teacher candidates in Indiana must also earn either a major or minor in an academic content area.

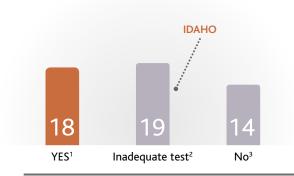
Massachusetts's MTEL mathematics subtest continues to set the standard in this area by evaluating mathematics knowledge beyond an elementary school level and challenging candidates' understanding of underlying mathematics concepts.

- 1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.
- 2. Massachusetts and North Carolina require a general curriculum test that does not report scores for each elementary subject. A separate score is reported for math.
- 3. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass a content test in Ohio.

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Figure 4

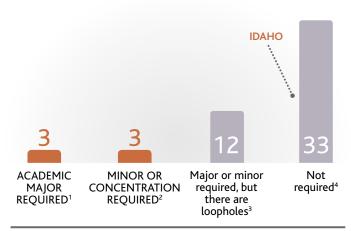
Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



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

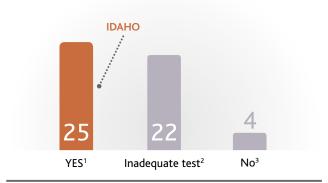
Figure 6

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?

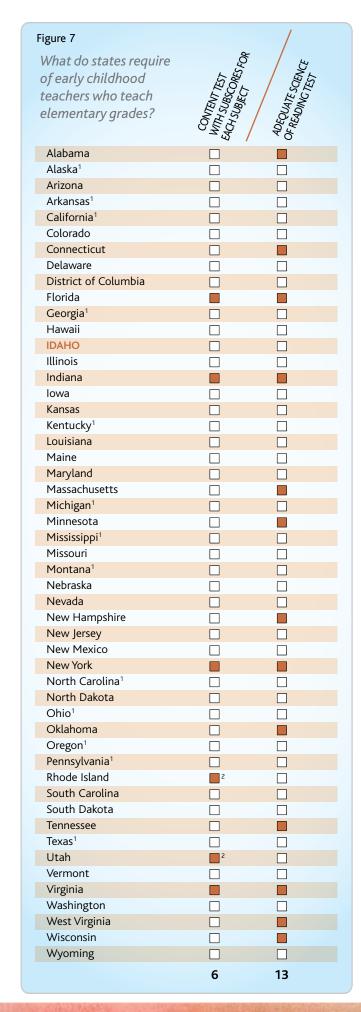


- 1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico
- 2. Strong Practice: Indiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma
- California, Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia
- These states require a major, minor or concentration but there is no 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, New Hampshire<sup>5</sup>, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- Only K-8 teachers must complete an area of concentration in a field such as humanities, fine arts, social sciences and sciences.

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, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin
- 3. Alaska<sup>4</sup>, Hawaii, Montana, Ohio<sup>5</sup>
- 4. Testing is not required for initial licensure.
- 5. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass an adequate content test.



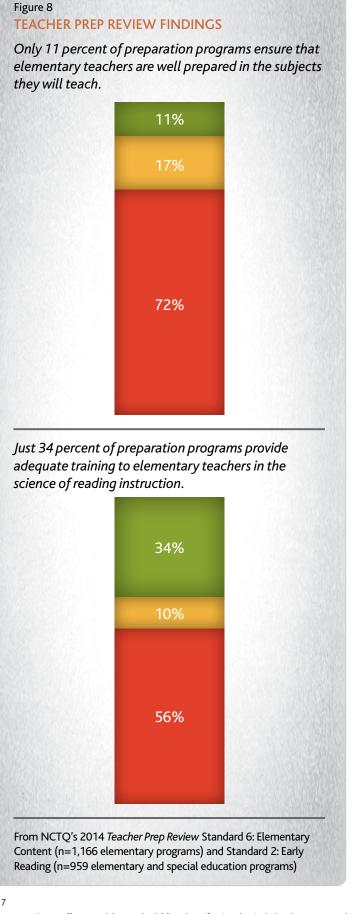


Figure /

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

## Middle School Teacher Preparation

#### **Key Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

- The state should ensure that all middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared for the ways that college- and career-readiness English language arts standards affect instruction of all subject areas. Specifically,
  - A. The state should require that all new middle school teachers are prepared to incorporate complex texts and academic language into instruction.
  - B. The state should ensure that all new middle school teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.
  - C. The state should ensure that all new middle school teachers of English language arts are prepared to support struggling readers.
- 2. The state should require that new middle school teachers pass a licensing test in every core academic area they are licensed to teach.
- 3. 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.



