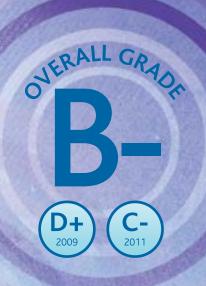
2013 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Connecticut





Acknowledgments

STATES

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

FUNDERS

The primary funders for the 2013 Yearbook were:

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Gleason Family Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- The Walton Family Foundation

The National Council on Teacher Quality does not accept any direct funding from the federal government.

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Special thanks to Leigh Zimnisky, Brittany Atkinson and Justin Rakowski at CPS Gumpert for their design of the 2013 *Yearbook*. Thanks also to Colleen Hale and Jeff Hale at EFA Solutions for the original *Yearbook* design and ongoing technical support.



Executive Summary

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

Connecticut at a Glance



Overall 2013 Yearbook Grade

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: C-

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

Goal Breakdown	2013
★ Best Practice	2
Fully Meets	5
Nearly Meets	9
Partially Meets	5
Meets Only a Small Part	2
Opes Not Meet	8

	Progress on Goals Since 2011	
•	Progress has increased	9
(2)	No change in progress	22
•	Progress has decreased	0

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

How is **Connecticut** Faring?

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared	d Teachers Page 5
Admission into Teacher Preparation	Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science
Elementary Teacher Preparation	Special Education Teacher Preparation
Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction 🗼	Special Education Teacher Preparation Assessing Professional Knowledge Student Teaching Teacher Preparation Program Accountability
Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	Student Teaching
Middle School Teacher Preparation	Teacher Preparation Program Accountability
Secondary Teacher Preparation	
Policy Strengths	
 Elementary teacher candidates are required to pa content test with individually scored subtests in e of the core content areas, including mathematics 	each single-subject content test
Elementary teacher candidates must pass a scien reading test to ensure knowledge of effective read instruction.	
Policy Weaknesses	
 Although teacher candidates are required to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs, the true not normed to the general college-going populati Some secondary science and social studies teacher are not required to pass content tests for each discipline they are licensed to teach. 	test is The state does not explicitly require that student teachers are placed with cooperating teachers who were selected based on evidence of effectiveness.
 The state offers a K-12 special education certification and does not require any content testing for special education teacher candidates. 	the teachers they produce.
■ The state offers a K-12 special education certifica and does not require any content testing for speceducation teacher candidates.	the teachers they produce.
The state offers a K-12 special education certifica and does not require any content testing for special education teacher candidates. Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teacher	the teachers they produce.
The state offers a K-12 special education certifica and does not require any content testing for special education teacher candidates. Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teacher Candidate Route Eligibility	the teachers they produce. cial Page 51
The state offers a K-12 special education certification and does not require any content testing for special education teacher candidates. Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teacher and Teac	the teachers they produce. Pachers Page 51 Part-Time Teaching Licenses
The state offers a K-12 special education certification and does not require any content testing for special education teacher candidates. Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teacher and Providers Alternate Route Eligibility Alternate Route Usage and Providers	the teachers they produce. Pachers Page 51 Part-Time Teaching Licenses
The state offers a K-12 special education certification and does not require any content testing for special education teacher candidates. Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teacher and Providers Alternate Route Eligibility Alternate Route Usage and Providers	the teachers they produce. Pachers Page 51 Part-Time Teaching Licenses
The state offers a K-12 special education certification and does not require any content testing for special education teacher candidates. Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teacher and Education teacher candidates. Alternate Route Eligibility Alternate Route Preparation Alternate Route Usage and Providers Policy Strengths Admission criteria for the alternate route to	the teachers they produce. Page 51 Part-Time Teaching Licenses Licensure Reciprocity There are no restrictions on alternate route usage or providers.
The state offers a K-12 special education certification and does not require any content testing for special education teacher candidates. Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teacher and the Pool of Teacher and the Preparation and Providers Alternate Route Preparation Alternate Route Usage and Providers Policy Strengths Admission criteria for the alternate route to certification are selective. Alternate route preparation is efficient, relevant and providers are selective.	the teachers they produce. Page 51 Part-Time Teaching Licenses Licensure Reciprocity There are no restrictions on alternate route usage or providers.

How is **Connecticut** Faring?

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	Page 71
State Data Systems Evaluation of Effectiveness Frequency of Evaluations	Tenure Licensure Advancement Equitable Distribution
Policy Strengths The state has established a data system with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness and has taken other meaningful steps to maximize the system's efficiency and potential. Policy Weaknesses Licensure advancement and renewal are not based on teacher effectiveness.	 Objective evidence of student learning is the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations. All teachers must be evaluated annually. Tenure decisions are connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness. Little school-level data are reported that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.
Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	Page 101
Induction Professional Development Pay Scales Policy Strengths	Compensation for Prior Work Experience Differential Pay Performance Pay
 All new teachers receive mentoring. Teachers receive feedback from their evaluations, and professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations. Teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement plans. 	Districts are given full authority for how teachers are paid, although they are not discouraged from basing salary schedules solely on years of experience and advanced degrees.
Policy WeaknessesThe state does not support performance pay or additio in high-need schools.	nal compensation for relevant prior work experience or working
Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers	Page 125
Extended Emergency Licenses Dismissal for Poor Performance	Reductions in Force
Policy Strengths The state has taken steps to ensure that licensure testine Policy Weaknesses	ng requirements are met by all teachers within one year.

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

How to Read the Yearbook

GOAL SCORE

The extent to which each goal has been met:



Best Practice



Fully Meets



Nearly Meets



Partially Meets



Meets Only a Small Part



Does Not Meet

PROGRESS INDICATOR

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



Goal progress has increased since 2011



Goal progress has decreased since 2011



Goal progress has remained the same since 2011

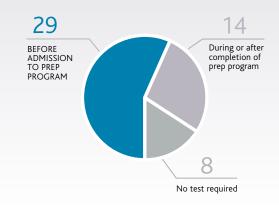
BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



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

READING CHARTS AND TABLES:

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

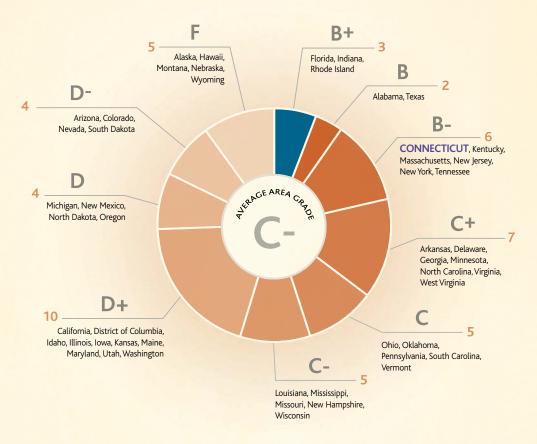


Area 1 Summary



How States are Faring on Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

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

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

Goal A – Admission into Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

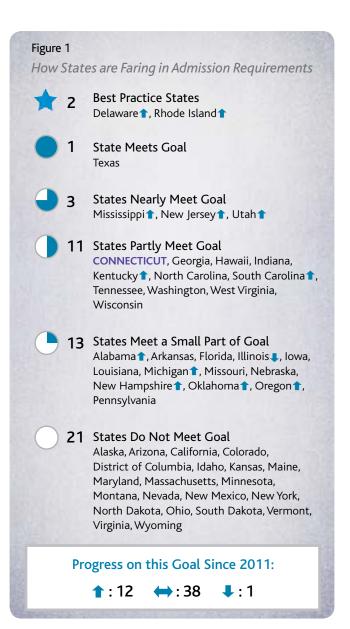
- 1. The state should require teacher candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- 2. All preparation programs in a state should use a common admissions test to facilitate program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



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

Background

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



1-A Analysis: Connecticut







ANALYSIS

Connecticut requires that approved undergraduate teacher preparation programs only accept teacher candidates who have passed a basic skills test, the Praxis I. Although the state sets the minimum score for this test, it is normed just to the prospective teacher population.

Connecticut also allows candidates to qualify by means of equivalent scores on the SAT, ACT, GRE or Pruebe de Aptitud Academica (PAA).

Connecticut also requires a "B-" cumulative grade point average for all undergraduate courses. However, the state permits programs to "waive the minimum GPA requirement at their discretion."

Supporting Research

General Statutes of Connecticut 10-145(f)

Application for Connecticut Academic Skills Assessment Waiver http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/Cert/certform/ed_192.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

In addition to ensuring that programs require a measure of academic performance for admission, Connecticut might also want to consider requiring content testing prior to program admission as opposed to at the point of program completion. Program candidates are likely to have completed coursework that covers related test content in the prerequisite classes required for program admission. Thus, it would be sensible to have candidates take content tests while this knowledge is fresh rather than wait two years to fulfill the requirement, and candidates lacking sufficient expertise would be able to remedy deficits prior to entering formal preparation.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

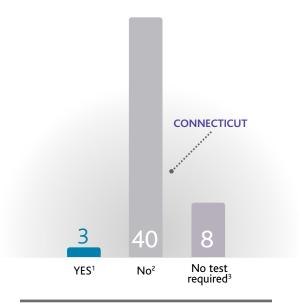
Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that over the past year it has convened the Educator Preparation & Advisory Council (EPAC) to review educator preparation requirements and make recommendations to the State Board of Education. This group will continue to meet throughout 2013-2014 and have the recommendations completed no later than May 2014.



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

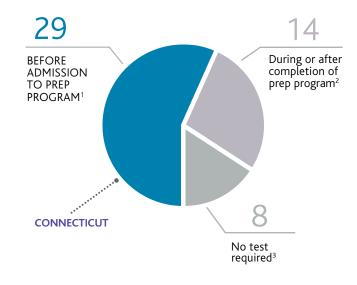
For admission to teacher preparation programs, Rhode Island and Delaware require a test of academic proficiency normed to the general collegebound population rather than a test that is normed just to prospective teachers. Delaware also requires teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or be in the top 50th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

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



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

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



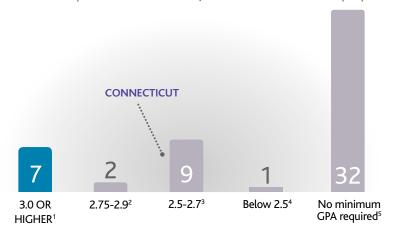
- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington,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

Figure 4 Do states measure the		Test nomed to teach	Test nomed to test	No test tequited
	ن د			
academic proficiency			2 de 1 de	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$
teacher candidates?	% 6 8 6		om to	ion of the state o
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South Dakota				
Tennessee				
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				

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

Figure 5

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



- 1. Strong Practice: Delaware, Mississippi⁶, New Jersey⁶, Oklahoma⁷, Pennsylvania⁸, Rhode Island⁶, Utah
- 2. Kentucky, Texas
- 3. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut⁹, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wisconsin¹⁰
- 4. Louisiana
- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 6. The 3.0 GPA requirement is a cohort average; individual candidates must have a 2.75 GPA.
- 7. Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission by passing a basic skills test.
- Students can also be admitted with a combination of a 2.8 GPA and qualifying scores on the basic skills test or SAT/ACT.
- 9. Connecticut requires a B- grade point average for all undergraduate courses, but programs can waive the requirement at their discretion.
- 10. The GPA admission requirement is 2.5 for undergraduate and 2.75 for graduate programs.

