2015 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Massachusetts



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 June 2015 for comment and correction; states also received a final draft of their reports a month prior to release. All but three states responded to our inquiries. While states do not always agree with our recommendations, their willingness to engage in dialogue and often acknowledge the imperfections of their teacher policies is an important step forward.

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NCTQ PROJECT TEAM

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National Council on Teacher Quality

Executive Summary

The 2015 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 32 policy goals focused on helping states put in place a comprehensive framework in support of preparing, retaining and rewarding effective teachers.

Massachusetts at a Glance



2015 Massachusetts Area Goal Scores

AREA 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers	В-	AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	С
Admission into Teacher Preparation		State Data Systems	•
Elementary Teacher Preparation		Evaluation of Effectiveness	
Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction		Frequency of Evaluations	•
Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	*	Tenure	
Early Childhood Teacher Preparation		Licensure Advancement	
Middle School Teacher Preparation		Equitable Distribution	
Secondary Teacher Preparation		AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	С
Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science and Social Studie	es 🌗	Induction	
Special Education Teacher Preparation		Professional Development	*
Special Education Preparation in Reading		Pay Scales and Performance Pay	
Assessing Professional Knowledge		Differential Pay	
Student Teaching		Compensation for Prior Work Experience	
Teacher Preparation Program Accountability		AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers	В
AREA 2: Expanding the Teacher Pool	C+	Extended Emergency Licenses	
Alternate Route Eligibility	•	Dismissal for Poor Performance	
Alternate Route Preparation		Reductions in Force	
Alternate Route Usage and Providers			
Part-Time Teaching Licenses			
Licensure Reciprocity	•		

Goal Summary

The set Practice: 2

Fully Meets: 5 Searly Meets: 9

Progress Decreased: 0

Partially Meets: 8

Meets Only a Small Part: 3

Does Not Meet: 5

Progress on Goals Since 2013

Progress Increased: 3

AREA 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Admission into Teacher Preparation

Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population. Academic ability can be measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or a minimum GPA requirement.

Elementary Teacher Preparation

- As a condition of initial licensure, require that all elementary candidates pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects and require a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Ensure all new elementary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional shifts related to informational text and incorporating literacy into all content areas associated with college- and career-readiness standards.
- Establish equivalent requirements for teachers who may teach elementary grades on an early childhood license.

Middle School Teacher Preparation

- Require middle school teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach as a condition of initial licensure.
- Ensure that all new middle school teachers are prepared to meet the instructional shifts related to informational text, incorporating literacy into all content areas and supporting struggling readers associated with college- and careerreadiness standards.

Secondary Teacher Preparation

- Require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.
- Ensure all new secondary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional shifts related to informational text, incorporating literacy into all content areas and supporting struggling readers associated with college- and careerreadiness standards.

Special Education Teacher Preparation

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.
- Ensure that all new special education candidates are prepared to meet the instructional shifts related to informational text and incorporating literacy into all content areas associated with college- and career-readiness standards.

AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Alternate Routes to Certification

Establish guidelines for alternate route programs that require preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. Ensure programs provide intensive induction support to alternate route teachers.

License Reciprocity

Grant certification to teachers from other states who can demonstrate evidence of effectiveness.

AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

Teacher Evaluation

- Require instructional effectiveness to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.
- Require annual evaluations for all teachers.

Tenure

Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the most important factor in tenure decisions.

Licensure Advancement

Base licensure advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license and licensure renewal on evidence of effectiveness.

AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Compensation

While leaving districts flexibility to determine their own pay scales, support pay systems that recognize teachers for their effectiveness and for teaching in both subject-shortage areas and high-need schools and discourage systems tied to advanced degrees and/or experience.

AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

Figure A	Overall State Grade 2015	A Overall State	a Overall State Grade 2011	Overall State Grade 2009
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Florida	B+	B+	В	С
Indiana	В	B-	C+	D
Louisiana	В	В	C-	C-
New York	В	B-	С	D+
Tennessee	В	В	B-	C-
Arkansas	B-	B-	С	C-
Connecticut	B-	B-	C-	D+
Delaware	B-	C+	С	D
Georgia	B-	B-	C	C-
MASSACHUSETTS	B-	B-	С	D+
Ohio	B-	B-	C+	D+
Oklahoma	B-	B-	B-	D+
Rhode Island	B-	В	B-	D
Illinois	C+	C+	С	D+
Michigan	C+	B-	C+	D-
New Jersey	C+	B-	D+	D+
Utah	C+	С	C-	D
Virginia	C+	C+	D+	D+
Colorado	С	C+	С	D+
Kentucky	С	С	D+	D+
Mississippi	С	С	D+	D+
New Mexico	С	D+	D+	D+
South Carolina	С	C-	C-	C-
Arizona	C-	C-	D+	D+
Idaho	C-	D+	D+	D-
Maine	C-	C-	D-	F
Minnesota	C-	C-	C-	D-
Missouri	C-	C-	D	D
Nevada	C-	C-	C-	D-
North Carolina	C-	С	D+	D+
Pennsylvania	C-	C-	D+	D
Texas	C-	C-	C-	C-
Washington	C-	C-	C-	D+
West Virginia	C-	C-	D+	D+
Alabama	D+	C-	C-	C-
District of Columbia	D+	D+	D	D-
Hawaii	D+	D+	D-	D-
Kansas	D+	D	D	D-
Maryland	D+	D+	D+	D
California	D	D+	D+	D+
lowa	D	D	D	D
Nebraska	D	D-	D-	D-
New Hampshire	D	D	D-	D-
North Dakota	D	D	D	D-
Oregon Wisconsin	D	D	D- D	D- D
	D D	D+ D	D	D D-
Wyoming Alaska	D-	D	D	D- D
South Dakota	D-	D-	D	D
Vermont	D-	D-	D-	F
Montana	F	F	F	F
Fiorituria				

How to Read the Yearbook

GOAL SCORE

The extent to which each goal has been met:



PROGRESS INDICATOR

Whether the state has advanced on the goal or the state has lost ground on that topic:

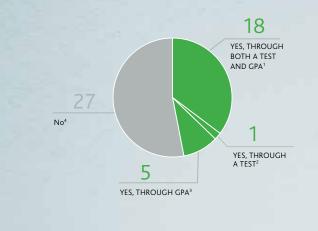
Goal progress has increased since 2013
 Goal progress has decreased since 2013

BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL

Indicates the criteria to meet the goal have been raised since the 2013 Yearbook.

READING CHARTS AND TABLES:

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



This year's edition of the *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* features a new format for presenting state and national data.

Each state's volume is now summarized to present the most important information about key teacher quality policies in an infographic format. Full narrative versions -- including detailed analyses and recommendations as well as the state response for each policy topic -- can now be found online, using NCTQ's State Policy Dashboard



(http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard).

The National Summary maintains the traditional *Yearbook* format and presentation. Topics are organized as policy goals, including the specific components that form the basis of each analysis. National findings are included for each goal, as well



as a comprehensive set of tables and graphs that provide a national overview of the teacher policy landscape.

Area 1 Summary

State Area Grades



GR

How States are Faring on **Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

B+ 2 2 Alaska, Montana Florida, Indiana B 1 D New York 7 Hawaii, Iowa, Nebraska, Nevada, B-North Dakota, South Dakota, 10 Wyoming Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, MASSACHUSETTS, Missouri, Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia HERAGE AREA CR 3 Colorado, Maryland, Washington **C+** 8 Georgia, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia D+ 9 Arizona, California, Idaho, Illinois, 2 Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Kentucky, Utah New Mexico, Oregon 7 District of Columbia, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Wisconsin

Topics Included In This Area

- Admission into Teacher Preparation
- **Elementary Teacher Preparation** •
- Middle School Teacher Preparation
- **Secondary Teacher Preparation**

- Special Education Teacher Preparation
- Assessing Professional Knowledge
- Student Teaching
- Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2015 | AREA 1 SUMMARY | MASSACHUSETTS : 5

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' admission into teacher prep policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Admission into Teacher Prep

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Admission into Teacher Prep Preparation programs only admit candidates with strong academic records.

Fully meets
 Nearly meets
 Partially meets
 Meets only a small part
 Does not meet
 Progress increased since 2013
 Lost ground since 2013

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot Admission into Teacher Prep

No
 A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for admission to a teacher preparation program.
 A test of academic proficiency normed to the college-bound population is required prior to admission to a teacher preparation program.

MASSACHUSETTS Admission into Teacher Prep Characteristics

Test Requirement	Not required	
GPA Requirement	Not required	

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ADMISSION INTO TEACHER PREP POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

Massachusetts 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.

This 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, Massachusetts might also want to consider requiring content testing prior to program admission as opposed to at the point of program completion.

Examples of Best Practice

While many states now require CAEP accreditation, which includes a standard requiring strong admission practices, Delaware, Rhode Island and West Virginia have set a high bar independent of the accreditation process, ensuring that the state's expectations are clear. These 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, Rhode Island and West Virginia require teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or to be in the top 50th percentile for general education coursework completed. Rhode Island and West Virginia also require 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.

SUMMARY OF ADMISSION INTO TEACHER PREP FIGURES

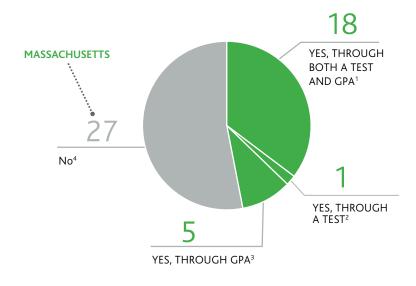
Figure 1 Academic proficiency requirements

Other admission figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Admission tests (p. 4)
- Minimum GPA for admission (p. 5)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's admission into teacher prep policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Do states set a high academic bar for admission to teacher preparation programs?



