

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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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.

Virginia at a Glance



Overall 2015 Yearbook Grade

2013

2011

2009







2015 Virginia Area Goal Scores

AREA 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers	C+
Admission into Teacher Preparation	
Elementary Teacher Preparation	
Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	
Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	
Early Childhood Teacher Preparation	
Middle School Teacher Preparation	
Secondary Teacher Preparation	
Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science and Social Studies	0
Special Education Teacher Preparation	
Special Education Preparation in Reading	•
Assessing Professional Knowledge	
Student Teaching	
Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	
AREA 2: Expanding the Teacher Pool	С
Alternate Route Eligibility	
Alternate Route Preparation	0
Alternate Route Usage and Providers	
Part-Time Teaching Licenses	

AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	D+
State Data Systems	
Evaluation of Effectiveness	
Frequency of Evaluations	
Tenure	•
Licensure Advancement	
Equitable Distribution	•
AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	В
Induction	
Professional Development	
Pay Scales and Performance Pay	
Differential Pay	
Compensation for Prior Work Experience	
AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers	С
Extended Emergency Licenses	
Dismissal for Poor Performance	
Reductions in Force	

Goal Summary

Licensure Reciprocity



Fully Meets: 7

Nearly Meets: 7

Partially Meets: 6

Meets Only a Small Part: 5

Does Not Meet: 7

Progress on Goals Since 2013



Progress Increased: 0



Progress Decreased: 0

Teacher Policy Priorities for Virginia

AREA 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Middle School Teacher Preparation

Ensure 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

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

Assessing Professional Knowledge

Require that all new teachers pass a pedagogy test.

Student Teaching

■ Ensure that student teachers are only placed with cooperating teachers who have demonstrated effectiveness as measured by student learning and require at least 10 weeks of student teaching.

Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

■ Hold teacher preparation programs accountable by collecting data that connect student achievement gains to programs, as well as other meaningful data that reflect program performance, and by establishing the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.

AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Alternate Routes to Certification

- Increase admission requirements to alternate route programs by setting a high bar for academic proficiency.
- 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 and/or meet licensure test requirements.

AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

State Data Systems

Develop a definition of teacher of record that can be used to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness, strengthen data link between teachers and students, and publish data on teacher production.

Teacher Evaluation

■ Require annual evaluations for all teachers.

Tenure

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

Licensure Advancement

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

Equitable Distribution of Teachers

 Publish aggregate school-level teacher evaluation ratings from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness.

AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Compensation

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

AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Extending Emergency Licenses

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

Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

Figure A	+ Grade State	Overall State	Overall State	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-	С	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	D	D	D-	D-
Wisconsin	D	D+	D	D
Wyoming	D	D	D	D-
Alaska	D-	D	D	D
South Dakota	D-	D-	D	D
Vermont	D-	D-	D-	F
Montana	F	F	F	F

How to Read the Yearbook

GOAL SCORE

The extent to which each goal has been met:



Best Practice



Fully Meets



Nearly Meets



Partially Meets



Meets Only a Small Part



Does Not Meet

PROGRESS INDICATOR

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



Goal progress has increased since 2013



Goal progress has decreased since 2013

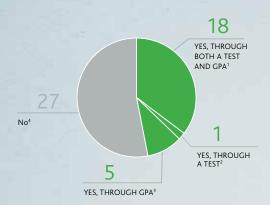
BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



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 NCTO'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



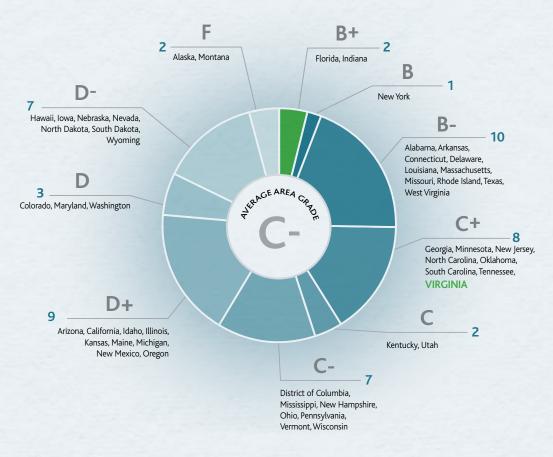
as a comprehensive set of tables and graphs that provide a national overview of the teacher policy landscape.

Area 1 Summary



How States are Faring on Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

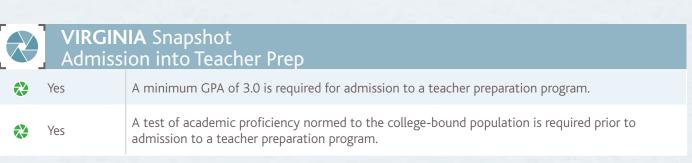
- Admission into Teacher Preparation
- Elementary Teacher Preparation
- Middle School Teacher Preparation
- Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

Admission into Teacher Prep

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





VIRGINIA Admiss	sion into Teacher Prep Characteristics
Test Requirement	Requirement for cohort average above the 50th percentile on admissions test normed to college-bound population is based on CAEP accreditation standards, not state's own admissions policy.
GPA Requirement	Required cohort minimum GPA of 3.0 is based on CAEP accreditation standards, not state's own admissions policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ADMISSION INTO TEACHER PREP POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

- Establish rigorous admission criteria independent of accreditation process. While the CAEP standards set an admirably high bar for admission to teacher preparation programs, Virginia should enact its own policy articulating rigorous criteria for admission. Clear state policy would send an unequivocal message to programs about the state's expectations.
- Consider requiring candidates to pass subject-matter tests as a condition of admission into teacher programs.
 In addition to ensuring that programs require a measure of academic performance for admission, Virginia might also want to consider requiring content testing prior to program admission as opposed to at the point of program completion.