Goal B − Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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



1-B Analysis: Connecticut







State Meets Goal 🥋 Bar Raised for this Goal 🛖 Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Connecticut has adopted the Common Core State Standards, which represent an effort to significantly raise the standards for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness. The state ensures that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with these standards.

Connecticut now requires all elementary teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test, which is comprised of four subtests with individual scores in math, reading and language arts, science and social studies. Candidates must pass each subtest to be eligible for licensure. Early childhood education (N-3) candidates are required to pass the Praxis II Early Childhood: Content Knowledge test.

Connecticut requires that elementary candidates must complete either a subject-area or interdisciplinary major. The latter must consist of at least 18 semester hours of credit in one subject area with the remainder distributed among no more than three subjects related to the area of concentration; coursework in professional education is not acceptable.

Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirement www.ets.org

State of Connecticut Regulation of State Board of Education Section 10-145d-436

RECOMMENDATION

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

Connecticut should ensure that its new subject-matter test for elementary teacher candidates is well aligned with the Common Core State Standards, which represent an effort to significantly raise the standards for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness. Connecticut is commended for setting meaningful passing scores that ensure high levels of performance.

Further, although requiring content testing for early childhood education teacher candidates is a sound requirement, Connecticut should strengthen its policy and require separate, meaningful passing scores for each area on the test.

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

Connecticut should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish comprehensive coursework requirements for elementary teacher candidates that align with the Common Core State Standards to ensure that candidates will complete coursework relevant to the common topics in elementary grades. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours in the core subject areas of English, science, social studies and fine arts. Connecticut requires all teacher candidates to complete a set of general coursework requirements. These courses must total at least 39 credit hours with coursework in areas that include English, natural sciences, social studies, foreign language and fine arts. Elementary teacher candidates, specifically, must complete a survey course in U.S. history. However, these required areas are too ambiguous to guarantee that the courses used to

meet them will be relevant to the topics taught in the elementary classroom. The testing framework for Connecticut's newly adopted Praxis II elementary content test is also far from complete, leaving gaps in a number of important areas such as American, world, British and children's literature; and art history. **CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 7	EEMENTARY CONTENT SCORE FOR E. SPARTENT	Stementary Content tecs	Elementary content to	with /
Do states ensure that	EW.	7 PAS	ore for	<i>[]</i>
elementary teachers	95	175 / stuc	s so	, / p
know core content?	18. J.	24.7 \ 25.8 \ 25.8 \ 35	8 / 9 8	quir
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Georgia				
Hawaii				
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Illinois				
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Iowa				
Kansas				
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Louisiana				
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South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee				
Texas				
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Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
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wyoning				



TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.

2. The required test is a questionable assessment of content knowledge, instead emphasizing methods and instructional strategies.

^{3.} Massachusetts and North Carolina require a general curriculum test that does not report scores for each elementary subject. A separate score is

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

hildhood teachers wh each elementary grad	les 50	with \	re 'le	, / ,	/
o pass a content	NAT 7	offC) trest tess		equire	
nowledge test?	CONTENT TST WITH	Content test with	Test with little	No test required	Notappliax
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Arizona					
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Colorado					
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Florida					
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Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin Wyoming	Ш				

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

Figure 9		ENGLISH	, /	SCIENCE		SOCIAL STUDIES	FINE ARTS
Do states expect elementary teachers to have in-depth	İrerature	Writing Gammar/ Composition		General Physical Science Earth Science BiologULVie Science	e le	American History / American Government World History (Ancient) World History (Modern) (Non-Unlistory (Modern)	
knowledge of core content?	American Literature	Writings/Lifeature Composition Children's Lifeature	Chemistry Physics	General Physical Scient Farth Science Biology/Life Science	American Hiss	American Histoy II American Governmer World Histoy (Ancie World Histoy (Mode	Geography At History Music
Alabama		* 🗆					
Alaska							
Arizona		* _		* * *	*	* *	* <u></u>
Arkansas							
California		* _		文 文 文	*	* * * *	<u>*</u>
Colorado							
CONNECTICUT					X	X	
Delaware		* -			*	* * * D	
District of Columbia		★ □	□ ★	→ → →	×	X X X L L	□ □ □ □ □ □
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Vermont		* •					
Virginia		* -	* 	* * *	*	X X X X X	* -
Washington		* •		* * *			* *
West Virginia							
Wisconsin		*			*		
Wyoming							
						Subject mentioned	Subject covered in dept
						- SUBJECT MONTIONAL	

Figure 10
What subjects does Connecticut expect elementary teachers to know?

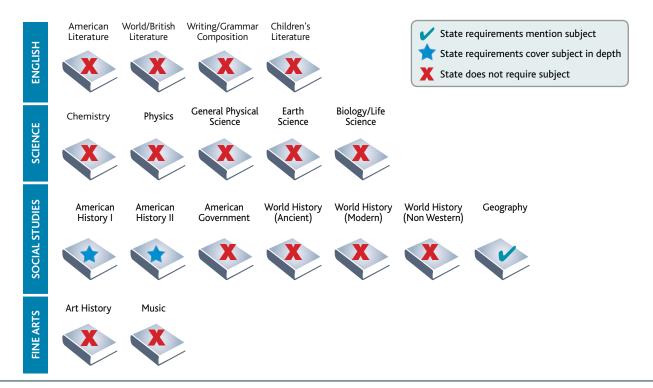
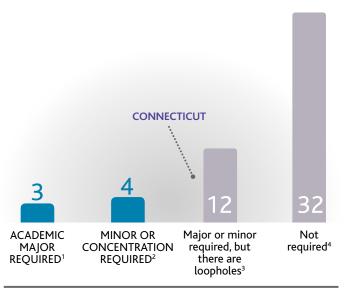


Figure 11

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



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

Goal C – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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



1-C Analysis: Connecticut







👚 Best Practice State 🏿 🥎 Bar Raised for this Goal (Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

As a condition of initial licensure, all early childhood and elementary education teacher candidates in Connecticut must pass the state's Foundations of Reading test. The test's objectives include the five components of scientific reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Further, as of July 1, 2013, a program of professional development was created in scientifically based reading research and instruction. The program will be based on data collected from student reading assessments, provide differentiated and intensified training in reading instruction for teachers, and inform principals on how to evaluate teacher performance in science of reading instruction.

Supporting Research

Foundations of Reading Test www.ct.nesinc.com Connecticut General Statute 10-148b

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that the science of reading test is meaningful.

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

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that recent legislation will require, beginning July 1, 2014, that all current K-3 teachers complete a biennial reading survey, based on the Foundations of Reading test. The results of this survey will be used to design individualized professional learning for all current K-3 teachers but cannot be used in teachers' annual evaluations.

Supporting Research

PA 13-245 (2013)

LAST WORD

Connecticut's effort to ensure that current teachers have the skills and knowledge to be effective reading teachers is commendable. It is not just new teachers who need to know the science of reading.

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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

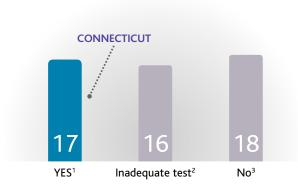
Fifteen states meet this goal by requiring that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Independent reviews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

^{1.} Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum.

^{2.} Teachers have until their second year to pass the reading test.

Figure 14

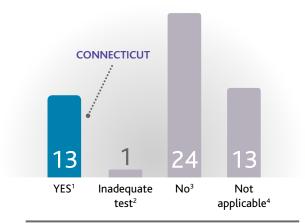
Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



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

Figure 15

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



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

Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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



1-D Analysis: Connecticut



State Nearly Meets Goal 🕟 Bar Raised for this Goal 🕜 Progress Since 2011





ANALYSIS

Connecticut requires all teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test, which includes a separately scored math subtest.

Regrettably, Connecticut's early childhood education teachers, who are allowed to teach through grade 3, are only required to pass the early childhood general content test, which does not report a math subscore..

Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirement www.ets.org

RECOMMENDATION

Require early childhood education teacher candidates to pass a rigorous mathematics assessment as a condition of initial licensure.

Connecticut should ensure that early childhood education teacher candidates who teach elementary grades possess the requisite knowledge of mathematics before entering the classroom. Therefore, the state should require the candidates to earn a passing score on the same test as other elementary teachers or a comparably rigorous one geared to early childhood mathematics content.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

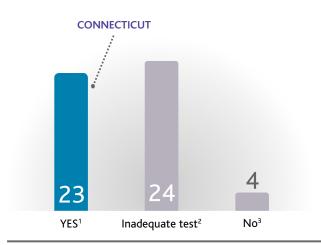


** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

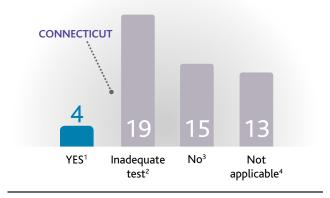
Figure 17

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas⁴, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia
- Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Alaska⁵, Hawaii, Montana, Ohio⁶
- 4. Test is not yet available for review.
- 5. Testing is not required for initial licensure.
- 6. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass an adequate content test.

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



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

Goal E − Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



1-E Analysis: Connecticut



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Connecticut requires a "middle grades certificate" for all middle school teachers. Candidates must complete one of the following: a subject-area major, an interdisciplinary major, or 24 semester hours of study in a subject and 15 semester hours in a second subject.

All new middle school teachers in Connecticut are also required to pass a single-subject Praxis II content test to attain licensure; a general content knowledge test is not an option.