- Strong Practice: Alabama⁵, Arkansas⁵, Delaware⁶, District of Columbia⁵, Indiana⁵, Louisiana⁵, Michigan⁵, New Jersey⁷, New York³, North Carolina⁵, Oklahoma⁵, Oregon⁵, Rhode Island, South Carolina⁵, Tennessee⁵, Utah⁶, Virginia⁵, West Virginia
- 2. Strong Practice: Texas
- 3. Strong Practice: Georgia, Hawaii⁸, Mississippi, Montana, Pennsylvania⁹
- 4. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 5. Requirement for admissions test normed to college-bound population and cohort minimum GPA of 3.0 are based on CAEP accreditation standards, not state's own admissions policies.
- 6. Candidates can qualify for admission through the GPA or test requirement.
- New Jersey requires a cohort minimum GPA of 3.0. The requirement for admissions test normed to college-bound population is based on CAEP accreditation standards, not state's own admissions policies.
- Requirement for cohort minimum GPA of 3.0 is based on CAEP accreditation standards, not Hawaii's own admission standards. Hawaii exempts candidates with a bachelor's degree from admission testing requirements.
- 9. Candidates can also be admitted with a combination of a 2.8 GPA and qualifying scores on the basic skills test or SAT/ACT.

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' 💱 elementary teacher preparation policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Elementary Teacher Preparation

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings	
Content Knowledge New elementary teachers know the subject matter they are licensed to teach.	•
Reading Instruction New elementary teachers know the science of reading instruction and understand the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards.	•
Mathematics New elementary teachers have deep knowledge of the math content taught in elementary grades.	*
Early Childhood Teachers who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license are appropriately prepared for the elementary classroom.	
★ Best Practice 🔵 Fully meets 🥥 Nearly meets 🕕 Partially meets 🕒 Meets only a small part 🔵 Does not meet 🛛 N/A Not A	Applicable

1 Progress increased since 2013

Lost ground since 2013

	MASSA Elemen	CHUSETTS Snapshot tary Teacher Preparation
¢.	Somewhat	Content test required for elementary teachers in each of the four core subjects.
	Yes	An adequate science of reading test is required.
¢	Somewhat	Teacher preparation and licensure requirements for elementary teachers include the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards.
R	Yes	Elementary teachers must have an academic content specialization.
*	Somewhat	Teachers who teach elementary grades on an early childhood license are held to appropriate content and early reading requirements.

MASSACHUSETTS Elementary Teacher Preparation Characteristics

Elementary Licenses	1-6; PreK-2
Content Tests	MTEL General Curriculum Test: contains separate subscore for mathematics only (1-6); MTEL Early Childhood test (PreK-2)
Science of Reading Requirements	MTEL Foundations of Reading Test or MTEL Reading Specialist test 1-6; PreK-2
Academic Specialization	Academic major required
Instructional Shifts Associated with College-and Career- Readiness Standards	Complex informational text: Not addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Not addressed Struggling readers: Fully addressed

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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 including reading/language arts, math, science and social studies.

Although Massachusetts is on the right track by administering a two-part licensing test, thus making it harder for elementary teachers to pass if they fail some subject areas, the state is encouraged to further strengthen its policy and require separate passing scores for each core subject on its licensing test. Massachusetts should also 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.

SUMMARY OF ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREPARATION FIGURES

- **Figure 2** Content test requirements
- Figure 3 Science of reading tests
- **Figure 4** Instructional shifts associated with college-and careerreadiness standards
- **Figure 5** Math requirements
- **Figure 6** Requirements for early childhood teachers

Other elementary teacher preparation figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Academic concentrations (p. 8)
- Science of reading preparation and testing requirements (p. 11)
- Early childhood content tests (p. 18)
- Early childhood science of reading tests (p. 19)
- Early childhood math tests (p. 19)
- Early childhood instructional shifts associated with college- and careerreadiness standards (p. 20)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's elementary teacher prep policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

Ensure that elementary and early childhood teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

Incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

Massachusetts is encouraged to strengthen its teacher preparation requirements and ensure that all teachers licensed to teach at the elementary level have the ability to adequately incorporate complex informational text into classroom instruction—as a condition of initial licensure.

Incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.

To ensure that elementary school students are capable of accessing varied information about the world around them, Massachusetts should include specific teacher preparation requirements for all teachers licensed to teach at the elementary level regarding literacy skills and using text as a means to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, and the arts.

Examples of Best Practice

Unfortunately, NCTQ cannot award "best practice" honors to any state's policy in the area of elementary teacher preparation. However, three states—**Florida**, **Indiana** and **Virginia**—are worthy of mention for holding early childhood candidates who are licensed to teach elementary grades to the same standards as all other elementary teachers. Each state requires its early childhood candidates to pass a content test with separately scored subtests, as well as a test of scientifically based reading instruction. Florida also ensures that both early childhood and elementary education teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and careerreadiness standards for students.

California stands out for its focus on elementary teachers' readiness to teach reading and literacy skills. All elementary education candidates must pass a comprehensive assessment that specifically tests the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. California's test frameworks go further than most states in ensuring that elementary teacher candidates 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 must also show they know how to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject and are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

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 2 Do states ensure that elementary teachers know core content?	\$	Elementary Contents Elementary Contents Elementary Content test for some care bases	Elementary With Composition	45
Do states ensure that	MEN	t test	8200 E	le te
elementary teachers	202	REFC Miten	S Inter	red red
know core content?	E E S			
EME			Pent _s	No test required
E	PASS A		Elen Viith	2°
Alabama		, _, 	_ , /	
Alaska				1
Arizona				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut Delaware				
Delaware District of Columbia				
Florida				
Georgia				
Hawaii				
Idaho				
Illinois				
Indiana				
lowa				
Kansas				
Kentucky Louisiana				
Maine				
Maryland				
MASSACHUSETTS			2	
Michigan				
Minnesota				
Mississippi				
Missouri				
Montana				
Nebraska Nevada				
New Hampshire				
New Jersey				
New Mexico				
New York				
North Carolina			2	
North Dakota				
Ohio				3
Oklahoma				
Oregon				
Pennsylvania Rhode Island				
South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee			4	
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
	22	9	15	5
	<u>_</u> _	9		5

Figure 2

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.

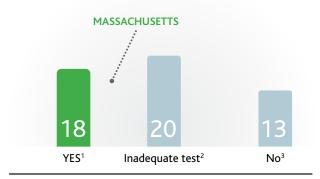
3. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass a content test in Ohio.

4. New legislation in Tennessee allows teachers to delay passage of content and pedagogy tests if they possess a bachelor's degree in a core content area.

Figure 4		INCORPORATIONAL TEXT	SUPPORTING STRUGGLING
Are states ensuring that new		ð :	
elementary teachers are prepar	ed		224
for the instructional shifts	ě.	5	
associated with college- and	<u> </u>	AP O LA	122
career-readiness standards?	0 L		190F
career readiness standards:	5 /	\$ X	RE S
Alabama			
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine			
Maryland			
MASSACHUSETTS			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Mississippi			
Missouri			
Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
wyoning			

Figure 3

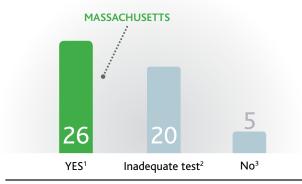
Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama⁴, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁵, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee⁶, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming
- 3. Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota
- 4. Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum.
- 5. Teachers have until their second year to pass the reading test.
- 6. New legislation in Tennessee allows teachers to delay passage of content and pedagogy tests if they possess a bachelor's degree in a core content area.

Fully addresses instructional component 🛛 Partially addresses instructional component

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, 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, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee⁴, Washington, Wisconsin
- 3. Alaska⁵, Hawaii, Iowa, Montana, Ohio⁶
- 4. New legislation in Tennessee allows teachers to delay passage of content and pedagogy tests if they possess a bachelor's degree in a core content area.
- 5. Testing is not required for initial licensure.
- 6. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass a content test in Ohio.

Figure 6

- 1. These states do not offer a standalone early childhood certification that includes elementary grades, or the state's early childhood certification is the de facto license to teach elementary grades.
- 2. Florida's test consists of three subtests covering language arts and reading, math and science.
- 3. Early childhood candidates may pass either multiple subjects (subscores) or content knowledge (no subscores) test.
- 4. New legislation in Tennessee allows teachers to delay passage of content and pedagogy tests if they possess a bachelor's degree in a core content area.

What do states require of early childhood teachers who teach elementary grades?

Figure 6	CONTENT TEST WITH SUBSCORES FOR EACH	/
What do states require	E E	4
of early childhood	STU	ST FE
teachers who teach	ES FC	CHC
elementary grades?		22
ciementary grades:	CO Sang Light	ADF. FRE
Alabama		ADEQUATE SCIENCE OF READING TEST
Alaska ¹		
Arizona		
Arkansas ¹		
California ¹		
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Florida	2	
Georgia ¹		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
lowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky ¹ Louisiana		
Maine		
Maryland		
MASSACHUSETTS		
Michigan ¹		
Minnesota		
Mississippi ¹		
Missouri		
Montana ¹		
Nebraska		
Nevada		
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico		
New York		
North Carolina ¹		
North Dakota		
Ohio ¹		
Oklahoma		
Oregon ¹		
Pennsylvania ¹		
Rhode Island	3	
South Carolina		
South Dakota Tennessee		4
Texas ¹		
Utah	3	
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	7	13
		15

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' middle school teacher prep policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Middle School Teacher Preparation

nal

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Middle School Teacher Preparation 🕋

New middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content and for the ways that college-and career-readiness standards affect instruction.