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

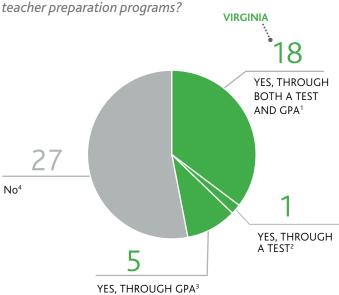
Other admission figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

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

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

Figure 1

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

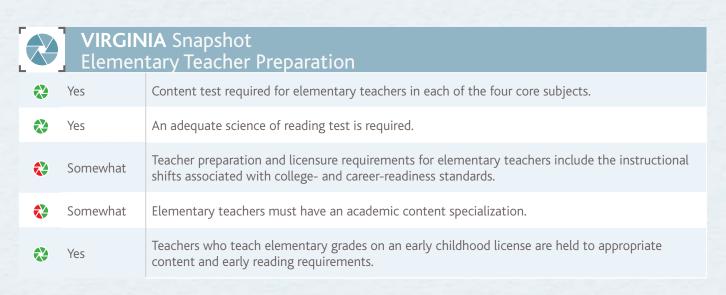


- Strong Practice: Alabama⁵, Arkansas⁵, Delaware⁶, District of Columbia⁵, Indiana⁵, Louisiana⁵, Michigan⁵, New Jersey⁷, New York⁵, North Carolina⁵, Oklahoma⁵, Oregon⁵, Rhode Island, South Carolina⁵, Tennessee⁵, Utah⁶, Virginia⁵, West Virginia
- 2. Strong Practice: Texas
- 3. Strong Practice: Georgia, Hawaii⁸, Mississippi, Montana, Pennsylvania⁹
- 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
- 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.
- $\ensuremath{\mathsf{6}}.$ Candidates can qualify for admission through the GPA or test requirement.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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
VIRGINIA and other states'
elementary teacher preparation
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations and state
responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Elementary Teacher Preparation

VIRGINIA 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.	•
 Fully meets → Nearly meets → Partially meets → Meets only a small part → Does not meet N/A Not Appli Progress increased since 2013 → Lost ground since 2013 → Bar raised for this goal 	cable



VIRGINIA Elementary Teacher Preparation Characteristics				
Elementary Licenses	K-6; PreK-3			
Content Tests	Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) K-6; PreK-3			
Science of Reading Requirements	Praxis II Reading for Virginia Educators (5306) K-6; PreK-3			
Academic Specialization	A major is required but can be met with interdisciplinary studies			
Instructional Shifts Associated with College-and Career- Readiness Standards	Complex informational text: Partially addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Not addressed Struggling readers: Fully addressed			

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

■ 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.

Virginia 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, Virginia 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.

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 career-readiness 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 career-readiness standards (p. 20)

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

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

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

Virginia's policy requiring elementary candidates to earn a content major is undermined because it may be met with an interdisciplinary major. Unlike an academic major, an interdisciplinary major will not necessarily enhance teachers' content knowledge or ensure that prospective teachers have taken higher-level academic coursework.

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.

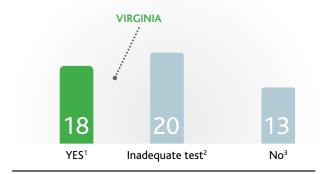
EEMENTARY CONTENT PASSING SCORE FOR EACH Elementary content test for some subjects Elementary content test Figure 2 Do states ensure that elementary teachers know core content? Alabama Alaska 1 Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia П П П Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho П П Illinois Indiana Iowa П Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana Maine П Maryland П П ____Z Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota П Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire П New Jersey П П New Mexico New York П North Carolina North Dakota П Ohio 3 Oklahoma Oregon П П Pennsylvania Rhode Island П П South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas П П Utah П Vermont **VIRGINIA** Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 22 9 5 15

Figure 2

- 1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.
- 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 3

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

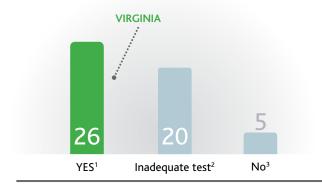


- Strong Practice: Alabama⁴, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁵, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee⁶, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, 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.

Figure 4	pared 77	182/	SUPPORTING STRUGGLING
Are states ensuring that new		¥ /	3. SEC. SEC.
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elementary teachers are prep	Dareu Ş		ALL VE VE VE VE VE VE VE
for the instructional shifts	, ∮0	1 8	
associated with college- and)+C	185	
career-readiness standards?	75.		12 SC 1
Alabama	7 /		7
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Vermont			
VIRGINIA			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
Fully addresses instructional component	Partially add	dresses inst	ructional component

Figure 5

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



- 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

- 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.
- Early childhood candidates may pass either multiple subjects (subscores) or content knowledge (no subscores) test.
- 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 6		/
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What do states require	Z Z	/ 8/
of early childhood	\$ 5	15/2/2
teachers who teach	F S	\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \
elementary grades?	CONTRY TEST WITH SUBJECT REFOREACH	ADEQUATE SCIENCE OF READING TEST
Alabama		
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		
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Wyoming	7	13

For more information about VIRGINIA 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**

VIRGINIA 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









♠ Progress increased since 2013





Bar raised for this goal



VIRGINIA Snapshot Middle School Teacher Preparation

*	Yes	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.
	Somewhat	Teacher preparation and licensure requirements for middle school teachers include the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards

VIRGINIA Middle School Teacher Preparation Characteristics Middle School Licenses 6-8 **Content Tests** Praxis II Middle School single-subject tests Candidates must earn a major in interdisciplinary studies or its equivalent. Academic Requirements Complex informational text: Partially addressed Instructional Shifts Associated Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Partially addressed with College-and Career-Readiness Standards Struggling readers: Not addressed

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

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

Incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

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

Incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.

To ensure that middle school students are capable of accessing varied information about the world around them, Virginia should include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.

Support struggling readers.

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

■ Ensure meaningful content tests.

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

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

middle school teacher prep policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 7	v.8 L(CENSENS)	K-8 license office of for	Suppo
Do states distinguish	Š	to la	K-8 license of
middle grade preparation fr	om 🐇	e of) / og
elementary preparation?	<i>[E</i>		
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^{1.} Offers 1-8 license.

California offers a K-12 generalist license for all self-contained classrooms.
 With the exception of mathematics.

Figure 8		No, test doe, not pay	No, K.8 license E.	No test:
Do middle school teachers		75	(O'e)	
have to pass an appropriate		86.7	# / est	
content test in every core		\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	19,00	
subject they are licensed	بي	/ 6, te	7.5°	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
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- ${\it 1. Alaska does \ not \ require \ content \ tests \ for \ initial \ licensure.}$
- 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.
- 4. Illinois requires candidates to take a middle level core content test if a test is available. It is not clear that this will result in teachers passing a test in each subject.
- 5. Maryland allows elementary teachers to teach in departmentalized middle schools if not less than 50 percent of the teaching assignment is within the elementary grades.
- 6. New Hampshire requires K-8 candidates to 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.
- New legislation in Tennessee allows teachers to delay passage of content tests if they possess a bachelor's degree in a core content area.