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

Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirement

www.ets.org

Regulations of State Board of Education, Sec. 10-145d-444, 445, 446

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure meaningful content tests.

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

■ Differentiate between single and multiple subject middle school teachers.

Connecticut should consider refining its policy by requiring the single major for teachers who plan to teach a single subject and the equivalent of two minors for those intending to teach multiple subjects.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 20	K-8 LICENSE NOT OFFE	K-8 liense offered for	S _{th}
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North Dakota			1
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Oklahoma			3
Oregon			4
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Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			1
Wyoming			
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***** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

^{1.} Offers 1-8 license.

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

^{3.} With the exception of mathematics.

^{4.} Oregon offers 3-8 license.

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West Virginia				
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	26	3	16	6

- Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.
 Candidates teaching multiple subjects only have to pass the elementary test. Single-subject credential does not
- require test.
 3. For K-8 license, Idaho also requires a single-subject test.
- Maryland allows elementary teachers to teach in departmentalized middle schools if not less than 50 percent of the teaching assignment is within the elementary education grades.
- For nondepartmentalized classrooms, generalist in middle childhood education candidates must pass new assessment with three subtests.
- 6. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
- 7. Candidates opting for middle-level endorsement may either complete a major or pass a content test.

Goal F − Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



1-F Analysis: Connecticut



State Nearly Meets Goal



(Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

Unfortunately, Connecticut permits a significant loophole to this important policy by allowing both general science and general social studies licenses, without requiring subject-matter testing for each subject area within these disciplines.

Connecticut only offers an endorsement in "history and social studies" for secondary social studies teachers. Candidates must pass the Praxis II Social Studies content test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general social studies but rather can teach any of the topical areas. (For the state's science loophole, see Goal 1-G.)

To add an additional field to a secondary license, teachers in Connecticut must pass a Praxis II content test as well as complete subject-specific coursework requirements, generally around 30 semester hours. However, as stated above, the state cannot guarantee content knowledge in each specific subject for secondary teachers who add the combination science or general social studies endorsements.

Supporting Research

Praxis Testing Requirements www.ets.org Regulations of State Board of Education 10-145d-428, -446, -451 Connecticut Code 10-145f

RECOMMENDATION

Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

Connecticut wisely requires subject-matter tests for most secondary teachers but should address any loopholes that undermine this policy (see Goal 1-G). This applies to the addition of endorsements as well.

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—Connecticut is not ensuring that its secondary teachers possess adequate subjectspecific content knowledge. The state's required assessment combines all subject areas (e.g., history, geography, economics) and does not report separate scores for each subject area.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut asserted that the secondary general science endorsement is one of five endorsements issued for secondary science. The state also issues secondary endorsements in biology, chemistry, physics and earth science. The general science endorsement is required to teach freshman science courses that include concepts from biology, physics, chemistry and earth science; this endorsement cannot be used to teach biology, chemistry, earth science or physics courses. (See Goal 1-G.)

Supporting Research

Assessment Guide

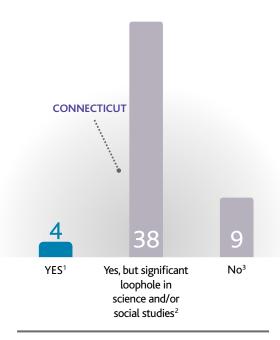
http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/Cert/guides/assess_for_cert.pdf



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

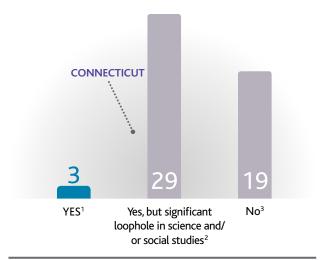
Figure 23 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



- 1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee
- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁴, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin [For more on loopholes, see Goal 1-G (science) and Figure 25 (social studies).}
- 3. Alaska, Arizona⁵, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire⁵, Washington, Wyoming⁶
- 4. Teachers may also have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
- 5. Candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.
- 6. Only secondary comprehensive social studies teachers must pass a content test.

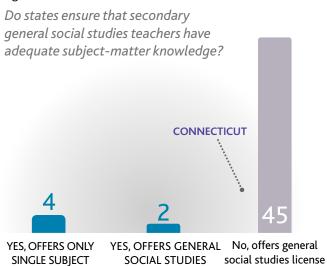
Figure 24

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



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

Figure 25



- 1. Strong Practice: Georgia, Indiana, South Dakota, Tennessee
- 2. Strong Practice: Minnesota⁴, Missouri

SINGLE SUBJECT

SOCIAL

STUDIES LICENSES¹

3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma⁵, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

SOCIAL STUDIES

LICENSE WITH

ADEQUATE TESTING²

without adequate

testing3

- 4. Minnesota's test for general social studies is divided into two individually scored subtests.
- 5. Oklahoma offers combination licenses.

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



1-G Analysis: Connecticut



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Connecticut offers a general science endorsement. Candidates must pass both the Praxis II General Science content test and the General Science: Content Essays test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general science but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

Supporting Research

Praxis Testing Requirements www.ets.org

RECOMMENDATION

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

By allowing a general science certification—and only requiring a general knowledge science exam—Connecticut is not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. The state's required assessment combines all subject areas (e.g., biology, chemistry, physics) and does not report separate scores for each area. Therefore, candidates could answer many—perhaps all—chemistry questions, for example, incorrectly yet still be licensed to teach chemistry to high school students.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut asserted that the secondary general science endorsement is one of five endorsements issued for secondary science. The state also issues the following secondary endorsements: biology, chemistry, physics and earth science. To be eligible for any of these endorsements, candidates must pass a content-specific Praxis II test in the appropriate content area. The state also contended that the general science endorsement is required for teaching freshman science courses that include concepts from biology, physics, chemistry and earth science; this endorsement cannot be used to teach biology, chemistry, earth science or physics courses.

Figure 27	JEC .			
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EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

^{2.} Georgia's science test consists of two subtests.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal H − Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



1-H Analysis: Connecticut



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Connecticut only offers a K-12 special education certification.

Although comprehensive special education teachers are now required to pass a reading instruction test, the state does not require any content testing for these teacher candidates.

Supporting Research

Regulations of the Connecticut State Board of Education, 10-145d-539 SB 458 http://search.cga.state.ct.us/adv/

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Require that elementary special education candidates pass the same contest test as general education elementary teachers.

To ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess sufficient knowledge of the subject matter at hand, Connecticut should require these candidates to pass the same multiple-subjects test it requires of all elementary teachers. The state should further set passing scores that reflect high levels of performance. Failure to ensure that teachers possess requisite content knowledge deprives special education students of the opportunity to reach their academic potential.

Ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.

Secondary special education teachers are frequently generalists who teach many core subject areas. While it may be unreasonable to expect secondary special education teachers to meet the same requirements for each subject they teach as other teachers who teach only one subject, Connecticut's current policy of requiring no subject-matter testing is problematic and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards. To provide a middle ground, Connecticut should consider a customized HOUSSE route for new secondary special education teachers and look to the flexibility offered by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which allows for a combination of testing and coursework to demonstrate requisite content knowledge in the classroom.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 29		NO". Offes K-72 and Brade-specific	(5)41
Do states distinguish	DOESNOT OFFIRM	<i>≥</i> /	tificatii
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and secondary special	NO) ERTIF	5 K-7	Sonly
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EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 30

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

,	jor special education teachers.						
Elementa	ry Subject-Matter Test						
Required for an elementary special education license	Alabama, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania ¹ , Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia ² , Wisconsin						
Required for a K-12 special education license	Colorado, Idaho, North Carolina						
Secondary	Subject-Matter Test(s)						
Tests in all core subjects required for secondary special education license	New York ³						
Test in at least one subject required for secondary special education license	Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania ¹ , Rhode Island, West Virginia ²						
Required for a K-12 special education license	None						

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

Figure 29:

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal I – Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

Goal Component

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

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

Background

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



1-I Analysis: Connecticut



State Partly Meets Goal (Progress Since 2011



ANALYSIS

Connecticut only requires all new elementary teachers to pass a popular pedagogy test from the Praxis series in order to attain licensure.

Connecticut is a part of the Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA) consortium.

Supporting Research

http://www.ets.org/praxis/ct/ http://edtpa.aacte.org/about-edtpa

RECOMMENDATION

Require that all new teachers pass a pedagogy test to verify that they meet professional standards.

Connecticut should expand the requirement for a pedagogy test to new secondary teachers.

- Verify that commercially available tests of pedagogy actually align with state standards. Connecticut should ensure that its selected test of professional knowledge measures the knowledge and skills the state expects new teachers to have.
- Ensure that performance assessments provide a meaningful measure of new teachers' knowledge and skills.

While Connecticut is commended for considering the use of a performance-based assessment, the state should proceed with caution until additional data are available on the Teacher Performance Assessment. Additional research is needed to determine how the edTPA compares to other teacher tests as well as whether the test's scores are predictive of student achievement. The track record on similar assessments is mixed at best. The two states that currently require the Praxis III performance-based assessment report pass rates of about 99 percent. Given that it takes significant resources to administer a performance-based assessment, a test that nearly every teacher passes is of questionable value.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

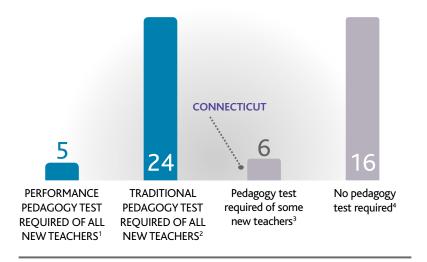
Connecticut clarified that it is not an official member of the edTPA consortium; however, one of its higher education institutions may be participating in the pilot of edTPA. In addition, the Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC) is considering the need for a performance- based assessment prior to graduation from a teacher preparation program. EdTPA will be one of the performance-based assessments that will be considered as EPAC designs its specific recommendations to the State Board of Education.



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

Figure 32

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



- 1. Strong Practice: California, Illinois⁵, New York, Tennessee⁶, Washington
- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina⁷, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia
- 3. Connecticut, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Utah⁸, Wyoming
- 4. Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin
- 5. Beginning in 2015.
- 6. Teachers may pass either the edTPA or a Praxis pedagogy test.
- $7. Teachers \ have \ until \ their \ second \ year \ to \ pass \ if \ they \ attempt \ to \ pass \ during \ their \ first \ year.$
- 8. Not required until teacher advances from a Level One to a Level Two license.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal J − Student Teaching

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



1-J Analysis: Connecticut



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Connecticut commendably requires that candidates complete at least 10 weeks of full-time student teaching. This student teaching component must total at least six but not more than 12 semester hours. Beginning July 1, 2015, preparation programs must require, as part of their curricula, that candidates have classroom clinical, field or student teaching experience during four semesters of the program.