How well are states ensuring that middle school teachers are prepared for college- and career-readiness standards?

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

### Middle School Teacher Prep Analysis: Idaho

#### PREPARING MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR COLLEGE-AND CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS

The middle school years are critical to students' education, but, too often, states fail to distinguish the knowledge and skills needed by middle school teachers from those needed by an elementary teacher. Middle school teachers should not only be prepared to teach grade-level content, but should also be prepared to meet the increased instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

Currently, Idaho allows school teachers to teach on a generalist K-8 license. Key licensing requirements for middle school teachers in Idaho include:



## IDAHO MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREP SNAPSHOT



State requires teachers to pass a content test for each subject they teach.



State requires middle school teachers to hold a middle grade or secondary license.



Yes



Preparation and licensure requirements for middle school teachers must address more than just content knowledge; the key instructional shifts articulated in college- and career-readiness standards must also be incorporated. Idaho's K-8 teachers are required to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test as well as a single-subject content test at either the middle school or secondary level.

The Multiple Subjects' reading and language arts subtest includes some of the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these standards. However, although the framework now also addresses complex texts, it does so only in the context of measuring text complexity and does not address how to incorporate increasingly complex texts into instruction. Idaho's assessment for middle school English teachers, the Praxis II Middle School English Language Arts (5047) test, includes some of the instructional shifts associated with these standards.

The state's secondary English content assessment, the Praxis II English Language Arts: Content Knowledge test, addresses informational texts as well (see discussion of secondary requirements).

Neither teacher standards nor other middle school and secondary content tests in other content areas address incorporating literacy skills.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Ensure that middle school teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and careerreadiness standards for students.

Incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

Although Idaho's content tests address informational texts, the state should strengthen its policy and ensure that teachers are able to adequately challenge students with texts of increasing complexity.

Incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.

To ensure that middle school students are capable of accessing varied information about the world around them, Idaho should also—either through testing frameworks or teacher standards—include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.

#### Support struggling readers.

Idaho should articulate more specific requirements ensuring that middle school teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling. While college- and career-readiness standards will increase the need for all middle school teachers to be able to help struggling readers to comprehend grade-level material, training for English language arts teachers in particular must emphasize identification and remediation of reading deficiencies.

Require content testing in all core areas.

Idaho 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. Idaho's policy requiring generalist candidates to pass a single-subject content test at either the

Idaho's elementary content test does not address struggling readers. The middle school English content test requires that a teacher "knows commonly used research-based approaches to grouping and differentiated instruction to meet specific instructional objectives in English Language Arts" and "understands commonly used research-based strategies for teaching adolescent reading."

#### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Tests www.ets.org/praxis

Idaho Administrative Code 08.02.02.018, -.020

#### **IDAHO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Idaho had no comment on this goal.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED**

middle school or secondary level as part of the state's requirement that all candidates seeking an elementary education endorsement earn a subject-area endorsement (allowing the teaching of that subject through grade 9) is a step in the right direction. However, it does not ensure that middle school teachers teaching on the generalist license have the requisite subject-matter knowledge in all core content areas.

#### **Eliminate the generalist license.**

Idaho should not allow 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. These teachers are less likely to be adequately prepared to teach core academic areas at the middle school level because their preparation requirements are not specific to the middle or secondary levels, and they need not pass a subject-matter test in each subject they teach. Adopting middle school teacher preparation policies for all such teachers will help ensure that students in grades 7 and 8 have teachers who are appropriately prepared to teach grade-level content, which is different and more advanced than what elementary teachers teach.

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## SUMMARY OF MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREP FIGURES

#### Figure 9

Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards

#### ■ Figure 10

Distinctions in licenses betweeen middle and elementary teachers

#### Figure 11

Content test requirements

#### ■ Figure 12

*Teacher Prep Review* findings about middle school teacher prep

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

**Illinois** ensures that middle school teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students. The state's new standards for the middle grades include the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex texts and careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these standards. The standards also address the needs of struggling readers.

Illinois's requirements connecting literacy to all subject areas are particularly noteworthy. All middle school teachers must understand "the role, perspective and purpose of text in specific disciplines" and be able to perform tasks such as scaffolding reading to allow students to understand and learn from challenging text; guiding reading discussions that require students to identify key ideas and details of a text; analyze craft and structure and critically evaluate the text; and model reading strategies to improve comprehension.

In addition, 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.