🔵 Fully meets 🛛 🕘 Nearly meets 🔵 Partially meets 🕐 Meets only a small part 🔵 Does not meet

- Progress increased since 2013
- Lost ground since 2013

Rear raised for this goal

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot Middle School Teacher Preparation

	No	Middle school teachers must pass a content test for each subject they are licensed to teach.
	Yes	Middle school teachers must hold a middle grade-specific or secondary license.
*	No	Teacher preparation and licensure requirements for middle school teachers include the instruction shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards.

MASSACHUSETTS Middle School Teacher Preparation Characteristics

Middle School Licenses	5-8
Content Tests	Single-subject certification: MTEL single-subject content test Combination certificates: MTEL test combines mathematics with science and English with history
Academic Requirements	Candidates must complete either a mathematics/science or an English/history program of study consisting of 36 semester hours.
Instructional Shifts Associated with College-and Career- Readiness Standards	Complex informational text: Not addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Not addressed Struggling readers: Not addressed

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Require content testing in all core areas.

As a condition of initial licensure, all candidates teaching middle grades in Massachusetts should have to pass a subject-matter test in every core academic area they intend to teach.

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.

Either through testing frameworks or teacher standards, Massachusetts should specifically 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 the state's college- and career-readiness standards for students.

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, Massachusetts should also include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.

Support struggling readers.

Massachusetts should articulate requirements ensuring that middle school teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

Examples of Best Practice

Arkansas ensures that all middle school teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach middle school-level content. The state does not offer a K-8 generalist license, requires passing scores on subject-specific content tests and explicitly requires at least two content-area minors. Arkansas also ensures that middle school teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students. The state's competencies for the middle grades specify that middle school 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 must also know how to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject and are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

SUMMARY OF MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREPARATION FIGURES

- **Figure 7** Distinctions in licenses between middle and elementary teachers
- Figure 8 Content test requirements
- **Figure 9** Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college-and career-readiness standards

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's middle school teacher prep policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 7	K-8 LICENSE NOT OFFER	K-8 license offered for self-contained classron	K-Blicense offered
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Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	32	6	13

1. Offers 1-8 license.

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

3. With the exception of mathematics.

		No, test does for the port	21	
Figure 8		5	No, K-8 license requires	No testing of all subjects
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have to pass an appropriate		s no	Tan,	ofa
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Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				

26

2

14

9

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

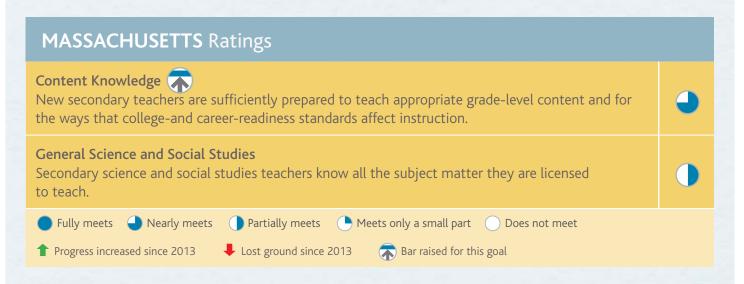
2. Candidates teaching multiple subjects only have to pass the elementary test. Single-subject credential does not require content test.

- 3. For K-8 license, Idaho also requires one single-subject test.
- 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.
- 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 have a core concentration and to pass a middle school content test in a core area. Teachers with a 5-8 license must pass a Praxis II assessment.
- 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.
- 9. New legislation in Tennessee allows teachers to delay passage of content tests if they possess a bachelor's degree in a core content area.

igure 9	USE OF MEDRA	Stills INTO 24 TIME LITER	SUPPORTING STRUGGUNG
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prepared for the instructional	,ð	5	
hifts associated with college-	F N	APC A	See S
and career-readiness standards	, y	KII I	tan 2
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West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' secondary teacher prep policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Secondary Teacher Preparation



	MASSA Second	CHUSETTS Snapshot ary Teacher Preparation
	Yes	Secondary teachers must pass a content test to teach any single core subject.
	Yes	Only single-subject science certifications are offered or general science license has appropriate requirements to ensure teachers know each included subject.
	No	Only single-subject social studies certifications are offered or general social studies license has appropriate requirements to ensure teachers know each included subject.
	Somewhat	A content test is required to add an endorsement to a license.
	No	Teacher preparation and licensure requirements for secondary school teachers include the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards.

MASSACHUSETTS Secondary Teacher Preparation Characteristics

Secondary Licenses	8-12
Content Tests	Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL) single-subject test required for initial licensure
General Science License and Testing Requirements	Not offered
General Social Studies License and Testing Requirements	General social studies license offered; requires only general social studies test
Endorsement Requirements	Content tests are required to add endorsements; general social studies endorsement only requires general social studies test
Instructional Shifts Associated with College-and Career- Readiness Standards	Complex informational text: Not addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Not addressed Struggling readers: Not addressed

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE SECONDARY TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

By allowing the equivalent of a general social studies certification—and only requiring a general knowledge social studies exam—Massachusetts is not ensuring that its secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge.

SUMMARY OF SECONDARY TEACHER PREPARATION FIGURES

- **Figure 10** Content test requirements
- Figure 11 Instructional shifts associated with college-and careerreadiness standards

Other secondary teacher preparation figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Endorsement requirements (p. 28)
- Content knowledge of general science teachers (p. 32)
- Content knowledge of general social studies teachers (p. 33)

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

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.

Either through testing frameworks or teacher standards, Massachusetts should specifically 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 the state's college- and career-readiness standards for students.

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, Massachusetts should also include specific requirements regarding 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.

Massachusetts should articulate requirements ensuring that secondary teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

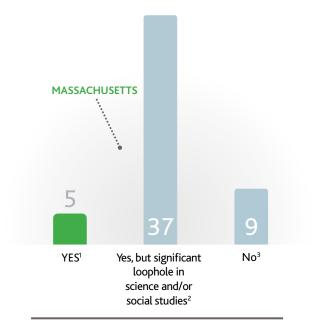
Examples of Best Practice

Missouri requires that secondary teacher candidates pass a content test to teach any core secondary subjects. Of particular note, 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. In addition, Missouri requires general social studies teachers to pass a multi-content test with six independently scored subtests.

Arkansas also ensures that secondary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students. The state's competencies specify that secondary 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 must also know how to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject and are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's secondary teacher prep policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see ...http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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



- 1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, Tennessee⁴
- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁵, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- Alaska⁶, Arizona⁷, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Montana, Washington, Wyoming
- New legislation in Tennessee allows teachers to delay passage of content and pedagogy tests if they possess a bachelor's degree in a core content area.
- 5. Teachers may also have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
- 6. Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.
- 7. Candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.

igure 11		INCORPORATIONALTER	SUPPORTING STRUGGING
Are states ensuring that		Not the second s	
new secondary teachers		VC 1940	2JH1
are prepared for the	ġ	L PS	
nstructional shifts associated	J.		SP II
with college-and career-	ġ,		
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New Hampshire			
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New Mexico			
New York			
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Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
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Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			

Fully addresses instructional component 🛛 Partially addresses instructional component

Special Education Teacher Preparation

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other Sestates' special education teacher prep policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Content Knowledge New special education teachers know the subject matter they are licensed to teach.

Reading Instruction

New elementary teachers know the science of reading instruction and understand the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards

🔵 Fully meets 🕘 Nearly meets 🜔 Partially meets 🜔 Meets only a small part 🔵 Does not meet

1 Progress increased since 2013

Lost ground since 2013

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot Special Education Teacher Preparation

Yes	Only discrete elementary and secondary special education licenses are offered.
Somewhat	Elementary subject-matter test is required for elementary special education license.
Somewhat	Secondary-level test in at least one subject area is required for secondary special education license.
Yes	An adequate test on the science of reading is required for elementary special education teachers.
Somewhat	Teacher preparation and licensure requirements for special education teachers include the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards.

MASSACHUSETTS Special Education Teacher Preparation Characteristics

Special Education License(s)	PreK-2; PreK-8; 5-12
Content Tests	PreK-2: Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL) Early Childhood test, which is not a content test PreK-8: MTEL General Curriculum test, which contains separate subscore for mathematics only 5-12: MTEL 5-8 or 8-12 level General Curriculum test or 5-8 or 8-12 level single-subject test
Science of Reading Test	Foundations of Reading Test or Reading Specialist Test
Instructional Shifts Associated with College-and Career- Readiness Standards	Complex informational text: Not addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Not addressed Struggling readers: Fully addressed

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

Although Massachusetts is on the right track in ensuring that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess sufficient knowledge of the subject matter at hand, the state should report subscores for each content area tested on the state's rigorous elementary test.

Ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.

While it may be unreasonable to expect multi-subject secondary special education teachers to meet the same requirements as single-subject teachers, Massachusetts's current policy of allowing a general content test is problematic and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards.

SUMMARY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION FIGURES

- **Figure 12** Distinctions in licenses between elementary and secondary teachers
- **Figure 13** Content test requirements
- **Figure 14** Instructional shifts associated with college-and careerreadiness standards

Other special education teacher preparation figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Science of reading tests (p. 39)

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

Ensure that new special education teachers are prepared to incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

Although Massachusetts is on the right track with its requirement of the Foundations of Reading test, which addresses knowledge of informational texts, the in-depth coverage of the topic is presented as examples. Massachusetts is encouraged to make certain that its framework captures the major instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards, thereby ensuring that all special education candidates have the ability to adequately incorporate complex informational text into classroom instruction.

Ensure that new special education teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.

Massachusetts should—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.

Examples of Best Practice

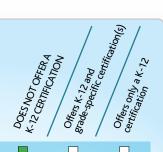
Unfortunately, NCTQ cannot award "best practice" honors to any state's policy in the area of special education. However, **New York** and **Rhode Island** are worthy of mention for taking steps in the right direction in ensuring that all special education teachers know the subject matter they are licensed to teach. These 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.