Connecticut also articulates that student teachers must be placed with "trained" cooperating teachers. Cooperating teachers in public schools must be selected by local and regional boards of education, and the primary consideration for the selection of cooperating teachers must be "teachers' classroom experience and recognized success as educators."

Supporting Research

State of Connecticut Regulation of State Board of Education Section 10-145d-400; -36

Public Act 12-116

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 34	later '	NOENT TEACHING STS AT LEAST TO WEEK
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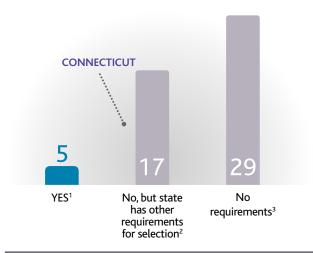
EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

Figure 35

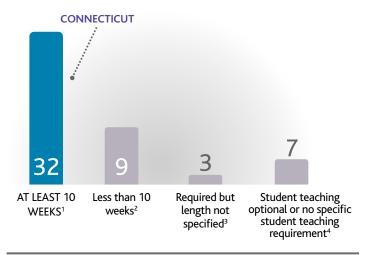
Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



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

Figure 36

Is the student teaching experience of sufficient length?



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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

➤ Goal K — Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

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

1-K Analysis: Connecticut



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

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

The state also fails to collect other objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs, and it does not apply any transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval. Regrettably, Connecticut sets a low bar in its definition of a low-performing institution, only requiring teacher preparation programs to show a Praxis II pass rate of at least 70 percent.

Further, there is no evidence that the state's standards for program approval are resulting in greater accountability. In the past three years, only one program in the state has been identified in required federal reporting as low performing.

On its website, Connecticut only makes available pass rates for the Foundations of Reading test by institution.

In Connecticut, there is some overlap of accreditation and state approval. Members of NCATE/CAEP and the state make up the review team and decisions are made jointly; state members must complete NCATE/CAEP training. Connecticut delegates its subject-matter program review process to NCATE/CAEP. Programs must align with NCATE/CAEP standards.

Supporting Research

Pass Rates

http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2613&Q=333728

Program Approval

http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2613&q=321812

www.ncate.org

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

■ Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance.

Although measures of student growth are an important indicator of program effectiveness, they cannot be the sole measure of program quality for several reasons, including the fact that many programs may have graduates whose students do not take standardized tests. The accountability system must therefore include other objective measures that show how well programs are preparing teachers for the classroom, such as:

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

- 3. Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including academic proficiency, subject matter and professional knowledge tests;
- 4. Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests; and
- 5. Five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.
- Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.

Merely collecting the types of data described above is insufficient for accountability purposes. The next and perhaps more critical step is for the state to establish precise minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category of data. Connecticut should be mindful of setting rigorous standards for program performance, as its current requirement that 70 percent of program graduates pass the state's licensing test is too low a bar. Programs should be held accountable for meeting rigorous standards, and there should be consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.

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

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that one of the six principles that the Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC) has already presented to the State Board includes accountability and data reporting for all teacher preparation programs, both traditional and alternate routes. EPAC will consider the recommendations for data collection and reporting for all approved programs provided by NCTQ.

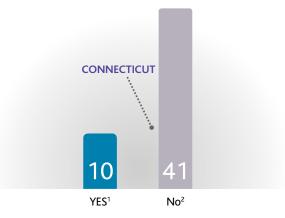
Figure 38 Do states hold teacher preparation programs accountable? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado CONNECTICUT Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Illinois Indiana Illowa Kansas Kantucky Louisiana Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Minnesota Mississippi Minnesota Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada' New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island Coremon Pennsylvania Rhode Island Coremon Pennsylvania Rhode Island Coremon Pennsylvania Rhode Island Coregon Cor	Figure 38	۲.		
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EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



- 1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia^a, Hawaii^a, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland^a, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York³, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Included in state's Race to the Top plan, but not in policy or yet implemented.

 $^{1. \} For \ traditional \ preparation \ programs \ only.$

^{2.} State does not distinguish between alternate route programs and traditional preparation programs in public reporting.

^{3.} For alternate routes only.

Figure 40

Which states collect meaningful data?

STUDENT LEARNING GAINS

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

EVALUATION RESULTS FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES

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

AVERAGE RAW SCORES ON LICENSING TESTS

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

SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland¹, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia

TEACHER RETENTION RATES

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

1. For alternate route only

Arizona Arkansas			
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Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
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	7	31	13

Figure 41

Alabama

What is the relationship between state program

approval and national accreditation?

National accediation is required for Program approval

^{1.} National accreditation can be substituted for state approval.

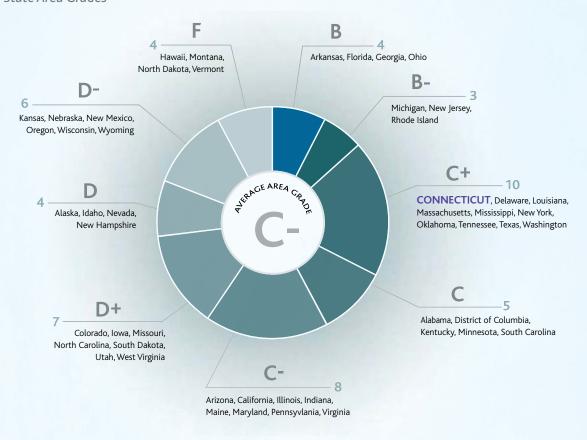
^{2.} For institutions with 2,000 or more full-time equivalent students

Area 2 Summary



How States are Faring in Expanding the Pool of Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

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

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Goal A − Alternate Route Eligibility

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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



2-A Analysis: Connecticut



State Nearly Meets Goal 🏻 🥋 Bar Raised for this Goal 🛚 🥞





Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

The Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) requires all candidates to have a minimum of a bachelor's degree with a major in, or closely related to, the intended teaching field. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA or the same minimum average in 24 semester hours of graduate study. A waiver may be granted in some extenuating circumstances.

ARC applicants must also pass a test of basic skills. SAT, ACT or GRE scores may be used in place of the basic skills test requirement. Although Connecticut requires candidates to pass a subject-matter test prior to entering the classroom, it is not required for admission to the alternate route program.

Connecticut does not offer all candidates a test-out option for required coursework. However, select candidates in an identified teacher shortage area, including English, mathematics, secondary sciences, music and world languages, are able to demonstrate subject-matter knowledge through a passing score on the Praxis II.

Supporting Research

The Alternative Route to Certification II http://www.ctohe.org/ARC/pdfs/ARCIICatalog.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Require applicants to pass a subject-matter test prior to admission.

Connecticut should consider requiring the subject-matter test for admission to ARC. The concept behind alternate routes is that the nontraditional candidate is able to concentrate on acquiring professional knowledge and skills because he or she has strong subject-area knowledge. It seems ineffective to accept candidates and subsequently spend time training an individual who may not possess the required content knowledge.

Extend flexibility in fulfilling coursework requirements to all candidates.

Although Connecticut is recognized for allowing shortage area candidates the ability to demonstrate subject-matter knowledge on the Praxis II, the state should consider whether it is appropriate to allow any candidate who already has the requisite knowledge and skills to demonstrate such by passing a rigorous test.

■ Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

The state's requirement that alternate route candidates pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffectual. Although the state does allow candidates a waiver based on a range of evidence, Connecticut should consider eliminating the basic skills test requirement completely. Basic skills tests measure minimum competency—essentially those skills that a person should have acquired in middle school—and are inappropriate for candidates who have already earned a bachelor's degree. A test designed for individuals who already have a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be a much more appropriate measure of academic standing.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state also noted that in order to have the subject area major waived, a certification candidate must pass the appropriate content-specific Praxis II with "an excellent score," which in Connecticut equates to 1.5 standard errors of measurement above the typical passing score. This waiver score aligns with the Educational Testing Service's "Recognition of Excellence qualifying score."

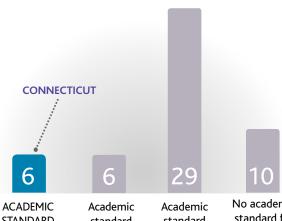
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** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 44 Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



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

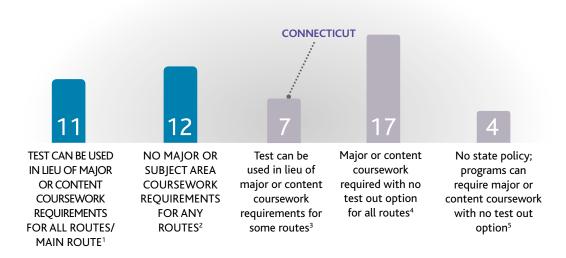
standard exceeds that of traditional programs for some routes² standard too low for all routes³

No academic standard for any route4

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

Figure 45

Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



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

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Goal B − Alternate Route Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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



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



Background

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

2-B Analysis: Connecticut



State Nearly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal 😩



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

The Alternative Route to Certification requires 205 clock hours of coursework. Core sessions are provided on the foundations of education, and methods classes are subject-specific and focus on planning instruction, instructional methodology, classroom management and assessing student learning. A series of support seminars for beginning teachers is also provided.

The ARC has two tracks. Students in track I must practice teach for a minimum of four weeks with a cooperating teacher in the summer prior to placement. Track II candidates are required to participate in a five-week field placement during the spring before they enter the classroom. Most beginning teachers are assigned a mentor by the district. In addition, ARC also provides ongoing coaching to teachers on request.

Connecticut allows candidates to complete their requirements in an appropriate time frame with the track I program running full time for nine weeks during the summer. Track II is a weekend program that runs from October through May.

Supporting Research

The Alternative Route to Certification II http://www.ctohe.org/ARC/pdfs/ARCIICatalog.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Strengthen induction experience for all new teachers.