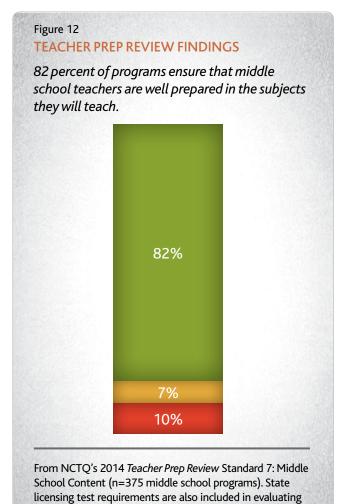
<sup>1.</sup> Offers 1-8 license.

 $<sup>\</sup>hbox{2. California offers a K-12 generalist license for all self-contained classrooms.}$ 

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

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

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

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- 2. Candidates teaching multiple subjects only have to pass the elementary test. Single-subject credential does not require content test.
- 3. For K-8 license, Idaho also requires one single-subject test.
- 4. Illinois requires candidates to take a middle level core content test if a test is available. It is not clear that this will result in teachers passing a test in each subject and draft test frameworks are not yet available for review.
- 5. Maryland allows elementary teachers to teach in departmentalized middle schools if not less than 50 percent of the teaching assignment is within the elementary grades.
- 6. New Hampshire requires K-8 candidates to pass a middle school content test in one core area.
- 7. For nondepartmentalized classrooms, generalist in middle childhood education candidates must pass the new assessment with three subtests.
- 8. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.

## **Secondary Teacher Preparation**

#### **Key Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

- The state should ensure that all secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared for the ways that collegeand career-readiness English language arts standards affect instruction of all subject areas. Specifically,
  - A. The state should require that all new secondary teachers are prepared to incorporate complex texts and academic language into instruction.
  - B. The state should ensure that all new secondary teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.
  - C. The state should ensure that all new secondary teachers of English language arts are prepared to support struggling readers.
- 2. The state should require that secondary teachers pass a licensing test in every subject they are licensed to teach.
- 3. The state should require secondary general science and general social studies teachers to pass a subject-matter test of each discipline they are licensed to teach.
- 4. The state should require that secondary teachers pass a content test when adding subject-area endorsements to an existing license.



### Secondary Teacher Prep Analysis: Idaho

#### PREPARING SECONDARY TEACHERS FOR COLLEGE- AND **CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS**

To be prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for their students, secondary teachers must be experts in the subject matter they teach. States should ensure that secondary teachers have sufficient content knowledge in all the subjects they are licensed to teach.

Currently, Idaho offers single-subject secondary licenses to teach grades 6-12. Key licensing requirements for secondary school teachers in Idaho include:



#### **IDAHO** SECONDARY TEACHER PREP SNAPSHOT



State requires a content test to teach any single core subject.



State offers only single-subject science certifications or has appropriate requirements for teachers with general science license.



State offers only single-subject social studies certifications or has appropriate requirements for teachers with general social studies license.



State requires a content test in order to add an endorsement to a license.



Yes



Not only must secondary teachers possess strong backgrounds in content knowledge as required by college- and career-readiness standards, they must also be able to address the key instructional shifts associated with the standards. Idaho addresses some of the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with the state's college- and career-readiness standards for students through its required assessment for English language arts teachers, the Praxis II English Language Arts: Content Knowledge (5038) test.

Neither teacher standards nor secondary tests in other content areas address incorporating literacy skills.

Idaho has no requirements for the preparation of secondary teachers that address struggling readers.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Ensure that secondary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and careerreadiness standards for students.

Incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

Although Idaho's required secondary English language arts content test addresses informational texts, the state should strengthen its policy and ensure that teachers are able to challenge students with texts of increasing complexity.

Incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.

To ensure that secondary students are capable of accessing varied information about the world around them, Idaho should—either through testing frameworks or standards—include literacy skills and using text as a means to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.

#### Support struggling readers.

Idaho should articulate requirements ensuring that secondary teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling. While college- and career-readiness standards will increase the need for all secondary teachers to be able to help struggling readers to comprehend grade-level material, training for English language arts teachers in particular must emphasize identification and remediation of reading deficiencies.

Require secondary teachers with umbrella certifications to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed

By allowing general social studies and general science certifications—and only requiring general knowledge exams for each—Idaho is not ensuring that these secondary teach-

#### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Tests www.ets.org/praxis

Idaho Administrative Code, IDAPA, 08.02.02, Rule 024, Rules 017, 018, 021

#### **IDAHO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Idaho had no comment on this goal.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED**

ers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. The state's required general social studies assessment combines all topical areas (e.g., history, geography, economics), and its required general science assessment combines subject areas that include biology, chemistry and physics. Neither assessment reports separate scores for each area. Therefore, candidates could answer many perhaps all—chemistry questions, for example, incorrectly, yet still be licensed to teach chemistry to high school students. While Idaho's coursework requirements for social studies teacher candidates ensure some preparation in each topical area, without single subject tests for each social studies area, the state has no way to ensure that teachers possess specific content knowledge.