Figure 9 Are states ensuring that new	nl 337 rds? 3	MCORPORATIVE I.E.	SUPPOS
middle school teachers are	ž		1577
prepared for the instructiona	ા હૈ	1 2 2	5 /
shifts associated with college	- C - -	/ 80 NS	/ ද
and career-readiness standar	rds? \$ /	Z N	/ \$
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Wyoming			

Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

VIRGINIA Ratings Content Knowledge New secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content and for the ways that college-and career-readiness standards affect instruction. General Science and Social Studies Secondary science and social studies teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach. 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

		VIRGIN Second	IIA Snapshot ary Teacher Preparation
,	*	Yes	Secondary teachers must pass a content test to teach any single core subject.
i	*	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.
,	*	Somewhat	Teacher preparation and licensure requirements for secondary school teachers include the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards.

VIRGINIA Secondary Teacher Preparation Characteristics		
Secondary Licenses	6-12	
Content Tests	Praxis II single-subject content 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: Partially addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Partially addressed Struggling readers: Not addressed	

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE SECONDARY TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

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

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

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

Incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

Although Virginia's required secondary English language arts content test addresses informational texts, the state

SUMMARY OF SECONDARY TEACHER PREPARATION FIGURES

- Figure 10 Content test requirements
- Figure 11 Instructional shifts associated with college-and career-readiness 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

should strengthen its policy and ensure that teachers are able to challenge students with texts of increasing complexity.

Incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.

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

Support struggling readers.

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

Examples of Best Practice

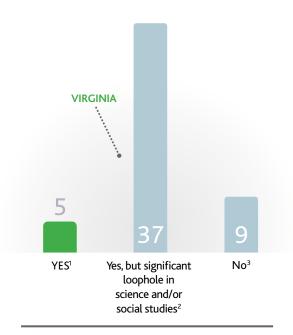
Missouri requires that secondary teacher candidates pass a content test to teach any core secondary subjects. Of particular note, Missouri ensures that its secondary science teachers know the content they teach by taking a dual approach to general secondary science certification. The state offers general 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 VIRGINIA's secondary teacher prep policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 10

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
- 3. 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.

Figure 11		2/2	\$ 5.
Are states ensuring that		₹ / ;	
new secondary teachers	ź		12/2
are prepared for the	, 8	25	₹ / §
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Oklahoma			
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South Dakota			
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Vermont			
VIRGINIA			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			

Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

VIRGINIA 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 Progress increased since 2013 → Lost ground since 2013 		

	VIRGIN Special	IIA Snapshot Education Teacher Preparation
*	No	Only discrete elementary and secondary special education licenses are offered.
*	No	Elementary subject-matter test is required for elementary special education license.
*	No	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.

Education Teacher Preparation Characteristics
K-12
Not required
Praxis II Reading for Virginia Educators
Complex informational text: Partially addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Not addressed Struggling readers: Fully addressed

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

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

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

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

Virginia should requiring a rigorous content test that reports separate, meaningful passing scores for each content area to ensure teachers possess requisite content knowledge in each subject area.

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 career-readiness 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 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, Virginia's current policy of requiring no subject-matter testing is problematic and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards.
- Ensure that new special education teachers are prepared to incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

 Either through testing frameworks or teacher standards, Virginia 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 asso-

ciated with college- and career-readiness

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

standards for students.

Virginia 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.

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

Figure 12	DOESNOT OFFRA	Offers K-12 and	Getion(s)
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between elementary	9		1 / 2/2 / 1/
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education teachers?	POE.) 8796.8 87346.	Offers only a K-12
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VIRGINIA			
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Figure 12

- 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. 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.

Figure 13
Which states require subject-matter testing for special education teachers?

Elementary Subject-Matter Test				
Required for an elementary special education license	Alabama, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri¹, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania², Rhode Island, West Virginia³, Wisconsin			
Required for a K-12 special education license	Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, North Carolina ⁴			
Secondary	Subject-Matter Test(s)			
Tests in all core subjects required for secondary special education license	Missouri ¹ , New York ⁵ , Wisconsin ⁶			
Test in at least one subject required for secondary special education license	Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania², Rhode Island, West Virginia³			
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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Wisconsin requires a middle school level content area test which does not report subscores for each area.

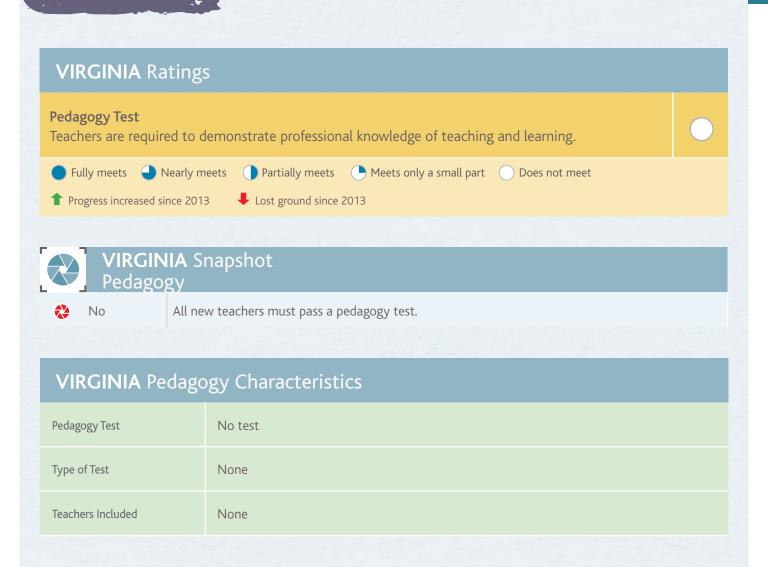
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For more information about

VIRGINIA and other states' assessing professional knowledge policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see

http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Assessing Professional Knowledge



RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ASSESSING PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

Require that all new teachers pass a pedagogy test.

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

Examples of Best Practice

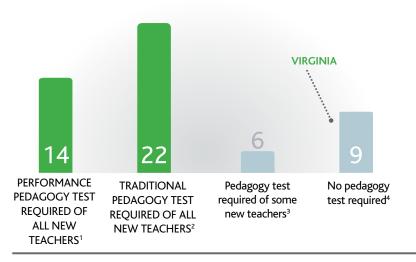
Although no state stands out for its pedagogy test policy, eight states are worthy of mention for the licensing test they require to verify that all new teachers meet state standards. Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas ensure that all new teachers take a pedagogy 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 VIRGINIA's assessing professional knowledge policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 15 Do states measure new teachers' knowledge of teaching and learning?