While Connecticut is commended for assigning mentors to beginning teachers, there are insufficient guidelines indicating that the program is structured for new teachers' success. Effective strategies include practice teaching prior to teaching in the classroom, intensive mentoring with full classroom support in the first few weeks or months of school, a reduced teaching load and release time to allow new teachers to observe experienced teachers during each school day. Mentors should also observe new teachers and provide written feedback.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut indicated that by definition, alternate routes to certification (ARC) are noncredit-bearing programs. Once an ARC candidate enters a classroom, the district must provide a trained cooperating teacher to mentor the new teacher. Upon being issued the initial-level teaching certificate, teachers are officially entered into the Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) program, the state's beginning teacher induction program.

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EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

➤ Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



2-C Analysis: Connecticut



State Meets Goal 🛑



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Connecticut does not limit the usage or providers of its alternate route.

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

Connecticut has authorized alternative certification through the Office of Higher Education, Teach For America and Charter Oak State College. The state is commended for structuring its programs to allow a diversity of providers. A good diversity of providers helps all programs, both university- and nonuniversity-based, to improve.

Supporting Research

The Alternative Route to Certification II http://www.ctohe.org/ARC/pdfs/ARCIICatalog.pdf Connecticut Teacher Certification Information http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2613&q=321230

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

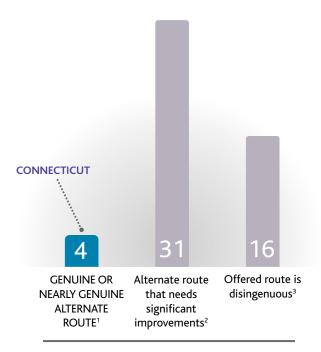
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** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 50 Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification?



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

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Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Goal D − Part-Time Teaching Licenses

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



2-D Analysis: Connecticut



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut commented that there are several permits or licenses allowing content experts to teach in certain schools on a part-time basis. The state provides for an adjunct arts instructor permit for artists to teach within an identified magnet school for the arts. These individuals may teach in an elective course for up to 15 hours per week, and the permit is issued for three years. In proposed regulations, Connecticut has provided for an adjunct faculty permit that will allow noncertified higher education faculty to teach within their specialty area with a high school for up to 15 hours per week; this regulatory provision will not take effect until the regulations are passed by the legislature.

Supporting Research

Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-145n

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



TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

➤ Goal E – Licensure Reciprocity

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



2-E Analysis: Connecticut



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



(Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Regrettably, Connecticut allows out-of-state teachers to be exempt from the state's subject-area and basic skills tests if they either 1) have three years of "successful appropriate" teaching experience in the same school system in the past 10 years, or 2) have a master's degree in the subject area.

Certificated out-of-state teachers may be eligible for a comparable Connecticut license if they have completed an approved program at a regionally accredited institution or can verify 30 months of experience, within 10 years, under a valid certificate.

Moreover, transcripts are required for all applicants; however, it is not clear whether the state analyzes these transcripts to determine whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route or whether additional coursework will be required.

Connecticut is also a participant in the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement, which outlines which other states' certificates will be accepted by the receiving state. This agreement is not a collection of two-way reciprocal acceptances, nor is it a guarantee that all certificates will be accepted by the receiving state, and is therefore not included in this analysis.

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

Supporting Research

Educator Certification

http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/cert/obtaining1109aw.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

Connecticut 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.

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

Connecticut should consider adopting a more flexible policy regarding portability. Transcript reviews are not a particularly meaningful or efficient exercise, and the state should consider discontinuing its requirement for the submission of transcripts for all teachers. Transcript analysis is likely to result in additional coursework requirements, even for traditionally prepared teachers; alternate route teachers, on the other hand, may have to virtually begin anew, repeating some, most or all of a teacher preparation program in Connecticut.

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

Rather than rely on transcripts to assess credentials, Connecticut should instead require that evidence of teacher effectiveness be considered for all out-of-state candidates. Such evidence is especially important for candidates who come from states that make student growth at least a significant factor of a teacher evaluation (see Goal 3-B). Connecticut may be on the right track with its requirement of "successful" teaching experience, but the state does not articulate that this is meant to be effectiveness as measured by a strong teacher evaluation system. Further, the requirement of three successful years in the last 10, although likely intended as a recency requirement, would also appear to allow multiple years of unsuccessful or ineffective teaching as well.

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

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

Ensure that requirements for online teachers are as rigorous as those for in-state teachers.

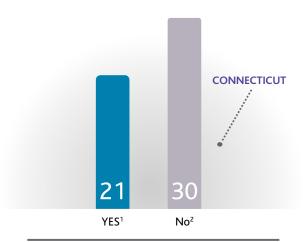
Connecticut should ensure that online teachers based in other states are at least equally as qualified as those who teach in the state. However, Connecticut should balance the interests of its students in having qualified online instructors with making certain that these requirements do not create unnecessary obstacles for out-of-state teachers.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that individuals who have completed an alternate route to certification in another state who do not have 30 months of teaching under a certificate in the sending state will receive the same 90-day certificate that is issued to completers of Connecticut's ARC program upon being employed in a Connecticut school district.

Figure 55

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



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska³, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine⁴, Massachusetts³, Minnesota, New York⁵, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas³, Utah, Washington⁶, Wisconsin
- Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana', Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Allows one year to meet testing requirements.
- 4. Maine grants waiver for basic skills and pedagogy tests.
- Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification; all others given two years to meet testing requirements.
- 6. Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification.
- 7. No subject-matter testing for any teacher certification.

What do states require of teachers transferring from other states? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado CONNECTICUT Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia П Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Г Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota П Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island П South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas П П Utah П Vermont П Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 6 44 11

Figure 56

^{1.} State conducts transcript reviews.

 $^{\ \ \, \}hbox{2. Recency requirement is for alternate route.}$

^{3.} For traditionally prepared teachers only.

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

Figure 57		State Specifies of the control of th	
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

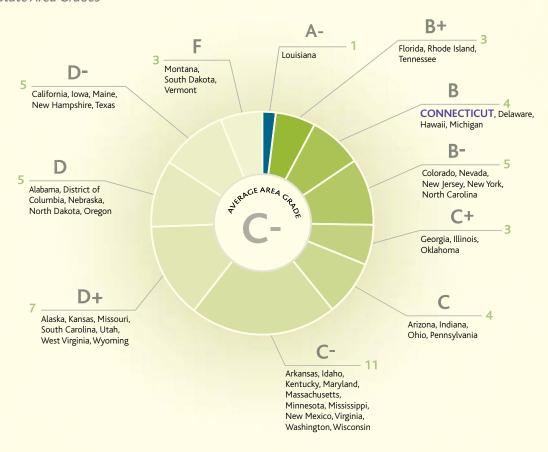
Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet Alabama's and Texas's own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate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

Area 3 Summary



How States are Faring in Identifying Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

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

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

Goal A – State Data Systems

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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



3-A Analysis: Connecticut



State Nearly Meets Goal 🛾 💎 Bar Raised for this Goal 👚 Progress Since 2011





ANALYSIS

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

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

Connecticut does not have a teacher of record definition. The state's teacher-student data link cannot connect more than one educator to a particular student in a given course, and it does not have in place a process for teacher roster verification.

Connecticut publishes annual fall hiring reports entitled "Designation of Teacher Shortage Areas," which include a collection of information "primarily concerning certified educational positions, designed to track employment trends and identify teacher shortage areas." Highlighted data include hiring statistics by endorsement and present figures for available positions that year, October 1 vacancies and median applicants. To examine local hiring trends, the hiring surveys are analyzed using "district reference groups" (DRGs) based on community and student socio-demographic characteristics.

Supporting Research

Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org Fall Hiring Reports http://sdeportal.ct.gov/Cedar/WEB/ResearchandReports/DataBulletins.aspx

RECOMMENDATION

Develop a definition of "teacher of record" that can be used to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

To ensure that data provided through the state data system are actionable and reliable, Connecticut should articulate a definition of teacher of record and require its consistent use throughout the state. The state's definition should reflect instruction rather than grading, and Connecticut should develop a process for teacher roster verification as well as an ability to link more than one educator to a particular student.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

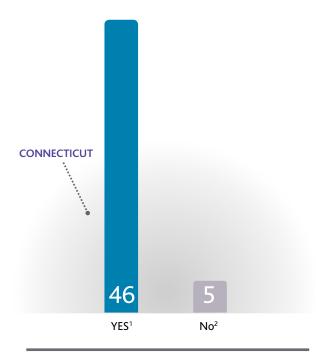
Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

LAST WORD

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

Figure 59 Do states' data systems have the basic elements needed to assess teacher effectiveness: unique

teacher and student identifiers that can be matched to test records over time?



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

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

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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

Goal Components

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

- The state should either require a common evaluation instrument in which evidence of student learning is the most significant criterion or should specifically require that student learning be the preponderant criterion in local evaluation processes. Evaluation instruments, whether state or locally developed, should be structured so as to preclude a teacher from receiving a satisfactory rating if found ineffective in the classroom.
- 2. Evaluation instruments should require classroom observations that focus on and document the effectiveness of instruction.
- 3. The state should encourage the use of student surveys, which have been shown to correlate strongly with teacher effectiveness.
- 4. The state should require that evaluation instruments differentiate among various levels of teacher performance. A binary system that merely categorizes teachers as satisfactory or unsatisfactory is inadequate.

Background

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



3-B Analysis: Connecticut





State Meets Goal (1) Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Commendably, Connecticut requires that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations. Districts develop teacher evaluation systems consistent with the state's guidelines. Connecticut's System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED) is a model evaluation and support system aligned with these guidelines. Districts that choose not to adopt SEED must submit evaluation plans for annual approval by the state.

By school year 2013-2014, 45 percent of the evaluation must be based on attainment of between one and four goals and/or objectives for student growth. One half (22.5 percent) of these indicators must be based on standardized tests (or another standardized indicator for nontested grades and subjects). The other half (22.5 percent) may consist of, at most, one additional standardized indicator, or at least one nonstandardized indicator.

The remainder of the evaluation score will be comprised of the following: observation of teacher practice and performance, 40 percent; schoolwide student learning indicators or student feedback, 5 percent; and feedback from peers and parents including surveys, 10 percent.

Evaluations must include the following four performance ratings: exemplary, proficient, developing and below standard.