In addition, California ensures that all special education teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and careerreadiness standards for students. All special education candidates must pass a comprehensive assessment that specifically tests the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. California's test frameworks go further than most states and ensure that special education teacher candidates 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 also must know how to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject and are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's special education teacher prep policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Do states distinguish between elementary and secondary special education teachers?



education teachers?	₽ ¥	0	O ğ
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Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	14	16	21

Figure 12

- 1. Missouri offers a K-12 certification but candidates must pass either the Elementary Multi-Content Assessment or the new Middle/Secondary Content Assessment (English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies) or choose one of the specific content assessment for a specific area of certification.
- Although New Jersey does issue a K-12 certificate, candidates must meet discrete elementary and/or secondary requirements.
- 3. Candidates must meet requirements for both the K-8 and 7-12 special education licenses.

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

Elementa	ry Subject-Matter Test	
Required for an elementary special education license	Alabama, Louisiana, MASSACHUSETTS , Missouri ¹ , New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania ² , Rhode Island, West Virginia ³ , Wisconsin	
Required for a K-12 special education license	Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, North Carolina⁴	
Secondary Subject-Matter Test(s)		
Tests in all core subjects required for secondary special education license	Missouri¹, New York⁵, Wisconsin ⁶	
Test in at least one subject required for secondary special education license	Louisiana, MASSACHUSETTS , New Jersey, Pennsylvania², Rhode Island, West Virginia ³	
Required for a K-12 special education license	None	

1. Missouri offers a K-12 certification but candidates must pass either the Elementary Multi-Content Assessment or the new Middle/Secondary Content Assessment (English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies) or choose one of the specific content assessment for a specific area of certification.

- 2. In Pennsylvania, a candidate who opts for dual certification in elementary or secondary special education as a reading specialist does not have to take a content test.
- 3. 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.
- 4. North Carolina gives teachers until their second year to earn a passing score, provided they attempt to pass during their first year.
- 5. New York requires a multi-subject content test specifically geared to secondary special education candidates. It is divided into three subtests.
- 6. Wisconsin requires a middle school level content area test which does not report subscores for each area

Figure 14

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Figure 14	he llege- ^W S ST	NCORPORATING	SUPPORTING STRUCCUNG
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Wisconsin Wyoming			

Fully addresses instructional component 🛛 Partially addresses instructional component

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' assessing professional knowledge policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Assessing Professional Knowledge

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Pedagogy Test Teachers are required to demonstrate professional knowledge of teaching and learning.

Fully meets
 Nearly meets
 Partially meets
 Meets only a small part
 Does not meet
 Progress increased since 2013
 Lost ground since 2013



Yes

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot Pedagogy

All new teachers must pass a pedagogy test.

MASSACHUSETTS Pedagogy Characteristics

Pedagogy TestCurrently piloting its Candidate Performance Assessment, requiring it in 2016-2017Type of TestPerformance assessmentTeachers IncludedAll new teachers

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ASSESSING PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

Since additional research is needed to determine how performance-based assessments compare to other teacher tests as well as whether the test's scores are predictive of student achievement, Massachusetts should carefully monitor and collect data about the validity of its such measures.

Examples of Best Practice

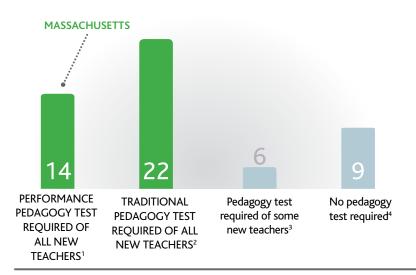
Although no state stands out for its pedagogy test policy, eight states are worthy of mention for the licensing test they require to verify that all new teachers meet state standards. **Arizona**, **Florida**, **Indiana**, **Minnesota**, **New Mexico**, **Ohio**, **Oklahoma** and **Texas** ensure that all new teachers take a pedagogy test that specifically is aligned with each state's own professional standards.

SUMMARY OF ASSESSING PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE FIGURES

Figure 15 Pedagogy tests

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's assessing professional knowledge policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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



1. Strong Practice: California, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois⁵, Iowa⁶, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Tennessee⁶, Washington, Wisconsin

- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina⁷, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia
- 3. Connecticut, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Utah⁸
- 4. Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming
- 5. All new teachers must also pass a traditional pedagogy test.
- 6. Teachers have the option of the edTPA or a traditional Praxis pedagogy test.
- 7. North Carolina teachers have until their second year to pass if they attempt to pass during their first year.
- 8. Not required in Utah until a teacher advances from a Level One to a Level Two license.

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' student teaching policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Student Teaching

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Student Teaching

Teacher candidates are provided with a high-quality clinical experience.

Fully meets Nearly meets Partially meets Meets only a small part Does not meet
 Progress increased since 2013
 Lost ground since 2013

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot Student Teaching				
♦	Yes	Student teachers must be placed with an effective teacher, as measured by student learning.		
*	Yes	Student teaching is at least 10 weeks in length.		
*	Yes	Student teaching is full time.		

MASSACHUSETTS Student Teaching Characteristics

Duration of Student Teaching	300 hours and a minimum of 100 hours full responsibility for the classroom
Selection of Cooperating Teachers Connected to Effectiveness	Cooperating teachers must have received an evaluation rating of proficient or higher
Other Criteria for Selection of Cooperating Teachers	3 years of experience under an appropriate initial or professional license

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT TEACHING POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

As a result of Massachusetts's strong student teaching policies, no recommendations are provided.

Examples of Best Practice

Rhode Island and **Tennessee** not only require teacher candidates to complete at least 10 weeks of fulltime student teaching, but they also require that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning. Further, both of these states ensure that student teaching is completed locally, which better ensures teacher training on relevant state instructional frameworks and allows a higher degree of program oversight and feedback to the teacher candidate.

SUMMARY OF STUDENT TEACHING FIGURES

Figure 16 Student teaching requirements

Other student teaching figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Effectiveness as a factor in selection of cooperating teachers (p. 44)
- Student teaching duration (p. 45)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's student teaching policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 16	IER.	A STUDENT TEACHING LASTS AT LEAST TO WEEKS
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North Dakota		
Ohio		
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West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
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	13	Jt

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' leacher prep program accountability policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Teacher Prep Program Accountability

Does not meet

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Program Accountability

The approval process for teacher preparation programs holds programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.



Fully meets 🕘 Nearly meets 🌔 Partially meets

2013 **L**ost ground since 2013

neets 🜔 Meets only a small part

1 Progress increased since 2013

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot Teacher Prep Program Accountability

*	Yes	Data are collected that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.
	Yes	Other objective data related to the performance of teacher preparation programs are collected.
*	No	Minimum standards for program performance have been established.
	Yes	Report cards showing program performance are available to the public.
*	Yes	The state maintains full authority over program approval.

MASSACHUSETTS Teacher Prep Program Accountability Characteristics

Use of Student Achievement Data	Program performance is based in part on programs' analysis and use of aggregate evaluation ratings of program completers.
Other Data Collected	Surveys of candidates, program completers and district personnel; program completion rate; employment of program completers in the state; retention rates up to four years
Performance Standards for Data Collected	None
Program Report Cards	Annual, publicly accessible reports
Role of National Accreditation	State maintains authority over teacher preparation program approval

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TEACHER PREP PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data. Massachusetts should establish precise minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category of data, which programs should be held accountable for meeting.

SUMMARY OF TEACHER PREP PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY FIGURES

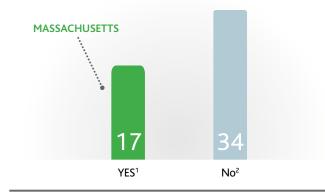
- Figure 17 Use of student achievement data
- **Figure 18** Accountability requirements

Other teacher prep program accountability figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

National accreditation (p. 49)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's teacher prep program accountability policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Do states connect student achievement data to teacher preparation programs?



1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas

 Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Examples of Best Practice

Delaware and **Florida** have made great strides in teacher preparation program accountability policies in the past few years and now stand out as leaders in this area. In Delaware and Florida, preparation programs report and are held accountable to a number of measures, including the effectiveness of program graduates as measured by student achievement, as well as placement and retention rates of program graduates.

Delaware has developed minimum standards of performance for each data category and has released the first of its program report cards, which make preparation program data accessible and transparent. In Florida, the state applies specific cut-scores in various data categories to decide on continued program approval. In addition, after two years of initial employment, any program completer in Florida who receives an unsatisfactory evaluation rating must be provided additional training by the preparation program at no additional cost to the teacher.

Figure 18	OBJECTIVE PROCRAM.	MINIMUN STANDARDS	avaluable on websit
Do states hold teacher	ర్ ర శ్రా	STAL	
preparation programs	DA)	LON CONTRACT	PUB,
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Mississippi	1		
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Nevada	1	1	
New Hampshire			
New Jersey	1		1
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina North Dakota	6		6
Ohio			
Oklahoma	1		1
Oregon			
Pennsylvania	1		
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			3
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia	1		
Washington			
West Virginia	1		
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	37	10	25
Wyoming	□ 37	□ 10	25

1. For traditional preparation programs only.

2. Report cards only include limited data.

3. Report cards are at the institution rather than the program level.

4. Non-university based alternate route programs are not included.

5. For alternate route programs only.

6. University-based programs only; state does not distinguish between alternate route programs and traditional programs in public reporting.

Area 2 Summary

State Area Grades



B 1 Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, Ohio North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont, Wyoming D-2 Kansas, Wisconsin B-6 Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Rhode Island HERACE AREA CRAD 7 Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, C+ West Virginia 12 Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, MASSACHUSETTS, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington D+ 7 5 Arizona, California, Colorado, Missouri, North Carolina, South Dakota, Utah District of Columbia, Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia Δ Alabama, Maine, Maryland, Oklahoma

Topics Included In This Area

- Alternate Routes to Certification
- Licensure Reciprocity

• Part-Time Teaching Licenses

Alternate Routes to Certification

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' alternate routes to certification policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Eligibility

Alternate route programs only admit candidates with strong academic records while also providing flexibility for nontraditional candidates.