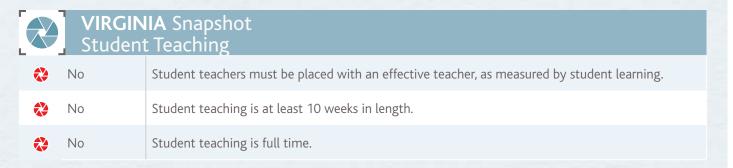


- 1. Strong Practice: California, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois⁵, Iowa⁶, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Tennessee⁶, Washington, Wisconsin
- 2. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, 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.
- $\ensuremath{\mathsf{6}}.\ensuremath{\mathsf{Teachers}}$ 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.

Student Teaching

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





VIRGINIA Studen	INIA Student Teaching Characteristics		
Duration of Student Teaching	At least 300 clock hours of field experiences for initial programs, which must include a minimum of 150 clock hours of directed student teaching requirements		
Selection of Cooperating Teachers Connected to Effectiveness	No specific requirements		
Other Criteria for Selection of Cooperating Teachers	No specific requirements		

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT TEACHING POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

- Ensure that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.
 - In addition to the ability to mentor an adult, cooperating teachers in Virginia should also be carefully screened for their capacity to further student achievement.
- Use evidence from the state's teacher evaluation system to select cooperating teachers.

Since Virginia requires objective measures of student growth to be a significant criterion of its teacher evaluations, the state should utilize its evaluation results in the selection of effective cooperating teachers.

- Require teacher candidates to spend at least 10 weeks student teaching.
 - Virginia should require a full-time, summative clinical experience for all prospective teachers; this ensures both adequate classroom experience and exposure to a variety of ancillary professional activities.
- Explicitly require that student teaching be completed locally, thus prohibiting candidates from completing this requirement abroad.

Outsourcing arrangements for student teaching makes it impossible to ensure the selection of the best cooperating teacher and adequate supervision of the student teacher and may prevent training of the teacher on relevant state instructional frameworks.

Examples of Best Practice

Rhode Island and Tennessee not only require teacher candidates to complete at least 10 weeks of full-time 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 VIRGINIA's student teaching policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see

http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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Figure 16	TEACHER.	STUDENT TEACHING
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teaching experience?		25.5
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Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	13	34

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

↑ Progress increased since 2013

Teacher Prep Program Accountability

VIRGINIA Ratings Program Accountability The approval process for teacher preparation programs holds programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce. Pully meets Nearly meets Partially meets Meets only a small part Does not meet

Lost ground since 2013

	VIRGINIA Snapshot Teacher Prep Program Accountability							
*	No	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.						
	No	Report cards showing program performance are available to the public.						
€	No	The state maintains full authority over program approval.						

VIRGINIA Teacher Prep Program Accountability Characteristics					
None					
For traditional programs, employer satisfaction surveys					
None					
None					
National accreditation required for program approval					

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TEACHER PREP PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

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

Virginia should consider the academic achievement gains of students taught by programs' graduates, averaged over the first three years of teaching and disaggregated by specific preparation programs. Virginia should report all collected data at the program level for accountability purposes.

■ Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance.

While Virginia does collect employer survey data, the state's accountability system should include other objective measures in addition to student growth that show how well programs are preparing teachers for the classroom. Data could include candidate's evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching and average raw scores on licensing tests including academic proficiency, subject matter and professional knowledge tests.

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)

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

- Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.
 - Virginia should establish precise minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category of data, which programs should be held accountable for meeting.
- Publish an annual report card on the state's website.
 - Virginia should produce an annual report card on individual teacher preparation programs, which should be published on the state's website at the program level and presented in a manner that clearly conveys whether programs have met performance standards.
- Maintain full authority over the process for approving teacher preparation programs.
 - Virginia should ensure that it is the state that considers the evidence of program performance and makes the decision about whether programs should continue to be authorized to prepare teachers.

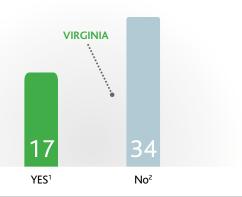
Examples of Best Practice

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 17

Do states connect student achievement data to teacher preparation programs?



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

Figure 18	OBJECTIVE PROGRAM.	MINIMUM STANDARDS	DATA PUBLICY AVAILABLE ON WE
Do states hold teacher	% \ \(\)	2 / STAN	
	7/2	1 3 6	1878
preparation programs accountable?	C) FC	R PER	Z Z Z
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Nebraska			
Nevada	1	□ 1	
New Hampshire			
New Jersey	1		1
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina	6		6
North Dakota			
Ohio	1		1
Oklahoma			
Oregon Pennsylvania	1		
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			3
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
VIRGINIA	1		
Washington			
West Virginia	1		
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			

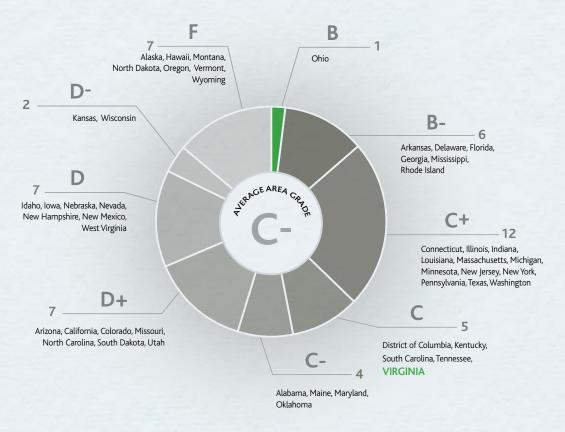
- $1. \ For \ traditional \ preparation \ programs \ only.$
- 2. Report cards only include limited data.
- 3. Report cards are at the institution rather than the program level.
- ${\it 4. Non-university based alternate route programs are not included.}$
- $5. \ For \ alternate \ route \ programs \ only.$
- 6. University-based programs only; state does not distinguish between alternate route programs and traditional programs in public reporting.