Supporting Research

Guidelines

http://www.connecticutseed.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Adopted_PEAC_Guidelines_for_Teacher_Evaluation.pdf

http://www.connecticutseed.org/

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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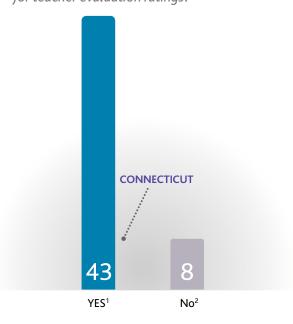
^{2.} Explicitly defined for the 2013-2014 school year.

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

Figure 64 Type of suriey not specified Is survey data used as part of teacher evaluations? Alabama Alaska¹ Arizona П П П Arkansas California Colorado 2 **CONNECTICUT³** П П Delaware П П District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii П Idaho Illinois \Box П П Indiana Iowa1 Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana Maine 2 Maryland П П П П Massachusetts Michigan П Minnesota Mississippi П П П Missouri 2 Montana П Nebraska Nevada П П New Hampshire П П П New Jersey П New Mexico П П П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П П П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina П South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia П Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming П 2 14 11 6 33

Figure 65

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



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

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

^{2.} Explicitly allowed but not required.

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



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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^{1.} New Hampshire is in the process of developing a state model/criteria for teacher evaluations.

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^{1.} Maryland requires multiple observers for ineffective teachers.

^{2.} Multiple evaluators are explicitly allowed but not required.

➤ Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



3-C Analysis: Connecticut



State Nearly Meets Goal (1) Progress Since 2011



ANALYSIS

Commendably, all teachers in Connecticut must be evaluated annually.

First-and second-year teachers must receive at least three formal observations. Two of these must include a preconference, and all three must include a postconference with timely and written feedback.

All teachers who receive performance evaluation designations of below standard or developing must receive at least three formal observations, two with preconferences and all with postconferences that include timely and written feedback.

All teachers who receive designations of proficient or exemplary must receive a combination of three formal observations/reviews of practice, one of which must be a formal observation. Examples of reviews of practice include observations of data team meetings and review of lesson plans.

The state does not provide guidance on when these observations should occur.

Supporting Research

Connecticut Statute 10-151(b)

http://www.connecticutseed.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Adopted_PEAC_Guidelines_for_Teacher_Evaluation.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that reviews of practice are sufficient to provide instructional feedback.

While it may be practical to reduce the number of observations for the highest performing teachers, Connecticut's requirement permits teachers with just a proficient rating to have only one observation, in addition to reviews of practice. The state must ensure that these reviews are not too limited in scope to provide these teachers with rich feedback that can help them grow and excel.

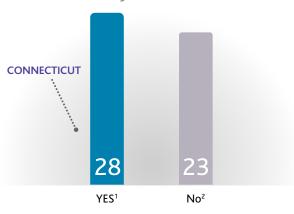
Ensure that new teachers are observed and receive feedback early in the school year.

It is critical that schools and districts closely monitor the performance of new teachers. Connecticut should ensure that its new teachers get the support they need, and that supervisors know early on which new teachers may be struggling or at risk for unacceptable levels of performance. As evaluation instruments become more data driven, it may not be feasible to issue a formal evaluation rating until applicable student data are available later in the year

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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

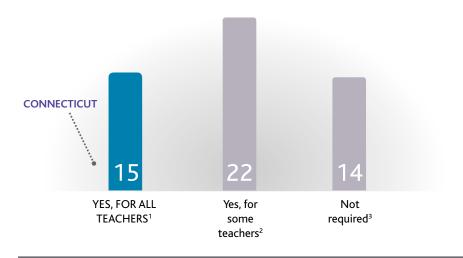


- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland³, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia
- ${\it 3. Regulations sunset on September 30, 2014.}$

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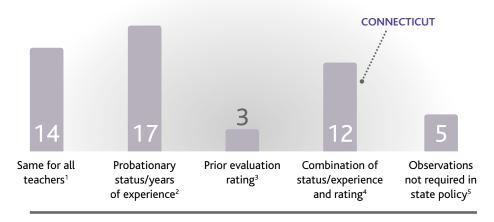
Figure 71

Do states require multiple classroom observations?



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

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



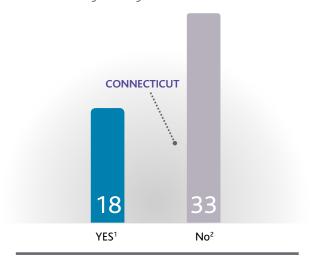
- Alabama, District of Columbia⁶, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas⁷, California⁷, Colorado, Florida, Kansas⁷, Minnesota⁷, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma⁷, Oregon, Pennsylvania⁷, South Carolina, South Dakota⁷, Utah⁷, Washington, West Virginia⁸
- 3. Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio
- 4. Arizona⁹, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts⁷, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas⁷, Virginia⁷, Wisconsin⁷
- 5. Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming
- 6. Depends on LEA requirements.
- 7. Frequency is based on evaluation cycle, not year.
- 8. No observations required after year 5.
- 9. Second observation may be waived for tenured teachers with high performance on first observation.



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



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

Goal D - Tenure

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



3-D Analysis: Connecticut



Best Practice State



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

In Connecticut, tenure is awarded after 40 school months. The state now requires that tenure be earned on the basis of effective practice as shown in a teacher's evaluation rating.

Because Connecticut's teacher evaluation ratings are centered primarily on evidence of student learning (see Goal 3-B), basing tenure decisions on these evaluation ratings ensures that classroom effectiveness is appropriately considered.

Supporting Research Pubic Act No. 12-116

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut had no comment on this goal.

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



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

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Goal E – Licensure Advancement

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



3-E Analysis: Connecticut



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

Connecticut's three-tier continuum for teacher certifications includes the Initial Educator Certificate, Provisional Educator Certificate and Professional Educator Certificate. To advance to the second tier, the Provisional Certificate (which is valid for eight years), teachers are required to complete 10 months of successful appropriate experience under the Initial Educator Certificate or Interim Initial Educator Certificate in a Connecticut public school and the teacher induction/mentoring program, as made available by the Connecticut State Board of Education, or 30 months of experience within 10 years in an approved system. In order to advance to the third tier, the Professional Certificate, teachers must have a letter from their local superintendent demonstrating a "record of competency," which is defined as completing "at least three school years of satisfactory teaching." In addition, beginning in 2016, teachers advancing from a provisional to a professional educator license must obtain a master's degree.

Connecticut does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Once a teacher has obtained a professional educator license, he or she must apply for renewal every five years. However, there are no requirements for renewal.

Supporting Research

http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/cert/maintaining1109aw.pdf Connecticut General Statute 10-145b and 10-148a

RECOMMENDATION

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

Although Connecticut requires that teachers have demonstrated "three years of satisfactory teaching" in order to obtain a professional educator license, the state should link this requirement directly to teacher evaluations as a factor in determining whether teachers advance to the next licensure level (see Goal 3-B). However, states must consider carefully how to use this evidence, as the standard for denying licensure—the right to practice in the state—should not necessarily be the same standard that might result in termination from a particular position. The state's policy is further compromised by the issuance of professional educator licenses with no requirements for renewal.

Discontinue licensure requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

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

■ End teacher advancement tied to master's degrees.

Connecticut should revise its policy for its Professional Certification by removing the requirement that teachers must obtain a master's degree in order to advance from a provisional to a professional educator license. Research is conclusive and emphatic that master's degrees do not have any significant correlation to classroom performance. Rather, advancement should be based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

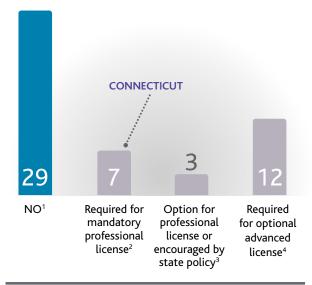
Connecticut was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.

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

Figure 79

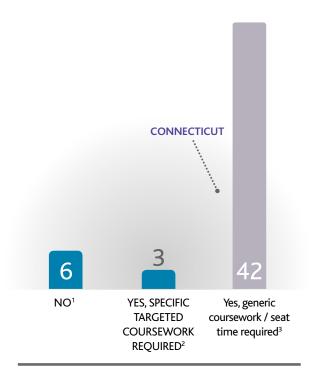
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?



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

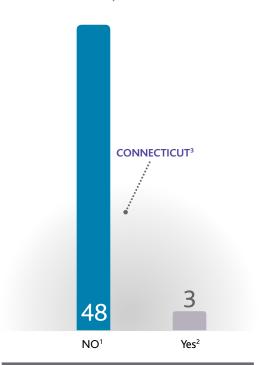
Figure 80

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



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

Figure 81 Do states award lifetime licenses?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut³, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin,
- 2. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia
- 3. Although teachers in Connecticut must renew their licenses every five years, there are no requirements for renewal.



TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

→ Goal F — Equitable Distribution

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



3-F Analysis: Connecticut



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Providing comprehensive reporting may be the state's most important role for ensuring the equitable distribution of teachers among schools. Connecticut reports some school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent among schools within districts.

Connecticut does not require districts to publicly report aggregate school-level data about teacher performance, but collects and publicly reports some of the other data recommended by NCTQ. Although Connecticut does not provide a school-level teacher quality index that demonstrates the academic backgrounds of a school's teachers, the state does collect and publicly report on the percentage of highly qualified teachers, and the percentage of teachers with two years' experience or less. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. The state also reports on the poverty and minority percentages at both the district and state level and compares the percentages of highly qualified teachers at high- and low-poverty schools as well as high- and low-minority population schools.

Connecticut also reports school level data on teacher absenteeism rates, turnover rates and average teacher experience. However, these data have not been updated since 2009.

Supporting Research

Connecticut School Report Card http://ctayp.emetric.net/School/Index/10004/1003

Connecticut District Report Card http://ctayp.emetric.net/School/Index/10004/1003

RECOMMENDATION

Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

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

Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

As Connecticut does with highly qualified teachers, the state should provide comparative data for schools with similar poverty and minority populations. This would yield a more comprehensive picture of gaps in the equitable distribution of teachers.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it does intend to report on aggregate school-level data once the educator evaluation system is implemented fully beginning in 2014-2015.