Preparation

Alternate route programs provide efficient preparation that is relevant to the immediate needs of new teachers, as well as adequate mentoring and support.

Usage and Providers

Alternate routes are free from limitations on usage, and a diversity of providers is allowed.

Fully meets Vearly meets

- Nearly meets O Partially meets O Meets only a small part O Does not meet
- **1** Progress increased since 2013
- Lost ground since 2013
- MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot Alternate Routes to Certification A rigorous academic standard is required for program entry. 24 No A subject-matter test is required for admission. Yes 2 Subject-matter test can be used in lieu of a major to demonstrate content knowledge. Yes A practice teaching opportunity is required prior to becoming teacher of record. Yes * Intensive mentoring is required to support new teachers. No * No Coursework requirements are streamlined. * Yes Coursework requirements are limited to relevant topics. Alternate routes are offered without limitation by grades, subjects or geographic areas. Yes **6**4 24 Providers other than institutions of higher education are permitted. Yes

MASSACHUSETTS Alternate Routes to Certification Characteristics

Name of Route(s)	Route Three District-Based Initial Licensing Program
Academic Requirements for Entry	None
Subject-Matter Requirements for Entry	Must pass a subject-matter exam; except in the case of elementary and early childhood education, neither a major nor specific coursework is required
Coursework Requirements	All classes must be directly linked to state standards and include classroom management and observations of other teachers; no guidelines on amount of training.
Practice Teaching/Mentoring Requirements	300-hour minimum practicum or practicum equivalent; candidates assume full responsibility for the classroom for a minimum of 100 hours; mentors provided throughout the school year.
Usage	No limit with regard to subject, grade or geographic area
Eligible Providers	Higher education institutions, school districts, educational collaboratives, private training providers and professional associations

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ALTERNATE ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

- Screen candidates for academic ability. Massachusetts should require that candidates to its alternate routes provide some evidence of good academic performance, such as the GRE or a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Establish coursework guidelines for alternate route preparation programs. Massachusetts should articulate guidelines regarding the amount of coursework required of candidates. The state should ensure that a new teacher's workload is manageable, contributes to immediate need and limited to one course at a time while teaching.

SUMMARY OF ALTERNATE ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION FIGURES

- **Figure 19** Quality of alternate routes
- **Figure 20** Alternate route requirements

Other alternate routes to certification figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Admission requirements (p. 54)
- Minimum GPA for admission (p. 55)
- Flexibility in demonstrating content knowledge (p. 56)
- Preparation requirements (p. 59)
- Diversity of usage and providers (p. 62)
- Providers of alternate route programs (p. 62)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's alternate routes to certification policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

Ensure program completion in less than two years.

Massachusetts should consider shortening the length of time it takes an alternate route teacher to earn standard certification to no later than the end of the second year of teaching.

Strengthen the induction experience for new teachers.

While Massachusetts is commended for requiring all new teachers to work with a mentor and for providing release time to new teachers, there are insufficient guidelines indicating that the induction program is structured for new teacher success.

Examples of Best Practice

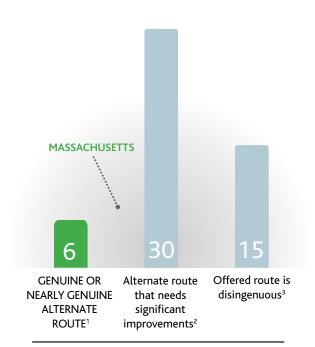
No state can be singled out for its overall alternate route policies. There are, however, states that offer best practices in individual alternate route policy areas.

With regard to admissions into alternate routes, the **District of Columbia** and **Michigan** have established a high bar. Both require candidates to demonstrate strong academic performance as a condition of admission with 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. Also worthy of note is new policy in **New York** that significantly raises the bar by requiring that all graduate-level teacher preparation programs adopt entrance standards that include a minimum score on the GRE or an equivalent admission exam and a cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0 in the candidate's undergraduate program.

Delaware has policies that help to ensure that alternate routes provide efficient preparation that meets the needs of new teachers. The state requires a manageable number of credit hours, relevant coursework, intensive mentoring and a practice teaching opportunity.

Most states offer alternate routes that are widely available across grades, subjects and geographic areas and permit alternate route providers beyond higher education institutions. NCTQ commends all states that permit both broad usage and a diversity of providers for their alternate routes.

Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification?



- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, New Jersey, Rhode Island
- 2. Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
- Alaska⁴, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Alaska no longer offers an alternate route to certification.

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Wyoming									

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' part-time teaching licenses policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Part-Time Teaching Licenses

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Part-Time Teaching Licenses A license with minimal requirements is offered that allows content experts to teach part time.



MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot Part-Time Teaching Licenses

🛟 No

A part-time license with minimal requirements is available for those with subject-matter expertise.

MASSACHUSETTS Part-Time Teaching Licenses Characteristics

Name of License	Not offered
Subject-Matter Requirements	Not applicable
Other Requirements	Not applicable

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE PART-TIME TEACHING LICENSES POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

Massachusetts 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.

Examples 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 subjectmatter test and are assigned a mentor.

SUMMARY OF PART-TIME TEACHING LICENSES FIGURES

Figure 21 Part-time licenses

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's part-time teaching licenses policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
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For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' reciprocity policies, including full marrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Licensure Reciprocity

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Reciprocity With appropriate safeguards, licenses are fully portable across states, especially for effective teachers.

🔵 Fully meets 🛛 🕘 Nearly meets	Partially meets	
1 Progress increased since 2013	Lost ground since 2013	

MASSA Recipro	CHUSETTS Snapshot city
No	Evidence of effective teaching is required in reciprocity policy.
No	Out-of-state teachers may apply for a comparable standard license.
Yes	Out-of-state teachers must meet licensing test requirements.
Yes	No other strings are attached for reciprocity, such as additional coursework or recency requirements.
Yes	Transcript analysis is not explicitly required.
Yes	Alternate route teachers receive equal treatment.

MASSACHUSETTS Reciprocity Characteristics

License Available to Fully Certified Out-of-State Teachers	Initial or temporary
Effectiveness Requirements	None
Testing Requirements	Must meet state's testing requirements; allowed 1 year
Coursework and/or Recency Requirements	None
Additional Alternate Route Requirements	None

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE RECIPROCITY POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

To facilitate the movement of effective teachers between states, Massachusetts should require that evidence of teacher effectiveness, as determined by an evaluation that includes objective measures of student growth, be considered for all outof-state candidates.

SUMMARY OF RECIPROCITY FIGURES

Figure 22 Requirements for licensing teachers from other states

Other reciprocity figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Licensure tests (p. 70)
- Evidence of effectiveness (p. 71)
- Traditional versus alternate route requirements (p. 72)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's reciprocity policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see ... http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard



Although no state stands out for its overall reciprocity policies, two states are worthy of mention for their connection of reciprocal licensure to evidence of teacher effectiveness. When determining eligibility for full certification, both **Delaware** and **Idaho** consider teacher evaluations from previous employment that include objective measures of student growth. NCTQ also commends **Indiana**, **Massachusetts**, **Mississippi**, **North Carolina**, **Ohio**, **Pennsylvania**, **Rhode Island** and **Texas** for appropriately supporting licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet their own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate route teachers.

- Obstacles include transcript analysis, recency and/or coursework requirements, and additional requirements for teachers certified through alternate routes.
- 2. Alaska allows up to three years to meet testing requirements.
- 3. Allows up to three years to submit passing scores.



What do states require of
teachers transferring from
other states?

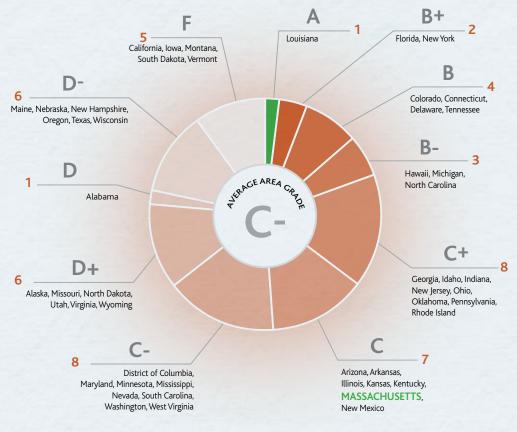
other states?	EFE	र्ष दुस्	2,0
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Area 3 Summary

How States are Faring in Identifying Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

- State Data Systems
- Teacher Evaluation
- Tenure

- Licensure Advancement
- Equitable Distribution of Teachers

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' data systems policies, including full harrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

State Data Systems

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

 State Data Systems
 The state's data system contributes some of the evidence needed to assess teacher effectiveness.

 Fully meets
 Nearly meets
 Partially meets

Lost ground since 2013

1 Progress increased since 2013

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot State Durations Image: State Duration of the system for providing evidence of effectiveness is mandated. Image: State Duration of the system for providing evidence of effectiveness is mandated. Image: State Duration of the system for providing evidence of effectiveness is mandated. Image: State Duration of the system for providing evidence of effectiveness is mandated. Image: State Duration of the system for providing evidence of effectiveness is mandated. Image: State Duration of the system for the system f

Real Bar raised for this goal

MASSACHUSETTS State Data System Characteristics

Teacher Student Data Link	Capacity to connect student identifiers to teacher identifiers and match records over time
Teacher of Record Definition	Those who are "assigned primary responsibility for a student's learning in a subject, grade or course."
Other Characteristics	Roster verification; Ability to connect multiple teachers to a single student
Teacher Production Data/ Hiring Statistics	Publishes some data that include information on teacher production, but no connection is made between these data and district-level hiring statistics

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE STATE DATA SYSTEM POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Connect supply data to district hiring statistics.