Area 2 Summary



How States are Faring in Expanding the Pool of Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

- Alternate Routes to Certification
- Part-Time Teaching Licenses

• Licensure Reciprocity

Alternate Routes to Certification

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

VIRGINIA Ratings	
Eligibility Alternate route programs only admit candidates with strong academic records while also providing flexibility for nontraditional candidates.	0
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 → Nearly meets → Partially meets → Meets only a small part → Does not meet Progress increased since 2013 → Lost ground since 2013 	

	VIRGIN Alterna	IIA Snapshot te Routes to Certification
*	No	A rigorous academic standard is required for program entry.
4	Yes	A subject-matter test is required for admission.
	Somewhat	Subject-matter test can be used in lieu of a major to demonstrate content knowledge.
*	Somewhat	A practice teaching opportunity is required prior to becoming teacher of record.
*	Somewhat	Intensive mentoring is required to support new teachers.
	Yes	Coursework requirements are streamlined.
	Somewhat	Coursework requirements are limited to relevant topics.
*	Yes	Alternate routes are offered without limitation by grades, subjects or geographic areas.
*	Yes	Providers other than institutions of higher education are permitted.

VIRGINIA Alternate Routes to Certification Characteristics							
Name of Route(s)	Career Switchers Alternative Route to Licensure Program and Alternative Route to Licensure						
Academic Requirements for Entry	None						
Subject-Matter Requirements for Entry	Career Switchers: a subject-matter exam, coursework requirements in intended teaching area and five years of work experience; Alternative Route to Licensure: a subject-matter exam and coursework requirements in intended teaching area, although candidates with five years of work experience and a passing subject-exam score are exempt from coursework requirements						
Coursework Requirements	Career Switchers: 180 clock hours of instruction, with a minimum of 20 cumulative instructional hours of seminars during the first year and coursework that includes curriculum and instruction methods, standards of learning, differentiation of instruction, classroom/behavior management and human growth and development; Alternative Route to Licensure: elementary and middle school candidates must complete 18 semester hours of coursework, secondary candidates must complete 15 semester hours and coursework covers curriculum and instructional procedures, classroom and behavior management and foundations of education						
Practice Teaching/Mentoring Requirements	Career Switchers: practice-teaching opportunity and required mentoring; Alternative Rout to Licensure: required mentoring and no practice teaching opportunity requirement						
Usage	No limit with regard to subject, grade or geographic area						
Eligible Providers	Institutions of higher education, local districts and private organizations						

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ALTERNATE ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

■ Screen candidates for academic ability. Virginia 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.



RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

Offer flexibility in fulfilling coursework requirements.

With regard to the Alternate Route to Licensure experiential learning program, Virginia should allow any candidate who already has the requisite knowledge and skills to demonstrate such by passing a rigorous test.

 Establish coursework guidelines for alternate route preparation programs.

Virginia should ensure that coursework requirements contribute to the immediate needs of new teachers for all of its alternate routes; the state should do this by requiring coursework topics like methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction.

 Consider providing opportunities to practice teach to all candidates.

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

Strengthen the induction experience for new teachers.

Although Virginia requires all new teachers to work with a mentor, there are insufficient guidelines indicating that the mentoring program is structured for new teacher success. The state should consider strategies like intensive mentoring with full classroom support in the first few weeks or months of school.

Ensure program completion in less than two years.

Virginia should consider shortening the length of time it takes an Alternate Route to Licensure program teacher to earn standard certification to no later than the end of the second year of 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)

Examples of Best Practice

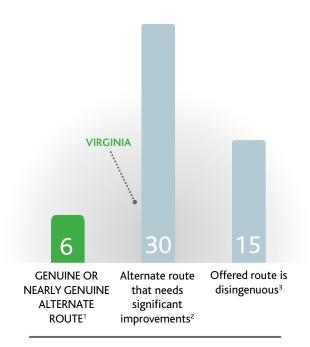
No state can be singled out for its overall alternate route policies. There are, however, states that offer best practices in individual alternate route policy areas.

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.

Figure 19
Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification?



^{1.} Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, New Jersey, Rhode Island

- 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
- 3. 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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West Virginia		*			*				*
Wisconsin									*
Wyoming									

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

Part-Time Teaching Licenses

VIRGINIA Ratings Part-Time Teaching Licenses A license with minimal requirements is offered that allows content experts to teach part time. Fully meets Nearly meets Partially meets Meets only a small part Does not meet Progress increased since 2013 Lost ground since 2013



VIRGINIA Snapshot Part-Time Teaching Licenses

Nο

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

VIRGINIA 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 VIRGINIA

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

Virginia should permit individuals with deep subject-area knowledge to teach a limited number of courses without fulfilling a complete set of certification requirements. The state should verify content knowledge through a rigorous test and conduct background checks as appropriate, while waiving all other licensure requirements.

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

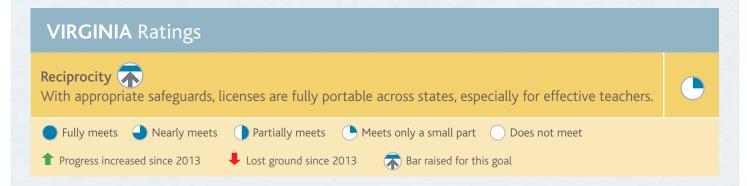
Figure 21 Part-time licenses

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

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Do states offer a license with minimal requirements		\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	Pa,
that allows content experts		P ₃ y ₀	· /
to teach part time?	(0	stric	
to teach part time:	YES	/ & jj /	/ &
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Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
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New Mexico			
New York North Carolina			
North Carolina North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
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Licensure Reciprocity

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



VIRGINIA Snapshot Reciprocity							
	No	Evidence of effective teaching is required in reciprocity policy.					
	Yes	Out-of-state teachers may apply for a comparable standard license.					
	No	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.					

VIRGINIA Reciprocity Characteristics						
License Available to Fully Certified Out-of-State Teachers	A comparable license					
Effectiveness Requirements	None					
Testing Requirements	Waiver available with three years of out-of-state teaching at a public or accredited private school and a full license with no deficiencies.					
Coursework and/or Recency Requirements	None					
Additional Alternate Route Requirements	None					

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE RECIPROCITY POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

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

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

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

Virginia should insist that out-of-state teachers meet its own testing requirements, and it should not provide any waivers of its teacher tests unless an applicant can provide evidence of a passing score under its own standards.

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 VIRGINIA's
reciprocity policies, including detailed
recommendations, full narrative analysis
and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Examples of Best Practice

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.

^{3.} Allows up to three years to submit passing scores.