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## SUMMARY OF SECONDARY TEACHER PREP FIGURES

■ Figure 13

Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards

- **Figure 14**Content test requirements
- Figure 15

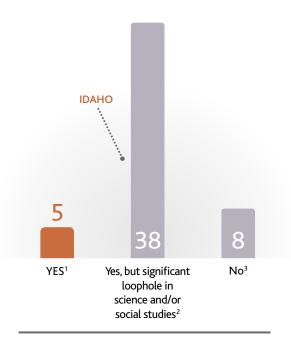
  Requirements for general science teachers
- Figure 16

  Requirements for general social studies teachers
- Figure 17

  Teacher Prep Review findings about secondary teacher prep

Figure 14

Do secondary teachers have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



- 1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, 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 Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>4</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin [For more on loopholes, see Figure 15 (science) and Figure 16 (social studies).}
- 3. Alaska<sup>5</sup>, Arizona<sup>6</sup>, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, Washington, Wyoming
- 4. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
- 5. Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.
- 6. Candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.



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

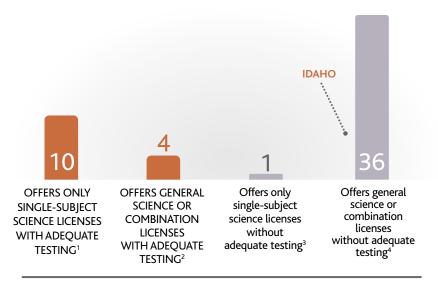
Arkansas has done more than other states to ensure that secondary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students. Not only does the state address the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex informational texts and careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these new standards in its educator competencies for secondary English language arts teachers, it also requires teachers to incorporate literacy skills into all content areas. For example, the secondary social studies competency to "incorporate disciplinary literacy" states that "reading competencies for literacy in history/social studies for grades 7-12 include the ability to read informational texts in history and social studies closely and critically to analyze the key ideas and details as well as craft and structure with the purpose of integrating knowledge and ideas both within and across texts." A similar competency exists for both the life science and physical science secondary certifications.

Indiana, Minnesota and Tennessee require that all secondary teacher candidates pass a content test to teach any core subject—both as a condition of licensure and to add an additional field to a secondary license. Further, neither of these states offers secondary certification in general social studies or science; all teachers must be certified in a specific discipline.

Also worthy of mention is **Missouri**, which requires general social studies teachers to pass a multi-content test with six independently scored subtests. Missouri also offers a general science license that can only be used to teach general science courses. All other science teachers must be certified in a specific discipline.

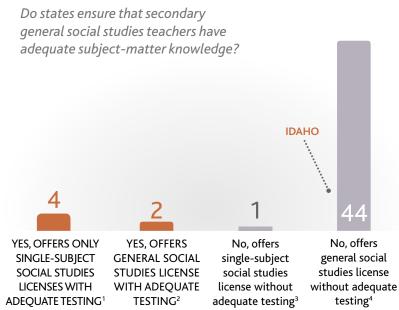
Figure 15

Do states ensure that secondary general science teachers have adequate subject-matter knowledge?

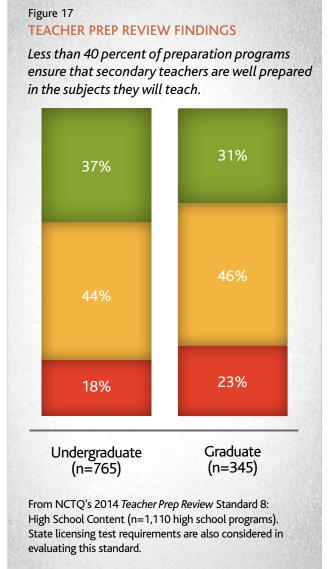


- 1. Strong Practice: Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia
- 2. Strong Practice: Missouri, New Jersey, Rhode Island<sup>5</sup>, West Virginia<sup>5</sup>
- 3. California
- 4. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona<sup>6</sup>, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia<sup>7</sup>, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 5. Teachers with the general science license may only teach general science courses.
- 6. Arizona limits teachers with the general science license to teaching only general science courses. However, candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.
- 7. Georgia's science test consists of two subtests.