Massachusetts should strengthen its data collection practices by connecting program completion and licensure rates to district hiring statistics and using these data to inform policy decisions.

Examples of Best Practice

Hawaii and West Virginia are leaders in using their state data systems to support the identification and supply of effective teachers. Both states have all three elements needed to assess teacher effectiveness, and both states have also 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 West Virginia publish teacher production data. Maryland remains worthy of mention 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.

SUMMARY OF STATE DATA SYSTEMS FIGURES

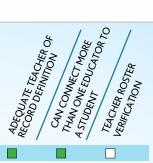
Figure 23 Using data system elements to assess teacher effectiveness

Other state data systems figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Teacher production data (p. 77)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's state data system policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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



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1. Lacks capacity to connect student identifiers to teacher identifiers and match records over time.



Teacher Evaluation

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Evaluation of Effectiveness

Instructional effectiveness is the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.

 Frequency of Evaluations

 All teachers receive annual evaluations.

 Fully meets
 Nearly meets

 Progress increased since 2013

 Lost ground since 2013

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot Teacher Evaluation No Objective student data is the preponderant or a significant criterion of teacher evaluations. 24 All teachers are evaluated annually. No Multiple observations are required for all teachers. No 2 More than two rating categories are used. Yes New teachers receive feedback early in the school year. Yes Surveys (student, parent, peer) are explicitly required or allowed. Yes

MASSACHUSETTS Teacher Evaluation Characteristics

Use of Student Achievement Data in Evaluation	Some objective measures of student growth required
Types of Required Student Data	Student progress on classroom assessments; student progress on learning goals; statewide growth measures, including the MCAS Student Growth Percentile and the Massachusetts English Proficiency Assessment (MEPA); and district-determined measures of student learning across grade or subject
Other Required Measures	Observations, student feedback
Number of Rating Categories	3: impact rating; 4: summative rating
Frequency of Evaluations	Veteran teachers rated exemplary or proficient coupled with a moderate or high impact on student learning are evaluated every two years; all other teachers are evaluated annually.
Number of Observations	Required, but quantity and timing not mandated
System Structure	State provides criteria for district-designed evaluation systems
Surveys (Parent, Student, Peer)	Student feedback is required
Evaluator Requirements	Training

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TEACHER EVALUATION POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

Massachusetts falls short by failing to require that evidence of student learning be the most significant criterion. The state should strengthen its policy by ensuring a teacher is unable to receive an effective rating if found to be ineffective in the classroom.

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's teacher evaluation policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

Require annual formal evaluations for all teachers.

All teachers in Massachusetts should be evaluated annually, even those who score proficient or above with at least a moderate impact on student learning on the state's summative evaluation.

Base evaluations on multiple observations.

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

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

Massachusetts should ensure that the primary component of a classroom observation be quality of instruction, as measured by student time on task, student grasp or mastery of the lesson objective and efficient use of class time.

Examples of Best Practice

Tennessee requires that objective measures of student growth be the preponderant criterion of all evaluations. All teachers in the state must be evaluated annually, and multiple observations are required, with a postobservation conference scheduled after each to discuss performance. The state's observation schedule ensures that new teachers receive feedback early in the year. Tennessee also requires the use of five performance rating categories.

Idaho, New Jersey and Washington also require annual evaluations and multiple observations for all teachers, and they ensure that new teachers are observed and receive feedback during the first half of the school year.

SUMMARY OF TEACHER EVALUATION FIGURES

- Figure 24 Use of student learning data
- **Figure 25** Frequency of evaluations

Other teacher evaluation figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Use of surveys (p. 81)
- Rating categories (p. 81)
- State role in evaluations (p. 82)
- Evaluator requirements (p. 83)
- Annual evaluations (p. 85)
- Classroom observation requirements (p. 87)
- Observation frequency (p. 87)
- Timing of observations for new teachers (p. 88)

Figure 24	STUDENT	Requires that student achievement student senticent cont growth : defined cont growth :	Requires that student achievement structure "Significance" structure	-unour explicit orient is a Requires some contraction is a Requires some orienter evidence of the contraction of the contractio	Student achievement data
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- 1. The state has an ESEA waiver requiring an evaluation system that includes student achievement as a significant factor. However, no specific guidelines or policies have been articulated.
- In 2014-15, student achievement was 10% of the total evaluation rating; for 2015-16, it is 20%. This appears connected to test transition rather than permanent lowering of student growth percentage.

3. Explicitly defined for 2014-15 school year.

Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



Tenure

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' enure policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Tenure

Tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Fully meets 🕘 Nearly meets	Partially meets Meets only a small part Does not meet
1 Progress increased since 2013	Lost ground since 2013

MASSA Tenure	CHUSETTS Snapshot
No	Evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.
Yes	Tenure is not automatically awarded.
No	Probationary period is at least four years.

MASSACHUSETTS Tenure Characteristics

Consideration of Teacher Effectiveness	Must achieve ratings of proficient or exemplary on each Performance Standard and on the overall evaluation; a principal may waive effectiveness requirement, subject to review and approval by the superintendent.
Length of Probationary Period	3 years

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TENURE POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

Massachusetts should make evidence of effectiveness the most significant factor when determining this leap in professional standing.

- Require a longer probationary period. Massachusetts should extend its probationary period, ideally to five years. This would allow sufficient time to collect data that adequately reflect teacher performance.
- Reconsider waiver of effectiveness requirements at principal request.

Rather than allowing principals to waive effectiveness requirements, the state should consider letting them extend the probationary period for teachers they think warrant further time to develop.

Examples of Best Practice

Colorado, **Connecticut** and **New York** 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. Colorado requires ratings of either effective or highly effective for three consecutive years to earn tenure status, which can then be lost with two consecutive years of less-than-effective ratings. New York has extended its probationary period to four years and requires teachers to be rated effective or highly effective for three of those years. All three states require that student growth be the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.

SUMMARY OF TENURE FIGURES

- Figure 26 Tenure and teacher effectiveness
- **Figure 27** Length of probationary period

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's tenure policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

How are tenure decisions made?



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- 1. Florida only awards annual contracts; decisions are connected to effectiveness.
- 2. Kansas only awards annual contracts; decisions are not connected to effectiveness.
- 3. North Carolina generally awards only one-year contracts, except that teachers can be awarded a two- or four-year contract if they have "shown effectiveness as demonstrated by proficiency on the evaluation instrument." However, no student growth measures required.
- 4. No state-level policy.
- 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 27		/	' /	' /	' /	' /	/
How long before a teacher							
earns tenure?							
	, J	/ .	5	5	S	S&	มาน
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Wyoming							
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- 1. Florida only awards annual contracts.
- 2. Idaho limits teacher contract terms to one year.
- 3. Kansas has eliminated due process rights associated with tenure.
- 4. North Carolina teachers can be awarded a two- or four-year contract if they have "shown effectiveness as demonstrated by proficiency on the evaluation instrument." However, no student growth measures required.
- 5. In Ohio, teachers must hold an educator license for at least 7 years, and have taught in the district at least 3 of the last 5 years.
- 6. Oklahoma 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.
- 7. In Virginia, local school boards may extend up to five years.
- 8. In Washington, 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.

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' licensure advancement policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Licensure Advancement

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Licensure Advancement Licensure advancement is based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Fully meets
 Nearly meets
 Partially meets
 Meets only a small part
 Does not meet
 Progress increased since 2013
 Lost ground since 2013

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot Licensure Advancement

No	Advancement from a probationary to a professional license is based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.
No	Renewal of a professional license is based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.
No	Other advancement/renewal requirements have a direct connection to classroom effectiveness.
Somewhat	An advanced degree is not a requirement for license advancement.

MASSACHUSETTS Licensure Advancement Characteristics

Performance Requirements to Advance from a Probationary to Professional License	None
Other Requirements for Advancement	Must complete a 1-year induction program with a mentor, have 3 years' teaching experience and fulfill 50 hours of a mentored experience beyond the induction year; must also complete one of the following: an approved district-based program, a master's degree, programs leading to eligibility for master teacher status or a department-sponsored assessment program
Initial Certification Period	3 years
Performance Requirements to Renew a Professional License	None
Other Requirements for Renewal	Must earn 150 professional development points through approved professional development
Renewal Period	5 years

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE LICENSURE ADVANCEMENT POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

Massachusetts 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 license renewal requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

While targeted requirements may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Massachusetts's general, nonspecific coursework requirements for license renewal do not correlate with teacher effectiveness.

SUMMARY OF LICENSURE ADVANCEMENT FIGURES

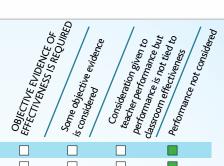
- **Figure 28** Evidence of effectiveness for license advancement
- **Figure 29** Advanced degree requirements

Other licensure advancement figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Coursework requirements (p. 96)
- Lifetime licenses (p. 96)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's licensure advancement policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, seehttp://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Do states require teachers to show evidence of effectiveness before conferring professional licensure?



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RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

End license advancement tied to master's degrees.

While not a requirement for advancement, Massachusetts should not emphasize obtaining a master's degree as a means of license advancement for teachers, as research is conclusive that master's degrees do not have any significant correlation to performance.

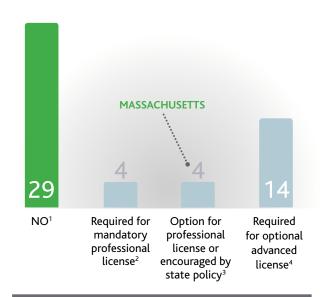
- 1. Georgia does not require evidence of effectiveness for each year of renewal period.
- 2. Illinois allows revocation of licenses based on ineffectiveness.
- 3. Uses objective evidence for advancement, not renewal.
- 4. An optional license requires evidence of effectiveness.
- 5. Teachers have the option of using evaluation ratings as a factor in license advancement or renewal.