Figure 22		PASSAGE OF LICEN.	URE LES
	EVIDENCE OF	S / CEA	NO OTHER OBSTACLES
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other states?	EFE,	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	× 0,
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Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia			
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Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana Iowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine			
Maryland			
Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Mississippi Missouri			
Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee		3	
Texas			
Utah Vermont			
VIRGINIA			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	2	20	21

Obstacles include transcript analysis, recency and/or coursework requirements, and additional requirements for teachers certified through alternate routes.

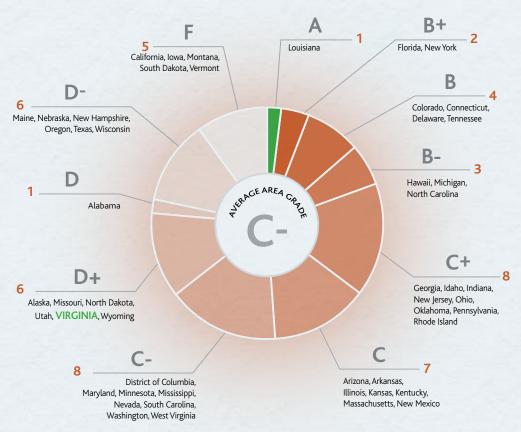
^{2.} Alaska allows up to three years to meet testing requirements.

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

State Data Systems

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

VIRGINIA 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 Meets only a small part Does not meet Progress increased since 2013 Lost ground since 2013 Bar raised for this goal

	VIRGIN State D	IIA Snapshot ata Systems
*	Yes	Use of data system for providing evidence of effectiveness is mandated.
*	No	Teacher of record is adequately defined.
*	No	A process is in place for teacher roster verification.
	No	Data on teacher production are publicly reported.

VIRGINIA State [VIRGINIA 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	Not adequately connected to providers of instruction.					
Other Characteristics	Ability to connect multiple teachers to a single student					
Teacher Production Data/ Hiring Statistics	Not reported					

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE STATE DATA SYSTEM POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

- Develop a definition of "teacher of record" that can be used to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.
 Virginia should articulate a definition of teacher of record that reflects instruction.
- Strengthen data link between teachers and students.

Although Virginia's teacher-student data link can connect more than one educator to a particular student in a given course, the state should put in place a process for teacher roster verification. This is of particular importance for using the data system to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

■ Publish data on teacher production.

Virginia should look to Maryland's "Teacher Staffing Report" as a model whose primary purpose is to determine teacher shortage areas, while also identifying areas of surplus.

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 VIRGINIA's state data system policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see

http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 23		8 /	J. J. J.
Do states' data systems		1 S / 5	8 /
include elements needed	Ŧ,		
to assess teacher	X X X		
effectiveness?	ADEOU RECORD	CAN CONNECT MO.	TEACHER ROSTER
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Arkansas			
California			
Colorado Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
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Hawaii			
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Louisiana Maine ¹			
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Utah			
Vermont			
VIRGINIA			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	29	34	26

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

For more information about VIRGINIA and other states' teacher

evaluation policies, including full harrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see

http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Teacher Evaluation

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

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

VIRGINIA Teache	VIRGINIA Teacher Evaluation Characteristics						
Use of Student Achievement Data in Evaluation	Significant criterion. Defined as 40 percent						
Types of Required Student Data	"Student academic progress"						
Other Required Measures	Observations						
Number of Rating Categories	4						
Frequency of Evaluations	Nonprobationary teachers: once every 3 years, with informal evaluations during the off years. Probationary teachers: annually.						
Number of Observations	Required as a part of evaluations						
System Structure	State provides criteria for district-designed evaluation systems						
Surveys (Parent, Student, Peer)	Student surveys explicitly allowed; teachers have exclusive access to results.						
Evaluator Requirements	Training						

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TEACHER EVALUATION POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

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

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

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 Virginia should be evaluated annually, as a means to reward good teachers, help average teachers improve and hold weak teachers accountable for poor performance.

Base evaluations on multiple observations.

To guarantee that annual evaluations are based on an adequate collection of information, Virginia should require multiple observations for all teachers.

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

Virginia 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.

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

Virginia should ensure that its new teachers get the support they need, and that supervisors know early on which new teachers may be struggling or at risk for unacceptable levels of performance.

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)

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.

Figure 24	DEN	Requires that student Senties that student Senties and Security Senties that student	Requires that student	rithout explicit and is a Requires some of the series of t	Sudent achievement
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Do states consider	Z 2 5	\$ \fr\{\partial\partia			
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3. Explicitly defined for 2014-15 school year.

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

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Figure 25		CHERS OW.
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Tenure

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





VIRGINIA Tenure Characteristics						
Consideration of Teacher Effectiveness	If the teacher's performance evaluation during the probationary period is not satisfactory, the school board must not reemploy the teacher.					
Length of Probationary Period	3 years; may be extended to 5 years					

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TENURE POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

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

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

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

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 VIRGINIA's
tenure policies, including detailed
recommendations, full narrative analysis
and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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- 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.

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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.
- 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.

Licensure Advancement

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

VIRGINIA 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 Lost ground since 2013 **VIRGINIA** Snapshot Licensure Advancement Advancement from a probationary to a professional license is based on evidence of No teacher effectiveness. Renewal of a professional license is based on evidence of teacher effectiveness. No Other advancement/renewal requirements have a direct connection to classroom effectiveness. No Somewhat An advanced degree is not a requirement for license advancement.

VIRGINIA Licensure Advancement Characteristics						
Performance Requirements to Advance from a Probationary to Professional License	None					
Other Requirements for Advancement	None; single-tier system. Postgraduate professional license (optional): graduate degree					
Initial Certification Period	None					
Performance Requirements to Renew a Professional License	None					
Other Requirements for Renewal	Must complete 180 professional development points, which can be accrued from college credit, professional conference, curriculum development, publishing an article or book, mentorship/supervision, an educational project and employing educational agency professional development activity.					
Renewal Period	5 years					

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE LICENSURE ADVANCEMENT POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

- Require evidence of effectiveness as a part of teacher licensing policy.
 - Virginia should require evidence of teacher effectiveness to be a factor in determining whether teachers can renew their licenses or advance to a higher-level license.
- Discontinue license renewal requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.
 - While targeted requirements may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Virginia's menu of general, nonspecific professional development requirements for license renewal do not correlate with teacher effectiveness.
- End requirement tying teacher advanced degrees to licensure advancement.
 - Virginia should remove its mandate that teachers obtain a master's or doctorate degree for any level of license advancement, as research is conclusive that master's degrees do not have any significant correlation to performance.