Figure 16



- 1. Strong Practice: Georgia, Indiana, South Dakota, Tennessee
- 2. Strong Practice: Minnesota<sup>5</sup>, Missouri
- 3. Arizona<sup>6</sup>
- 4. Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississispipi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 5. Minnesota's test for general social studies is divided into two individually scored subtests.
- 6. Candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.
- 7. Oklahoma offers combination licenses without adequate testing.



## Special Education Teacher Preparation

#### **Key Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

- The state should ensure that all special education teachers are sufficiently prepared for the ways that college- and career-readiness English language arts standards affect instruction of all subject areas. Specifically,
  - A. The state should ensure that all new secondary special education teachers are prepared to support struggling readers.
  - B. The state should require that all new secondary special education teachers are prepared to incorporate complex texts and academic language into instruction.
  - C. The state should ensure that all new secondary special education teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.
- 2. The state should require that new elementary special education teachers pass a rigorous test of reading instruction in order to attain licensure.
- 3. 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.
- 4. All elementary special education candidates should be required to pass a subject-matter test for licensure that is no less rigorous than what is required of general education candidates.
- The state should ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.



- California, Colorado, Connecticut,
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### Special Education Teacher Prep Analysis: Idaho

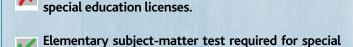
#### PREPARING SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS FOR **COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS**

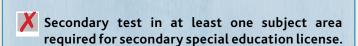
Although most special education students are expected to meet the same high college- and career-readiness standards as typical students, too many states set an even lower bar for the preparation and licensure requirements of special education teachers. States must ensure that special education teachers are well grounded in all of the subject matter they will be licensed to teach.

Currently, Idaho offers special education licenses to teach grades K-12 and birth to grade 3. The state also offers a PreK-3 endorsement that can be added to the K-12 license. Key licensing requirements for special education teachers in Idaho include:











Yes

education license.



Special education teachers must also be prepared for the key instructional shifts that differentiate college- and career-readiness standards from previous student standards.

Idaho does not require its special education teachers who teach the elementary grades to pass a rigorous test of reading instruction.

However, beginning September 2015, all K-12 special education teacher candidates will be required to pass the revised Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test. The reading and language arts subtest includes some of the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these standards. However, although the framework now addresses complex texts, it does so only in the context of measuring text complexity and does not address how to also incorporate increasingly complex texts into instruction.

The state does not address the incorporation of literacy skills into all academic subjects.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Ensure that special education teachers** are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and careerreadiness standards for students.

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

Idaho already has in place a requirement for general elementary education teachers to earn a passing score on its Comprehensive Literacy Assessment test. The state should expand its existing policy and require all special education teachers who teach the elementary grades to pass this assessment as well. It is especially critical that these teacher candidates possess the knowledge and skills related to the science of reading and pass a rigorous test that addresses all five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Elementary special education teachers who do not possess the minimum knowledge in this area should not be eligible for licensure.

Incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

Idaho's adoption of the new Multiple Subjects test is a step in the right direction. However, the testing framework does not adequately capture all of the major instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards. Idaho is therefore encouraged to strengthen its teacher preparation requirements and ensure all elementary candidates have the ability to incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.

Incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.

To ensure that special education students are capable of accessing varied information about the world around them, Idaho should also—either through testing frameworks or teacher standards—include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.

Idaho has no requirements for the preparation of elementary or secondary special education teachers that address struggling readers.

#### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Tests www.ets.org/praxis

Idaho Administrative Code 08.02.02.028

**IDAHO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** 

Idaho had no comment on this goal.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED**

#### Support struggling readers.

Idaho should articulate requirements ensuring that all special education teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading. With reading difficulties generally representing the primary reason for special education placements, it is essential that all special education teachers have the knowledge and skills to diagnose and support students with literacy needs.

#### 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 Idaho 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 fe eral expectations that special education st dents 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 edcation students, who are expected to learn grade-level content.

#### 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, Idaho's current policy of only requiring an elementary content test is problematic and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards. To provide a middle ground, Idaho 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.

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#### **SUMMARY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREP FIGURES**

#### Figure 18

Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards

#### Figure 19

Distinctions in licenses between elementary and secondary teachers

#### Figure 20

Content test requirements

#### Figure 21

Science of reading requirements

#### Figure 22

Teacher Prep Review findings about special education teacher prep



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

Although all states have weaknesses when it comes to special education teachers' preparedness to meet the instructional requirements of college- and careerreadiness standards for students, both Indiana and New York are notable for addressing the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex informational texts and careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these standards.

Unfortunately, states are also weak in other areas of special education teacher preparation. However, three states—Missouri, 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. These three 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 multi-subject 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. Secondary special education teachers in Missouri can either take a multi-subject test comprised of four separately scored sections or a single-subject secondary assessment.