Examples of Best Practice

Both **Rhode Island** and **Louisiana** are integrating certification, certification renewal and educator evaluations. In Rhode Island, 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 are eligible for a special license designation. Louisiana requires its teachers to meet the standard for effectiveness for three years during their initial certification or renewal period to be issued a certificate or have their certificate renewed.

Figure 29

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



- Strong Practice: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, 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, New York
- 3. Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon
- 4. Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia

Equitable Distribution of Teachers

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' equitable distribution of teachers policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Equitable Distribution

Districts' distribution of teacher talent among schools is publicly reported to identify inequities in schools serving disadvantaged students.

● Fully meets ● Nearly meets ● Partially meets ● Meets only a small part Does not meet

- 1 Progress increased since 2013
- Lost ground since 2013

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot Equitable Distribution of Teachers

Yes	School districts must publicly report aggregate school-level data about teacher performance.
No	A school-level teacher-quality index is used to demonstrate the academic backgrounds of a school's teachers and the ratio of new to veteran teachers.
No	School-level data on teacher absenteeism or turnover rates are reported.
Yes	School-level data on percentage of highly qualified teachers are reported.
No	School-level data on percentage of teachers with emergency credentials are reported.

MASSACHUSETTS Equitable Distribution of Teachers Characteristics

Public Reporting of Teacher Effectiveness Data	Districts report aggregate school-level data about teacher performance; summative performance ratings for teachers, aggregated to the school level, as well as teachers' impact ratings are also reported.
Other Public Reporting Related to Teacher Distribution	Percentage of highly qualified teachers reported for each school; compares percentage of highly qualified teachers in high- and low-poverty schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF TEACHERS POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Ensure that school-level teacher effectiveness data is meaningful to the public.

Massachusetts is commended for requiring districts to provide evaluation ratings and for making these data available to the public. However, because the summative performance rating is reported separately from the impact rating, these data may be challenging for the public to interpret.

Examples of Best Practice

Although not awarding "best practice" honors for this topic, NCTQ commends the 13 states that give the public access to teacher performance data aggregated to the school level. This transparency can help shine a light on how equitably teachers are distributed across and within school districts and help to ensure that all students have access to effective teachers.

SUMMARY OF EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF TEACHERS FIGURES

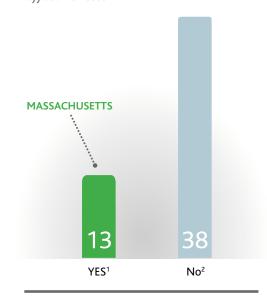
Figure 30 Reporting of teacher effectiveness data

Other equitable distribution of teachers figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Data reporting requirements (p. 99)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's equitable distribution of teachers policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Do states require public reporting of school-level data about teacher effectiveness?



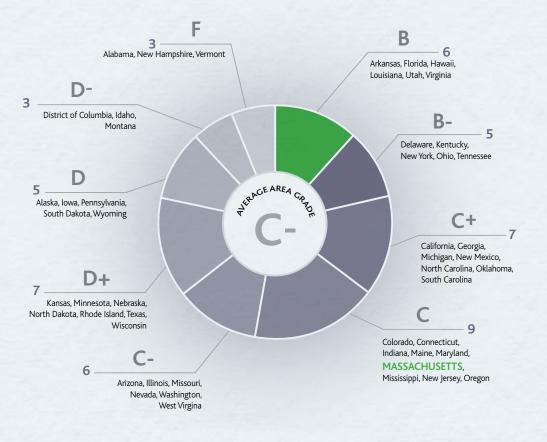
- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania
- Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island³, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah³, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Reports data about teacher effectiveness at the district level.

Area 4 Summary



How States are Faring in Retaining Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

- New Teacher Induction
- Professional Development

Compensation

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' new teacher induction policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

New Teacher Induction

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Induction

Effective induction is available for all new teachers, with special emphasis on teachers in high-need schools.

● Fully meets ● Nearly meets ● Partially meets ● Meets only a small part ● Does not meet

Lost ground since 2013

Progress increased since 2013

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot New Teacher Induction

*	Yes	All new teachers receive mentoring.
	Yes	Mentoring is of sufficient frequency and duration.
	Yes	Mentors are carefully selected.
	Yes	Induction programs are evaluated.
	Yes	Induction programs include a variety of effective strategies.

MASSACHUSETTS New Teacher Induction Characteristics

Induction Program	All new teachers receive mentoring.
Requirements for Mentor/ New Teacher Contact	Districts must provide release time to "engage in regular classroom observations and other mentoring activities."
Selection Criteria for Mentors	Subject matter receives foremost priority; grade and location are given priority, whenever possible. Recommended evaluation rating of proficient or above
Other Mentor Requirements	Participation in mentor training
Required Induction Strategies Other than Mentoring	Release time

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE NEW TEACHER INDUCTION POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Ensure high quality mentors.

Massachusetts is on the right track by suggesting in its Guidelines for Induction Programs that mentor selection criteria include a rating of proficient or better. However, Massachusetts could strengthen this policy by making it a mandatory requirement for all districts. Teachers without evidence of effectiveness should not be able to serve as mentors.

Examples 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.

Arkansas, Illinois, Maryland and New Jersey are also worthy of mention for their requirements related to mentor selection. Arkansas, Illinois and New Jersey require that all mentors must be rated in one of the top two rating categories on their most recent evaluation. Maryland also requires mentors, who are either current or retired teachers, to have obtained effective evaluation ratings.

SUMMARY OF NEW TEACHER INDUCTION FIGURES

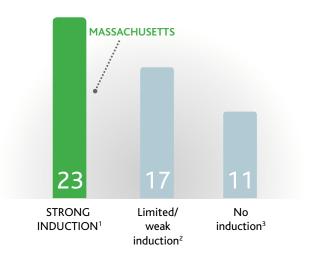
Figure 31 Quality of induction policies

Other new teacher induction figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Elements of induction (p. 104)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's new teacher induction policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, seehttp://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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



 Strong Practice: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia

2. Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

3. Alabama, District of Columbia, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' professional development policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Professional Development

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Professional Development

Teachers receive feedback about their performance, and professional development is based on needs identified through teacher evaluations.

Lost ground since 2013

🔶 Best Practice	Fully meets	Nearly meets	Partially meets	Meets only a small part	O Does not meet
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1 Progress increased since 2013

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot Professional Development

Yes	Teachers must receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations.
Yes	Professional development must be aligned with evaluation results.
Yes	Teachers with unsatisfactory/ineffective ratings are placed on improvement plans.

MASSACHUSETTS Professional Development Characteristics

Connection Between Evaluation and Professional Development	Plans must rely on evidence of educator performance and impact on student learning, growth, and achievement.
Evaluation Feedback	All teachers receive Educator Plans, which are designed to provide feedback for improvement, growth and leadership and ensure effectiveness.
Improvement Plan	Required for all teachers rated unsatisfactory; teachers rated needs improvement are placed on directed growth plans.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

As a result of Massachusetts's strong professional development policies, no recommendations are provided.

Examples of Best Practice

Louisiana and Massachusetts 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 be 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.

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FIGURES

Figure 32 Connecting teacher evaluation to continuous improvement

Other professional development figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Evaluation feedback (p. 109)
- Evaluations and professional development (p. 109)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's professional development policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 32		PROFESSION INFORMS DEVELUATION INFORMS DEVELOPMENT	MPROVENENT PLANS MITH POOR RATINGSYERS
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Wyoming			
	38	31	35

1. Does not require improvement plans for all less-than-effective teachers; just those in the lowest rating category.

2. South Dakota requires improvement plans only for teachers rated unsatisfactory who have been teaching for four years or more.

Compensation

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' compensation policies, including full harrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings	
Pay Scales and Performance Pay While local districts are given the authority over pay scales, performance pay is supported, but in a manner that recognizes its appropriate uses and limitations.	
Differential Pay Differential pay for effective teaching in shortage and high-need areas is supported.	•
Compensation for Prior Work Experience Districts are encouraged to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience.	
 Fully meets Nearly meets Partially meets Meets only a small part Does not meet Progress increased since 2013 Lost ground since 2013 Bar Raised for this Goal 	

MASSA Compe	CHUSETTS Snapshot nsation
Yes	Districts have flexibility to determine pay structure and scales.
No	Effective teachers can receive performance pay.
No	Districts are discouraged from tying compensation to advanced degrees.
No	Teachers can earn additional compensation by teaching shortage subjects.
No	Teachers can earn additional compensation by teaching in high-need schools.
No	Districts are encouraged to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience.

MASSACHUSETTS Compensation Characteristics

Authority for Salary Schedule	Controlled by local districts; state sets minimum salary
Performance Pay Initiatives	None
Role of Experience and Advanced Degrees in Salary Schedule	Not explicitly discouraged
Differential Pay for Shortage Subjects	None
Differential Pay for High-Need Schools	None
Pay for Prior Work Experience	None

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE COMPENSATION POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

 Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees and/or experience.

While still leaving districts the flexibility to establish their own pay scales, Massachusetts should articulate policies that definitively discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees as well as determining the highest steps on the pay scale solely by seniority.

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

Massachusetts should ensure that performance pay structures thoughtfully measure classroom performance and connect student achievement to teacher effectiveness.

SUMMARY OF COMPENSATION FIGURES

- **Figure 33** Compensation for performance
- **Figure 34** Compensation for advanced degrees
- **Figure 35** Differential pay

Other compensation figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- State role in teacher pay (p. 112)
- State support for performance pay (p. 114)
- Differential pay for shortage subjects or high-need schools (p. 119)
- Compensation for prior work experience (p. 121)

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

 Support differential pay initiatives for effective teachers in both subjectshortage areas and high-need schools.