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.

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 VIRGINIA's
licensure advancement policies, including
detailed recommendations, full narrative
analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 28		1 Sire	ه / ره	\$ \$ \$ /
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Georgia does not require evidence of effectiveness for each year of renewal period.

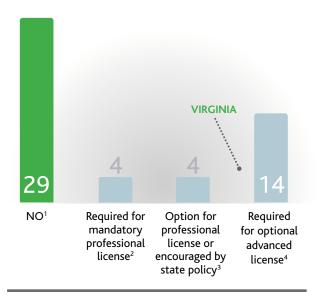
^{2.} Illinois allows revocation of licenses based on ineffectiveness.

^{3.} Uses objective evidence for advancement, not renewal.

 $^{{\}bf 4.}\,{\bf An}\,\,{\bf optional}\,\,{\bf license}\,\,{\bf requires}\,\,{\bf evidence}\,\,{\bf of}\,\,{\bf effectiveness}.$

^{5.} Teachers have the option of using evaluation ratings as a factor in license advancement or renewal.

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 .VIRGINIA and other states' equitable 🧸 🖫 distribution of teachers policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

VIRGINIA 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









VIRGINIA Snapshot Equitable Distribution of Teachers

*	No	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.

VIRGINIA Equitable Distribution of Teachers Characteristics

Public Reporting of Teacher Effectiveness Data	Not reported
Other Public Reporting Related to Teacher Distribution	Reports percentage of highly qualified teachers for each school. Compares percentage of highly qualified teachers at high- and low-poverty schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF TEACHERS POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

 Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

Virginia should make aggregate school-level data about teacher performance—from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness—publicly available.

Publish other data that facilitate comparisons across schools.

Virginia should collect and report other school-level data that reflect the stability of a school's faculty, including the rates of teacher absenteeism and turnover.

 Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

Virginia should provide comparative data for schools with similar poverty and minority populations, as this would yield a more comprehensive picture of gaps in the equitable distribution of teachers.

■ Ensure that ideas outlined in the Equity Plan evolve into state policy.

Virginia's 2015 Equity Plan outlines the state's intention to further report on the equitable distribution of its teachers throughout the state. However, because adherence is voluntary, Virginia is strongly encouraged to follow through with its public reporting plan.

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

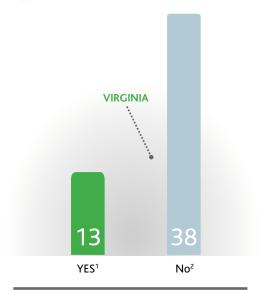
Other equitable distribution of teachers figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Data reporting requirements (p. 99)

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

Figure 30

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



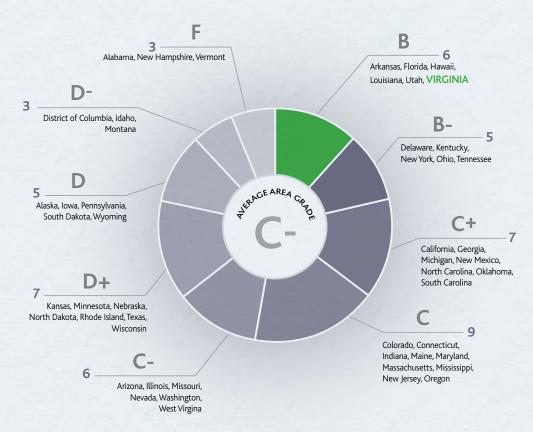
- Strong Practice: Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, 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

Compensation

Professional Development

New Teacher Induction

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

VIRGINIA 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



↑ Progress increased since 2013





VIRGINIA Snapshot New Teacher Induction

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

VIRGINIA New Teacher Induction Characteristics

Induction Program	All new teachers receive mentoring.
Requirements for Mentor/ New Teacher Contact	Release time for mentoring activities
Selection Criteria for Mentors	Mentor must have tenure and work in the same building as the new teacher; Districts have the option of requiring mentor applicants to have "a history of proficient or outstanding performance appraisals."
Other Mentor Requirements	Training
Required Induction Strategies Other than Mentoring	New teachers are given a reduced teaching load and limited non-teaching duties.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE NEW TEACHER INDUCTION POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

Expand guidelines to include other key areas.

Virginia should consider additional guidelines that support a high-quality induction experience. Of particular importance is that mentors themselves are effective teachers. Teachers without evidence of effectiveness should not be able to serve as mentors. The state should also require a timeline in which mentors are assigned to all new teachers, ideally soon after the commencing of teaching, to offer support during those first critical weeks of school.

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

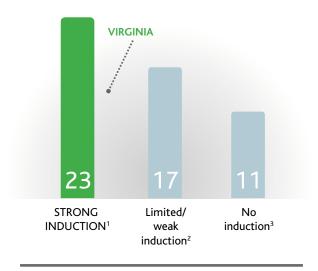
Other new teacher induction figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Elements of induction (p. 104)

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

Figure 31

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 **VIRGINIA** and other states' professional development policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Professional Development

VIRGINIA Ratings

Professional Development

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



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



♠ Progress increased since 2013

Lost ground since 2013



VIRGINIA Snapshot Professional Development

(2)	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.

VIRGINIA Professional Development Characteristics

Connection Between Evaluation and Professional Development	Teacher evaluations must include "identification of areas of individual strengths and weaknesses and recommendations for appropriate professional activities."
Evaluation Feedback	Provides feedback after formal observations; summative evaluation conference
Improvement Plan	Required for teachers rated developing/needs improvement or unacceptable

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

 As a result of Virginia'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 VIRGINIA's
professional development policies, including
detailed recommendations, full narrative
analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 32 Do states ensure that evaluations are used to help teachers improve? Alabama Alaska Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Ilowa Kansas Kansas Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Minssissippi Missiouri Montana Nebraska New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina	Figure 32		ORMS	ALL ALL
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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
VIRGINIA and other states'
compensation policies, including full
harrative analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

VIRGINIA 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		

	VIRGIN Compe	IIA Snapshot nsation
♦	Yes	Districts have flexibility to determine pay structure and scales.
	Somewhat	Effective teachers can receive performance pay.
*	No	Districts are discouraged from tying compensation to advanced degrees.
*	Yes	Teachers can earn additional compensation by teaching shortage subjects.
*	Yes	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.