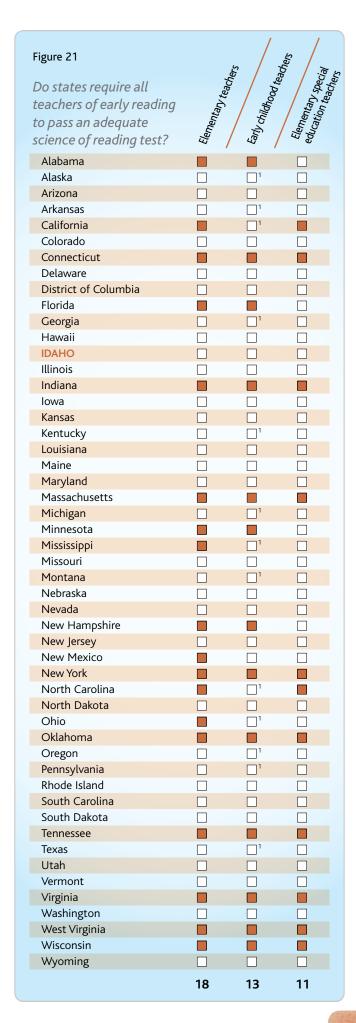
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Hawaii			
IDAHO			
Illinois	П	П	
Indiana			
lowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine			
Maryland			
Massachusetts			
Michigan	$\overline{\Box}$		
Minnesota	П		
Mississippi	П		
Missouri	1	П	
Montana			
Nebraska	П		
Nevada	П		
New Hampshire	П		
New Jersey	1		
New Mexico	П	П	
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon	1		
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont	1		
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	16	12	23
	10	16	

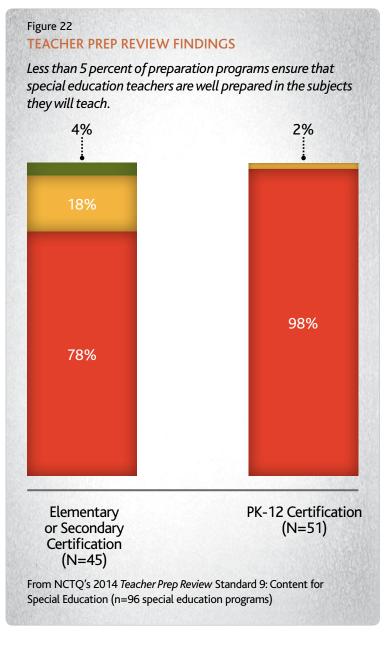
Figure 20
Which states require subject-matter testing for special education teachers?

- 4. New York requires a multi-subject content test specifically geared to secondary special education candidates. It is divided into three subtests.
- 5. Wisconsin requires a middle school level content area test which does not report subscores for each area.

Figure 19

Missouri, New Jersey, Oregon and Vermont issue a K-12 certificate, but candidates must meet discrete elementary and/or secondary requirements.





<sup>1.</sup> 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.

## **Admission into Teacher Preparation**

#### **Key Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

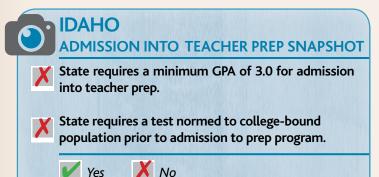
- 1. The state should limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population.
- 2. The state should require teacher candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs. Alternatively, academic proficiency could be demonstrated by grade point average.



### Admission into Teacher Prep Analysis: Idaho

### RAISING THE BAR FOR TEACHER PREP THROUGH HIGHER ADMISSION STANDARDS

NCTQ has repeatedly found that too many teacher preparation programs are in need of major improvement, graduating first-year teachers lacking skills and content knowledge adequate to thrive in the classroom. One important way states can raise the bar for teacher preparation programs is to set more ambitious admission requirements for new elementary, secondary and special education teachers. This is even more relevant and important as the increasing expectations of college- and career-readiness standards demand more from teachers academically. A key criterion for admissions is evidence of a strong academic background, and states should require programs to select candidates from the top half of the college-going population. Countries like Singapore and Finland are even more restrictive in admissions; the top half goal is realistic and achievable while representing a significantly higher standard for programs throughout the United States. Until recently, few states had rigorous academic standards for admission, but with states like Rhode Island and Delaware significantly raising the bar by taking the lead in establishing higher standards and new accreditation requirements from CAEP, this is beginning to change.



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

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

 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. Idaho should require candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, mathematics and writing prior to program admission. Alternatively, the state could require a minimum grade point average to establish that candidates have a strong academic history.