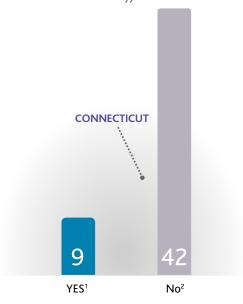
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** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

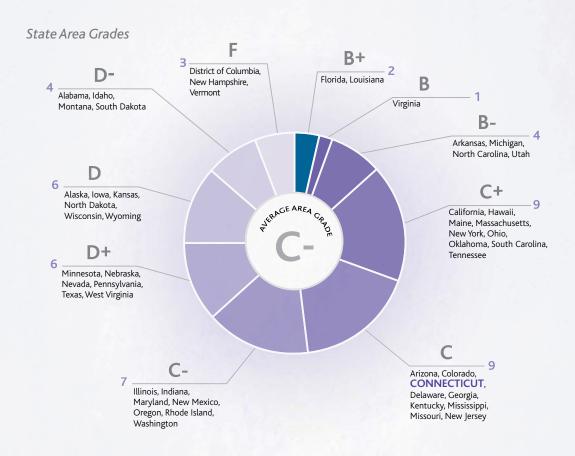


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas³, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts⁴, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida⁵, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah⁵, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Reporting of teacher effectiveness data will begin in 2017.
- 4. Massachusetts' evaluation system is not based primarily on evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- 5. Reports data about teacher effectiveness at the district level.

Area 4 Summary

REA 4 GRADA

How States are Faring in Retaining Effective Teachers



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

➤ Goal A – Induction

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



4-A Analysis: Connecticut



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

As of July 2010, Connecticut requires that all beginning teachers receive mentoring through the Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) program. Beginning teachers participate in the program for either one or two years depending on subject area. Mentors, who are accomplished teachers selected by the school district, are trained to provide instructional support and are expected to spend at least 10 hours on each professional growth module.

Supporting Research

TEAM Program Beginning Teacher Manual 2012-2013 http://www.ctteam.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/TEAM_BT_Manual.pdf Connecticut General Statutes Title 10 Chapter 166 Section 10-1450

RECOMMENDATION

Expand guidelines to include other key areas.

While still leaving districts flexibility, Connecticut should articulate minimum guidelines for a high-quality induction experience. The state should ensure that new teachers receive support during the critical first few weeks of school, require mentors to be trained in a content area or grade level similar to that of the new teacher and mandate a method of performance evaluation.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

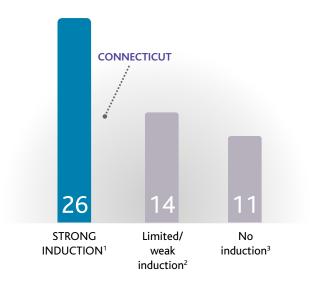
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T EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

➤ Goal B – Professional Development

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



4-B Analysis: Connecticut



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Connecticut requires that teachers receive feedback from their evaluations that is "clear, specific, and constructive." The state also specifies that professional development activities for teachers must be directly informed by student performance and be linked to teacher evaluation goals. Connecticut requires that teachers who are rated "developing" or "below standard" be placed on improvement and remediation plans. These plans are developed collaboratively with the district, teacher and a teacher's bargaining representative.

Supporting Research

Guidelines for Teacher Evaluation
http://www.connecticutseed.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Adopted_PEAC_Guidelines_for_Teacher_Evaluation.pdf
Public Act No. 12-116
Connecticut Statute 10-148a(b)(4)

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

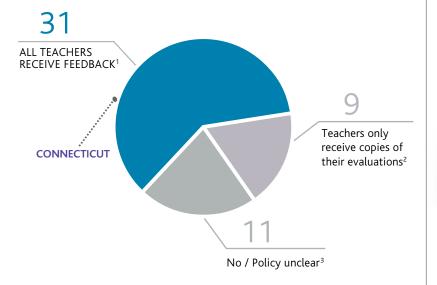
Louisiana and North Carolina require that teachers receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations and direct districts to connect professional development to teachers' identified needs. Both states also require that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement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

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

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Figure 90

Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?

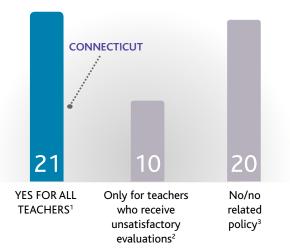


- Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska, California, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania
- 3. Alabama, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin⁴
- 4. Wisconsin's educator effectiveness system requires that teachers receive feedback, but it is still in the pilot stages. Full implementation will not begin until 2014-15.

Figure 91

Do states require that teacher evaluations

inform professional development?



- Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas
- Alabama, California, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin⁴
- Wisconsin's educator effectiveness system requires that evaluations inform professional development, but it is still in the pilot stages. Full implementation will not begin until 2014-15.

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal C − Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



4-C Analysis: Connecticut



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

RECOMMENDATION

■ Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.

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

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

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

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Florida and Indiana allow local districts to develop their own salary schedules while preventing districts from prioritizing elements not associated with teacher effectiveness. In Florida, local salary schedules must ensure that the most effective teachers receive salary increases greater than the highest salary adjustment available. Indiana requires local salary scales to be based on a combination of factors and limits the years of teacher experience and content-area degrees to account for no more than one-third of this calculation. Figure 93

pay rates?

Alabama

Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

California

Colorado

Delaware

CONNECTICUT

District of Columbia

What role does the state play in deciding teacher

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Florida Georgia Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois П Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland П Massachusetts Michigan П Minnesota Mississippi П Missouri Montana П Nebraska Nevada П New Hampshire New Jersey П New Mexico П П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П Oklahoma П Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island 2 South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 27 9 15

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

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

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- 1. For advanced degrees earned after April 2014.
- $\begin{tabular}{ll} 2. Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training". \end{tabular}$
- 3. Texas has a minimum salary schedule based on years of experience. Compensation for advanced degrees is left to district discretion.
- 4. Beginning in 2015-2016.

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

→ Goal D – Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

Goal Component

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

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

Background

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



4-D Analysis: Connecticut



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

While still leaving districts with the flexibility to determine their own pay scales, Connecticut 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.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

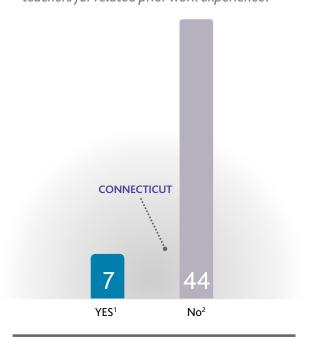
Connecticut recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that educator pay scales are locally determined and locally bargained. Therefore, the state does not encourage or discourage use of previous work experience to factor into starting salary. Many districts do use prior work experience in the content area for the initial placement of a career changer on the locally developed pay scale.

EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 96

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



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal E − Differential Pay

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



4-E Analysis: Connecticut



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Connecticut neither supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects nor offers incentives to teach in high-need schools. However, the state has no regulatory language preventing local districts from providing such differential pay in these areas.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 98		HIGH NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT	
Do states provide				AREAS	
incentives to teach i	n 🚤	/ %	/ **	/ %	/
high-need schools	N. A.	,iven	N. N.	, iven	10
or shortage subject	FERE	100%	FERE	100%	ddns
areas?	DIFFERENTIAL	Loan forgiveness	DIFFERENTIAL	Loan fogriveness	No support
Alabama	П				
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
CONNECTICUT					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia	_				
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana Iowa					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana	-				
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Nevada					
New Hampshire					
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Ohio					
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Oregon					
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Rhode Island	П		$\overline{}$		
South Carolina					
South Dakota					2
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
		7	15	11	20

Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in subject shortage areas.

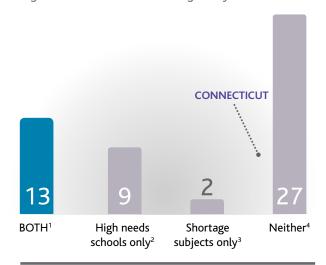
^{2.} South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in high-need schools.



TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal F − Performance Pay

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



4-F Analysis: Connecticut



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Connecticut noted that in the 2012 school reform legislation, a new statute was passed that would recognize a person with a distinguished educator status if he or she met the specified criteria. Local boards of education may then create an appropriate pay scale for individual teachers who are designated as "distinguished educators."

Supporting Research

Connecticut General Statutes 10-145s

Figure 101	(ED	PERCORMANCE BONUES	\$ /	State supported per-	en /
	() ()				in so
Do states support		/ 108:18		e sta	7 / Scho
performance pay?	7 4 4 7 5 4 7 5 4 7 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	(e pa	To de la constant de	15 \ 15 \ 16 \ 16 \ 16 \ 16 \ 16 \ 16 \
	FRFOR TO SAL SHERS	RFORM, 11/4BLE	Performance pay permit.	tate-sup Vintiati	e distric
Alabama	PERFORMANCEFACTORE	Z /] Pe	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	Does not support
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
CONNECTICUT					
Delaware					
District of Columbia		- i			
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
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New York					
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio					
Oklahoma					
Oregon					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	6	2	8	9	26



****** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

An increasing number of states are supporting performance pay initiatives. Florida and Indiana are particularly noteworthy for their efforts to build performance into the salary schedule. Rather than award bonuses, teachers' salaries will be based in part on their performance in the classroom.

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

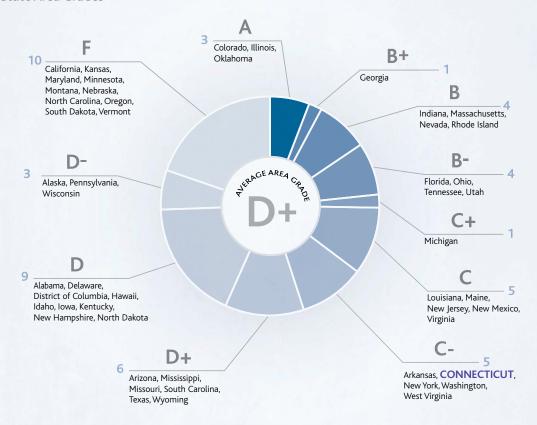
^{2.} Nevada's initiative does not go into effect until 2015-2016.

Area 5 Summary



How States are Faring in Exiting Ineffective Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

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

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal A − Extended Emergency Licenses

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



5-A Analysis: Connecticut



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Connecticut offers a nonrenewable interim certificate, valid for 12 months, to teachers who have not passed required state licensing tests. Applicants are eligible for an interim certificate only once and must complete required tests prior to the certificate's expiration date.

The interim certificate is issued to: teachers new to Connecticut who have taught for at least three school years and are certified in their home state, graduates of approved teacher preparation programs outside Connecticut and charter school teachers hired after July 1st in any school year who meet the requirements for entry into Connecticut's alternative certification program.