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

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

Massachusetts 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.

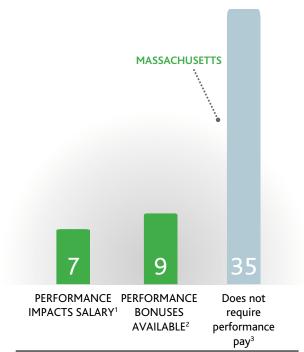
Examples of Best Practice

Florida allows local districts to develop their own salary schedules while preventing districts from prioritizing elements not associated with teacher effectiveness. Local salary schedules must ensure that the most effective teachers receive salary increases greater than the highest salary adjustment available. Florida also supports differential pay by providing salary supplements for teachers in both high-need schools and shortage subject areas.

In addition, **Indiana** and **Utah** both articulate compensation policies that reward effective teachers by requiring performance to be the most important factor in deciding a teacher's salary. **Louisiana** supports differential pay by offering up to \$3,000 per year, for four years, to teach math, biology, chemistry, physics and special education, and up to an additional \$6,000 per year, up to four years, to teach in low-performing schools. **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.

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's compensation policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Do states ensure pay is structured to account for performance?



- 1. Strong Practice: Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, Utah
- 2. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee4
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona⁵, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Idaho⁶, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky⁷, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri⁸, Montana, Nebraska⁷, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon⁷, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia⁷, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. A performance component is not required. Districts must differentiate teacher compensation based on at least one of the following criteria: additional roles or responsibilities, hard-to-staff schools or subject areas, and performance based on teacher evaluations.
- 5. Arizona allocates funds for teacher compensation increases based on performance and employment related expenses; there is no clear requirement for compensation connected to evidence of effectiveness.
- 6. Idaho does offer a master teacher premium, but it is dependent on years of experience.
- 7. Performance bonuses are available, but not specifically tied to teacher effectiveness
- 8. Performance bonuses are available for teachers in schools deemed "academically deficient."

Figure 34

- 1. Louisiana allows districts to set salary schedules based on three criteria: effectiveness, experience and demand. Advanced degrees may be included only as part of demand.
- 2. Only discouraged for those districts implementing Q Comp.
- 3. For advanced degrees earned after April 2014.
- 4. Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training"
- 5. Texas has a minimum salary schedule based on years of experience. Compensation for advanced degrees is left to district discretion.

Figure 34

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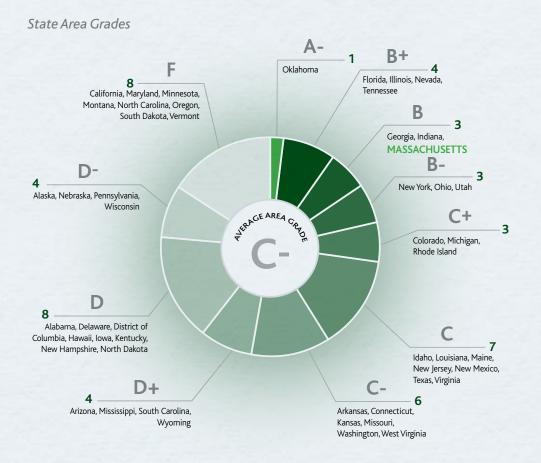
Figure 35		IGH-NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT	
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Georgia	-				
Hawaii					
Idaho Illinois					
Illinois Indiana					
lowa					1
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland	2				
MASSACHUSETTS					
Michigan					
Minnesota					
Mississippi					
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					3
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	22	9	15	12	20
		3	15	1L	20

- 1. Iowa provides state assistance to supplement salaries of teachers in high-need schools.
- Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 3. South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in highneed schools.

Area 5 Summary



How States are Faring in Exiting Ineffective Teachers



Topics Included In This Area

- Extended Emergency Licenses
- Reductions in Force
- Dismissal for Poor Performance

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' extended emergency license policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Extended Emergency Licenses

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Emergency Licenses Teachers who have not met licensure requirements may not continue teaching.

Fully meets Nearly meets Partially meets Meets only a small part Does not meet
 Progress increased since 2013
 Lost ground since 2013

Г Ц	MASSA Extende	CHUSETTS Snapshot ed Emergency Licenses
	No	Teachers are not granted a license if they do not pass all required subject-matter tests.
	Yes	If emergency licenses are offered, teachers are given no longer than one year to pass all subject- matter tests.

MASSACHUSETTS Extended Emergency License Characteristics

Emergency License	One-year waiver
Minimum Requirements	For critical shortage situations when no fully qualified teacher is available, teachers must demonstrate progress toward certification requirements
Duration	1 year
Renewal Requirements	Nonrenewable

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EXTENDED EMERGENCY LICENSE POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

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

Examples of Best Practice

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

SUMMARY OF EXTENDED EMERGENCY LICENSES FIGURES

Figure 36 Time to pass licensure tests

Other extended emergency licenses figures available in the Yearbook National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook Emergency licenses (p. 127)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's extended emergency licenses policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

How long can new teachers practice without passing licensing tests?	NO DEFERRAL	Up to 7 year	Up to Zyears	³ Jears or more lor unspecifed	
Alabama					
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida		1			
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho	2				
Illinois					
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Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
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MASSACHUSETTS					
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Nevada					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio					
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Oregon	_			_	
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee				3	
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia	2				
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
		40	-		
	9	18	6	18	
					_

- 1. Teachers can have up to two additional years to pass licensing tests in the event of "extraordinary extenuating circumstances."
- 2. Out-of-state teachers can teach on a non-renewable license until all requirements are met.
- 3. Tennessee does not offer emergency licenses but candidates for initial practitioner license have three years to pass licensure tests.
- 4. Permits can be extended without passing licensing tests if districts receive hardship approval.

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' dismissal policies, including full marrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Dismissal for Poor Performance

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Dismissal

Ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal and the process for terminating ineffective teachers is expedient and fair to all parties.

● Fully meets ● Nearly meets ● Partially meets ● Meets only a small part ○ Does not meet

Lost ground since 2013

1 Progress increased since 2013

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot

	DISITIISS	odl
	Yes	Teacher ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.
*	No	Terminated teachers have one opportunity to appeal.
*	No	Appeals process occurs within a reasonable timeframe.
*	No	The due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance are different from those facing license revocation.

MASSACHUSETTS Dismissal Characteristics

Dismissal for Ineffectiveness	Can be dismissed for failing to meet performance standards as measured by the state's evaluation system
Due Process Rights of Teachers	Same for all grounds
Length of Appeals Process	Multiple opportunities to appeal: After written notice, teacher has 10 days to appeal and review the decision with the principal or superintendent; teacher may then file, within 30 days, an additional appeal with the commissioner for arbitration; time frame not addressed but decision, which is subject to judicial review, must be issued within one month of hearing. An expedited hearing with an arbitrator is available in an underperforming school; must be completed within 20 days of dismissal notice.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE DISMISSAL POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

Massachusetts should ensure that the opportunity to appeal occurs only once and only at the district level so 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, Massachusetts should differentiate between loss of employment and issues with far-reaching consequences that could permanently affect a teacher's right to practice. Appeals related to effectiveness should only be decided by those with educational expertise.

Examples of Best Practice

New York now allows charges of incompetence against any teacher who receives two consecutive ineffective ratings; charges must be brought against any teacher who receives three consecutive ineffective ratings. Due process rights for teachers dismissed for ineffective performance are distinguishable from those facing other charges, and an expedited hearing is required. For teachers who have received three consecutive ineffective ratings, that timeline must not be longer than 30 days.

SUMMARY OF DISMISSAL FIGURES

Figure 37 Dismissal due to ineffectiveness

Other dismissal figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Dismissal appeals (p. 130)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's dismissal policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see ...http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 37	YES THROUGH DISMISSALAND EVALUATION	. /
Do states articulate that	Ŧ	
ineffectiveness is grounds	2 2 2 2 4	
for dismissal?	E ST	
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Louisiana		
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MASSACHUSETTS		
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Mississippi Missouri		
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New Jersey		
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North Carolina		
North Dakota		
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Oklahoma		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
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Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	28	23
	20	

1. Kansas has repealed the law that gave tenured teachers who faced dismissal the right to an independent review of their cases.

In Nevada, a teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations, but the state does not articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS and other states' reductions in force policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Reductions in Force

MASSACHUSETTS Ratings

Reductions in Force

Districts must consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off when a reduction in force is necessary.

● Fully meets ● Nearly meets ● Partially meets ● Meets only a small part ● Does not meet

MASSACHUSETTS Snapshot Reductions in Force

♦	Yes	Districts must consider classroom performance when determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.
	Somewhat	Seniority cannot be the only/primary factor used to determine which teachers are laid off.

MASSACHUSETTS Reductions in Force Characteristics

Use of Teacher Performance	Must be taken into consideration between two teachers with like tenure status
Use of Seniority	A significant factor
Other Factors	Tenure status

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE REDUCTIONS IN FORCE POLICIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Require that districts prioritize performance in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.

While Massachusetts will be using classroom performance as a factor in layoff decisions, the state still allows the main emphasis to be on seniority and tenure status. Using performance as the tiebreaker does not send a clear message to districts that it is the most important consideration.

Examples of Best Practice

Colorado and **Florida** 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.

SUMMARY OF REDUCTIONS IN FORCE FIGURES

Figure 38 Layoff criteria

Other reductions in force figures available in the Yearbook National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Performance in layoffs (p. 132)
- Emphasis on seniority in layoffs (p. 133)

For more information about MASSACHUSETTS's reductions in force policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, seehttp://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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



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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		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	19	22



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

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