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

Idaho should require an assessment demonstrating that candidates are academically competitive with all peers, regardless of their intended profession. Requiring a common test normed to the general college population would allow for the selection of applicants in the top half of their class, as well as facilitate program comparison.

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

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

#### **IDAHO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

While not asked to respond to the full analysis for this section, Idaho did not agree that a common admission test is valuable, asserting that institutions, serving different populations and missions, should have that autonomy. The state indicated that there is little valid evidence that using such a measure is reliable, noting that the first citation in NCTQ's supporting research documents even states: "... little progress has been made in linking teacher quality with factors observable at the time of hire" (Rockoff, Jacob, Kane, & Staiger, 2008).

#### LAST WORD FROM NCTQ

There is an increasing body of research showing that a teachers' academic achievement as an undergraduate, including grade point average, is an important indicator of how well she or he will do as a teacher. NCTQ is not suggesting that academic achievement should be the only criterion used for admission to teacher preparation programs, but it is nonetheless an important one, as recognized by a growing number of states, as well as the new accreditation standards adopted by CAEP.

anddates only during or after TETNORMED TO COLLEGE Completion of prep program Figure 23 Test normed to teacher Test normed to teacher candidates only before admission to prep program ADMISSON TO PREPPROG Do states measure the academic proficiency of teacher candidates? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii 1 IDAHO Illinois Indiana Iowa П Kansas Kentucky Louisiana 1 Maine П Maryland П Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi П П Missouri П Montana П П Nebraska Nevada П П П П New Hampshire П П New Jersey П New Mexico New York **1** П North Carolina 1 North Dakota Ohio П <u></u>2 П П Oklahoma Oregon П П Pennsylvania Rhode Island П South Carolina **1** П П П South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont П Virginia П Washington П West Virginia П П Wisconsin Wyoming П 7 13 18 13

## SUMMARY OF ADMISSION INTO TEACHER PREP FIGURES

- **Figure 23**Test of academic proficiency requirements
- **Figure 24**GPA requirements
- Figure 25

  Teacher Prep Review findings about admissions



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

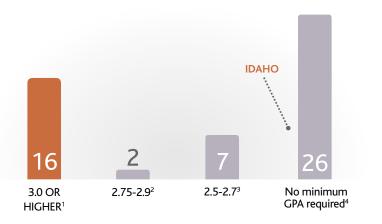
While many states now require CAEP accreditation which includes a standard requiring strong admission practices, **Rhode Island** and **Delaware** have set requirements independent of the accreditation process, ensuring that the states' expectations are clear. Both states require a test of academic proficiency normed to the general college-bound 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.

<sup>1.</sup> Requirements for admissions test normed to college-bound population is based on CAEP accreditation standards, not state's own admission policy.

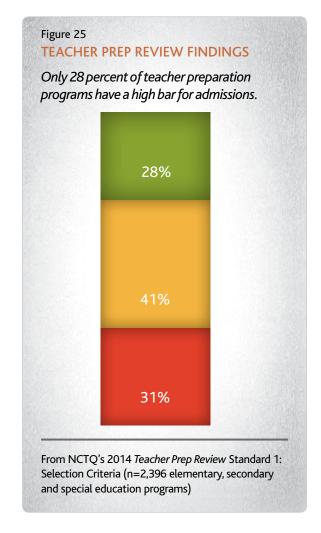
<sup>2.</sup> Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission with a 3.0 GPA.

Figure 24

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



- Strong Practice: Delaware, District of Columbia<sup>5</sup>, Georgia<sup>6</sup>, Hawaii<sup>5</sup>, Louisiana<sup>5</sup>, Michigan<sup>5</sup>, Mississippi<sup>6</sup>, New Jersey<sup>6</sup>, New York<sup>5</sup>, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, Pennsylvania<sup>8</sup>, Rhode Island, South Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Utah, Virginia<sup>5</sup>
- 2. Kentucky, Texas
- 3. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut<sup>9</sup>, Florida, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin<sup>10</sup>
- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 5. Required minimum GPA of 3.0 is based on CAEP accreditation standards, not state's own admission policy.
- 6. The 3.0 GPA requirement is a cohort average; individual candidates in Mississippi and New Jersey must have a 2.75 GPA. Individual candidates in Georgia must have a 2.5 GPA.
- 7. Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission by passing a basic skills test.
- 8. Students can also be admitted with a combination of a 2.8 GPA and qualifying scores on the basic skills test or SAT/ACT.
- 9. Connecticut requires a B- grade point average for all undergraduate courses.
- $10. The \ GPA \ admission \ requirement \ is \ 2.5 \ for \ undergraduate \ and \ 2.75 \ for \ graduate \ programs.$



## **Teacher Preparation Program Accountability**

#### **Key Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

- The state should incorporate preparation to teach to college- and career-readiness standards into its accountability requirements for teacher preparation programs.
- 2. 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.
- 3. The state should establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data. Programs should be held accountable for meeting these standards, with articulated consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.
- 4. The state should produce and publish on its website an annual report card that shows all the data the state collects on individual teacher preparation programs.
- The state should retain full authority over its process for approving teacher preparation programs.