Supporting Research

HB 6901

http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/ACT/PA/2009PA-00001-R00HB-06901SS2-PA.htm

Obtaining Connecticut Educator Certification

http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/cert/obtaining1109aw.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

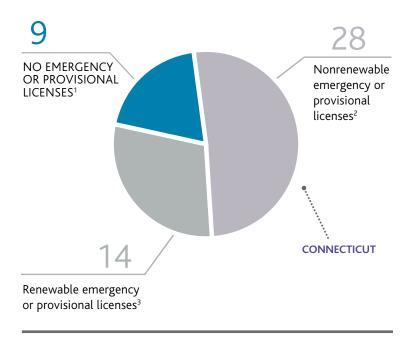
How long can new teachers practice without passing				(or unspecifie
licensing tests?	NO DEFERRAL	Up to 1 year	$U_{p to 2 \text{years}}$	3 yeas or more (or unspecified
Alabama				
Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
CONNECTICUT				
Delaware				
District of Columbia				
Florida				
Georgia				
Hawaii				
Idaho	Ц			
Illinois				
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lowa				
Kansas				
Kentucky Louisiana				
Maine				
Maryland				
Massachusetts				
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New Jersey				
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North Dakota				
Ohio				
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Rhode Island				
South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee				
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington Wash Virginia				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wisconsin Wyoming				



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

Figure 104

Do states still award emergency licenses?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alaska⁴, Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, Montana⁵, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Carolina
- Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota⁶, Ohio⁶, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island⁶, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin
- 4. Alaska does not require subject-matter testing for initial certification.
- 5. Montana does not require subject-matter testing for certification.
- 6. License is renewable, but only if licensure tests are passed.

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

➤ Goal B — Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

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

5-B Analysis: Connecticut



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

New legislation in Connecticut specifically identifies classroom ineffectiveness as grounds for dismissal. A teacher's contract may be terminated for incompetence or ineffectiveness, the basis of which is the "evaluation of the teacher using teacher evaluation guidelines." However, the state does not distinguish between the due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance and those facing other charges commonly associated with license revocation, such as a felony and/or morality violations. The process is the same regardless of the grounds for cancellation, which include inefficiency or incompetence, insubordination, moral misconduct and disability.

Tenured teachers who are terminated may appeal multiple times. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher may, within 20 days, request a hearing, which must occur within 15 days. A teacher may then file an additional appeal, within 30 days, to the superior court. The state does not specify the time frame of this appeal.

Supporting Research

Connecticut Statute, Title 10, Chapter 166, Section 10-151, 7(d) and (e)

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

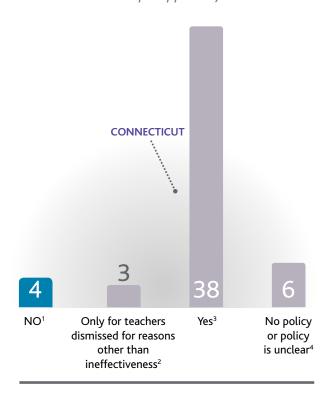
Florida and Oklahoma clearly articulate that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal. In both states, teachers are eligible for dismissal after two annual ratings of unsatisfactory performance. Each state has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed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

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

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

Figure 107

Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



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

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal C − Reductions in Force

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

Goal Component

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

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

Background

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



5-C Analysis: Connecticut



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

In Connecticut, the factors used by districts to determine which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force are decided at the district level.

Supporting Research

Connecticut Statute, Title 10, Chapter 166, Section 10-151, 7(d)

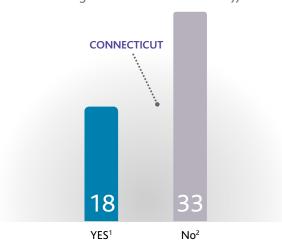
RECOMMENDATION

- Require that districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.
 - Connecticut can still leave districts flexibility in determining layoff policies, but it should do so within a framework that ensures that classroom performance is considered.
- Ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off. Unlike some states, Connecticut does not require that districts consider seniority; however, the state should do more to prevent districts from making decisions solely on this basis.

CONNECTICUT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 109

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



- Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts³, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio³, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington
- Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Tenure is considered first.

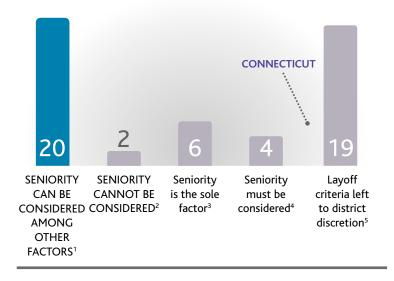




Colorado, **Florida**, and **Indiana** all specify that in determining which teachers to lay off during a reduction in force, classroom performance is the top criterion. These states also articulate that seniority can only be considered after a teacher's performance is taken into account.

Figure 111

Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?



- Strong Practice: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts⁶, Michigan, Missouri⁶, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio⁶, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington
- 2. Strong Practice: Louisiana, Utah
- 3. Hawaii, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin⁷
- 4. California, Kentucky, New Jersey, Oregon
- 5. Alabama, Alaska⁶, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska⁶, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming
- 6. Nontenured teachers are laid off first.
- 7. Only for counties with populations of 500,000 or more and for teachers hired before 1995.

Goals and Keywords

GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Te	achers
1-A: Admission into Teacher Preparation	The state should require teacher preparation programs to admit only candidates with strong academic records.	admission requirements, academic proficiency measures, basic skills tests, GPA
1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that its teacher preparation programs provide elementary teachers with a broad liberal arts education, providing the necessary foundation for teaching to the Common Core or similar state standards.	license/certification, elementary teachers, early childhood teachers, content tests, elementary coursework/standards, content specialization requirements
1-C: Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	The state should ensure that new elementary teachers know the science of reading instruction.	license/certification, elementary teachers, early childhood teachers, science of reading tests, science of reading coursework/standards
1-D: Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	The state should ensure that new elementary teachers have sufficient knowledge of the mathematics content taught in elementary grades.	license/certification, elementary teachers, early childhood teachers, math content tests, math coursework/standards
1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.	license/certification, middle school teachers, content tests, K-8 licenses, content specialization requirements
1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate gradelevel content.	license/certification, secondary teachers, secondary social studies, content tests, endorsements
1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	The state should ensure that secondary science teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach.	license/certification, secondary general science, content tests, combination sciences
1-H: Special Education Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that special education teachers know the subject matter they are licensed to teach.	license/certification, special education teachers, content tests, K-12 special education license, elementary special education, secondary special education
1-I: Assessing Professional Knowledge	The state should use a licensing test to verify that all new teachers meet its professional standards.	license/certification, pedagogy, professional standards/knowledge, performance assessments, edTPA
1-J: Student Teaching	The state should ensure that teacher preparation programs provide teacher candidates with a high quality clinical experience.	student teaching, cooperating teachers, clinical preparation, placements
1-K: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	The state's approval process for teacher preparation programs should hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.	teacher preparation programs, program accountability, student achievement, standard of performance, public reporting, national accreditation

Goals and Keywords

GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching	Pool
2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility	The state should require alternate route programs to exceed the admission requirements of traditional preparation programs while also being flexible to the needs of nontraditional candidates.	alternate route programs, admission requirements, GPA, academic proficiency measures, subject-matter test, flexibility/test-out
2-B: Alternate Route Preparation	The state should ensure that its alternate routes provide efficient preparation that is relevant to the immediate needs of new teachers, as well as adequate mentoring and support.	alternate route programs, coursework requirements, length of program, student/ practice teaching, induction, mentoring
2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers	The state should provide an alternate route that is free from limitations on its usage and allows a diversity of providers.	alternate routes; subject, grade or geographic restrictions; college or university providers; district-run programs; non-profit providers
2-D: Part-Time Teaching Licenses	The state should offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.	part-time license/certificate, adjunct license
2-E: Licensure Reciprocity	The state should help to make licenses fully portable among states, with appropriate safeguards.	license reciprocity, license portability, out-of-state teachers, testing requirements, online teachers
	AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teac	thers
3-A: State Data Systems	The state should have a data system that contributes some of the evidence needed to assess teacher effectiveness.	longitudinal data systems, definition of teacher of record, teacher production
3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness	The state should require instructional effectiveness to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.	teacher evaluation, teacher effectiveness, student learning, classroom observations, surveys, rating categories
3-C: Frequency of Evaluations	The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.	teacher evaluation, evaluation frequency, classroom observations, feedback
3-D: Tenure	The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.	tenure, probationary period, continuing contracts, teacher effectiveness
3-E: Licensure Advancement	The state should base licensure advancement on evidence of teacher effectiveness.	probationary license, professional license, license renewal, evidence of teacher effectiveness, coursework requirements
3-F: Equitable Distribution	The state should publicly report districts' distribution of teacher talent among schools to identify inequities in schools serving disadvantaged children.	public reporting, aggregate school-level data, evaluation ratings, school report cards, teacher absenteeism rate, turnover rate

Goals and Keywords

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

Teacher Policy Priorities for Connecticut

	AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
is nor	re that the test used by teacher preparation programs to screen candidates prior to admission med to the general college-bound population, and limit acceptance to those candidates instrating academic ability in the top 50th percentile.	Goal 1-
	re secondary social studies and science teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are ed to teach.	Goal 1- Goal 1-
	ate the K-12 special education certificate, and ensure that both elementary and secondary special tion teachers possess adequate and appropriate content knowledge for the grades and subjects each.	Goal 1-
Requi	re all new teachers to pass a pedagogy test.	Goal 1
gains	teacher preparation programs accountable by collecting data that connect student achievement to programs, as well as other meaningful data that reflect program performance, and by ishing the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.	Goal 1-
/41953	AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool	
Requi	re out-of-state teachers to meet the state's own testing requirements.	Goal 2-
	AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	
	icensure advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license and licensure renewal on acc of effectiveness.	Goal 3-
	h aggregate school-level teacher evaluation ratings from an evaluation system based on ctional effectiveness.	Goal 3-
	AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	
Discou	urage districts from basing teacher pay scales primarily on advanced degrees and seniority.	Goal 4-
		Godt 4
	rt differential pay initiatives for effective teachers in both shortage subject areas and need schools.	Goal 4-
Suppo	rt performance pay to recognize teachers for their effectiveness.	Goal 4-
	AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers	2:18:46