VIRGINIA Compensation Characteristics					
Authority for Salary Schedule	Controlled by local districts				
Performance Pay Initiatives	Districts may apply for a Strategic Compensation Grant, which can include plans to reward teachers for significant student academic progress, assuming additional responsibilities, and pay incentives for a hard-to-staff position or a critical-shortage area. However, there is no guaranteed connection to student achievement.				
Role of Experience and Advanced Degrees in Salary Schedule	Not explicitly discouraged				
Differential Pay for Shortage Subjects	Incentives for experienced middle school math teachers; a scholarship loan program; incentive awards to STEM teacher; competitive grants				
Differential Pay for High-Need Schools	Districts are encouraged to offer "increased compensation, improved retirement benefits increased deferred compensationrelocation expenses, bonuses and other incentives as may be determined by the board." Competitive grants are also available.				
Pay for Prior Work Experience	None				

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE COMPENSATION POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

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

While still leaving districts the flexibility to establish their own pay scales, Virginia 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.

■ Ensure performance pay is connected to student achievement.

Virginia should guarantee a connection to student achievement and prevent local districts from basing financial incentives solely on elements not indicative of performance in the classroom. The plan must be developed with careful consideration of available data and subsequent issues of fairness, and should allow for the participation of all teachers, not just those in tested grades and subjects.

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

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

Teachers who are National Board Certified are eligible to receive an initial award of \$5,000, with subsequent awards of \$2,500. This differential pay could be an incentive to attract some of Virginia's most effective teachers to low-performing schools.

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

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

Examples of Best Practice

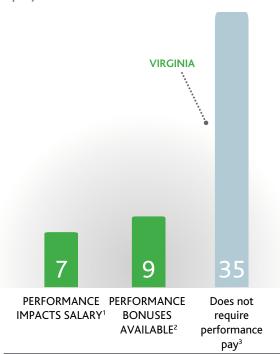
Florida allows local districts to develop their own salary schedules while preventing districts from prioritizing elements not associated with teacher effectiveness. Local salary schedules must ensure that the most effective teachers receive salary increases greater than the highest salary adjustment 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 VIRGINIA's compensation policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 33

Do states ensure pay is structured to account for performance?



- 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, Missouri⁶, 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.
- 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.
- 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 affectiveness
- 8. Performance bonuses are available for teachers in schools deemed "academically deficient."

Figure 34

- 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 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Q}}$ 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		PROHIBITADIO	¥ /	Requires compensation for	5
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Figure 35		HIGH-NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT	/
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^{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.

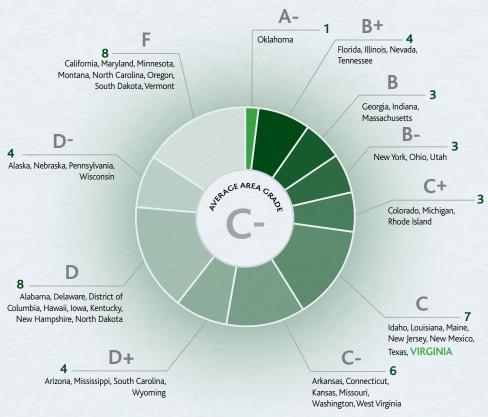
^{3.} South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in highneed schools.

Area 5 Summary



How States are Faring in Exiting Ineffective Teachers





Topics Included In This Area

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

Extended Emergency Licenses

No

No

matter tests.

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

VIRGINIA 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	
VIRGINIA Snapshot Extended Emergency Licenses	

Teachers are not granted a license if they do not pass all required subject-matter tests.

If emergency licenses are offered, teachers are given no longer than one year to pass all subject-

VIRGINIA Extend	VIRGINIA Extended Emergency License Characteristics					
Emergency License	Provisional License					
Minimum Requirements	Provisional License requires an undergraduate degree					
Duration	3 years					
Renewal Requirements	Nonrenewable					

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EXTENDED EMERGENCY LICENSE POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

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

Permitting individuals who have not yet passed state licensing tests to teach neglects the needs of students, instead extending personal consideration to adults who may not be able to meet minimal state standards.

■ Limit exceptions to one year.

There might be limited and exceptional circumstances under which conditional or emergency licenses need to be granted. Virginia's current policy puts students at risk by allowing teachers to teach on emergency certificates for three years without passing required subject-matter licensing tests.

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

Figure 36		/	/	/
How long can new teachers				
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- 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 .VIRGINIA and other states' dismissal 🧸 policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Dismissal for Poor Performance

VIRGINIA 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

- ↑ Progress increased since 2013
- Lost ground since 2013



VIRGINIA Snapshot

*	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.

VIRGINIA Dismissal Characteristics

Dismissal for Ineffectiveness	A teacher may be dismissed for incompetence, which is defined as "consistent failure to meet the endorsement requirements for the position or one or more unsatisfactory performance evaluations."
Due Process Rights of Teachers	Same regardless of the grounds for cancellation, which include "incompetency, immorality, noncompliance with school laws and regulations, disability as shown by competent medical evidence when in compliance with federal law, conviction of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude or other good and just cause"
Length of Appeals Process	At least one opportunity to appeal: After written notice, the teacher may, within five days, request a hearing, which must take place within 15 days. The decision must then be rendered within 30 days. The teacher may file an additional appeal with the appellate court within 10 days. The appellate court must hear the appeal within 10 days.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE DISMISSAL POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

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

Virginia 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, Virginia 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 VIRGINIA's
dismissal policies, including detailed
recommendations, full narrative analysis
and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 37	VES THROUGH EVALUATION AND	/
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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.

Reductions in Force

For more information about **VIRGINIA** and other states' reductions 3 🦫 in force policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

VIRGINIA 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 O Nearly meets Partially meets Meets only a small part Does not meet



↑ Progress increased since 2013

Lost ground since 2013



VIRGINIA Snapshot Reductions in Force



Yes

Districts must consider classroom performance when determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.



Yes

Seniority cannot be the only/primary factor used to determine which teachers are laid off.

VIRGINIA Reductions in Force Characteristics			
Use of Teacher Performance	Must consider performance evaluations		
Use of Seniority	May be considered		
Other Factors	Determined by districts		

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE REDUCTIONS IN FORCE POLICIES IN VIRGINIA

 As a result of Virginia's strong reductions in force policies, no recommendations are provided.

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 VIRGINIA's reductions in force policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 38	5	SEWORITY CANNOT BY
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NCTQ is available to work with individual states to improve teacher policies.

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202-393-0020