How well are states ensuring that teacher preparation programs are accountable for their performance?

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

### Teacher Prep Program Accountability Analysis: Idaho

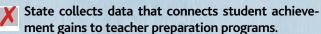
### HOLDING PREPARATION PROGRAMS ACCOUNTABLE FOR RESULTS

The ultimate goal of teacher preparation programs should be to produce teachers who are effective in educating their students and ensure that they are ready for college and career. As programs operate by virtue of state approval, it is the state's responsibility to connect approval to accountability measures that ensure high performance. While this goal may have been hard to assess a few years ago, that is no longer the case. Redesigned evaluations of teacher effectiveness in the majority of states offer an opportunity for states to collect meaningful objective data on the performance of program graduates. To date, few states connect their process of approving teacher preparation programs to measurable outcome data about programs' graduates.



#### **IDAHO**

#### TEACHER PREP ACCOUNTABILITY SNAPSHOT



- State collects other meaningful data that reflect program performance.
- State has set minimum standards for program performance.
- State publishes an annual report card on its own website.
- State retains full authority over its approval process.



Yes



No

Idaho'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, Idaho 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. Further, in the past three years, no programs in Idaho 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. Idaho maintains control over its approval process.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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

#### Report 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;
- Satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison;
- Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including academic proficiency, subject matter and professional knowledge tests;
- 4. Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests
- 5. Five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.

#### **Supporting Research**

Idaho Administrative Code 08.02.02.100

Title II State Reports https://title2.ed.gov

#### **IDAHO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

While not asked to respond to the full analysis for this section, Idaho asserted that it currently collects information pertaining to teacher effectiveness that connects to the preparation programs. Reports of all of the data collected pertaining to teacher preparation programs are made public through this site. While Idaho does accept CAEP as an accrediting body, the state retains full authority over its process for approving teacher preparation programs. Section 33-114 of Idaho Code indicates "The state of Idaho ... shall pursue continuing approval through a full program review every seven (7) years. The full program review shall be based upon the Idaho Standards for Initial Certification of Professional School Personnel. (3-29-12)."

#### LAST WORD FROM NCTQ

The only data NCTQ could identify related to teacher preparation programs available on the state's website pertains to pass rates on teacher licensure assessments. It is interesting that the state would refer to this as "teacher effectiveness" data, given the great exception the state took to many of NCTQ's recommendations related to licensure assessments throughout this report.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED**

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

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

Idaho 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:

Figure 26	KAN.	MECTED R	
5	ECTIVE PROGRAM		NATA PUBLICY VAILABLE ON Y
Do states hold teacher	25	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	PUB BILE
preparation programs			4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4
accountable?	०इ /	/ S.S.A. /	0,4
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Arizona			
Arkansas California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
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Florida			2
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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			
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			
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Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia	1 1 m		
Washington			
West Virginia	■ ¹		
Wisconsin			
Wyoming	35	4	18

#### SUMMARY OF TEACHER PREP PROGRAM **ACCOUNTABILITY FIGURES**

Figure 26

Accountability requirements

Figure 27

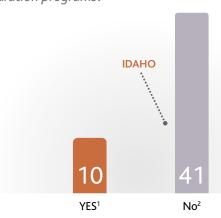
Use of student achievement data



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

No state has yet implemented a full accountability system for teacher preparation that features data, including student achievement gains, connected to teacher preparation programs (not just the institution level); has clear minimum standards of performance for those data; and publishes the results for use by prospective teachers, hiring school districts and the general public. Some states are well on their way. Georgia and Louisiana collect student achievement gains and set minimum standards of performance, while Ohio and Tennessee have published report cards that include connections to student achievement gains.

Figure 27 Do states connect student achievement data to teacher preparation programs?



- 1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia<sup>3</sup>, Hawaii<sup>3</sup>, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland³, 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.

### Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Idaho

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.
   Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.
   Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading. Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.

#### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

#### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach, as a condition
  of licensure.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

#### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

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

#### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach

#### Raise admission requirements:

• Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

#### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

