# 2013 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

**District of Columbia** 





### 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.

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### **Executive Summary**

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

### District of Columbia at a Glance



### Overall 2013 Yearbook Grade

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: D

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

Goal Breakdown	2013
★ Best Practice	1
Fully Meets	3
Nearly Meets	4
Partially Meets	3
Meets Only a Small Part	2
O Does Not Meet	18

	Progress on Goals Since 2011	
•	Progress has increased	4
<b>(2)</b>	No change in progress	27
0	Progress has decreased	0

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

# How is **District of Columbia** Faring?

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	Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science			
	Special Education Teacher Preparation			
	Assessing Professional Knowledge			
	Student Teaching			
	Teacher Preparation Program Accountability			
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*	Part-Time Teaching Licenses			
	Licensure Reciprocity			
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# How is **District of Columbia** Faring?

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Area 3: Identifying Effecti	ve reache	15	Page 73
State Data Systems		Tenure	
Evaluation of Effectiveness		Licensure Advancement	
Frequency of Evaluations		Equitable Distribution	
Policy Strengths			
■ The District of Columbia has establis effectiveness and has taken other me		m with the capacity to provide evider o maximize the system's efficiency ar	
Policy Weaknesses			
Objective evidence of student learni		<ul> <li>Licensure advancement and on teacher effectiveness.</li> </ul>	renewal are not based
preponderant criterion of teacher ev		■ Little school-level data are r	eported that can help
<ul> <li>Annual evaluations for all teachers a</li> <li>Tenure decisions are not connected teacher effectiveness.</li> </ul>	•	support the equitable distrib	oution of teacher talent.
Area 4: Retaining Effective	e Teachers	3	Page 103
Induction		Compensation for Prior Work Ex	perience
Professional Development		Differential Pay	
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Pay Scales		Performance Pay	
Pay Scales Policy Strengths	•	•	Ö
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Figure A	Overall State Grade 2013	Overall State Grade 2011	Overall State Grade 2009
	Overal Irade Z	Overal Trade 2	Overa Grade
Florida	B+	В	С
Louisiana	В	C-	C-
Rhode Island	В	B-	D
Tennessee	В	B-	C-
Arkansas	B-	С	C-
Connecticut	B-	C-	D+
Georgia	B-	С	C-
Indiana	B-	C+	D
Massachusetts	B-	С	D+
Michigan	B-	C+	D-
New Jersey	B-	D+	D+
New York	B-	С	D+
Ohio	B-	C+	D+
Oklahoma	B-	B-	D+
Colorado	C+	С	D+
Delaware	C+	С	D
Illinois	C+	С	D+
Virginia	C+	D+	D+
Kentucky	С	D+	D+
Mississippi	C	D+	D+
North Carolina	С	D+	D+
Utah	С	C-	D
Alabama	C-	C-	C-
Arizona	C-	D+	D+
Maine	C-	D-	F
Minnesota	C-	C-	D-
Missouri	C-	D	D
Nevada	C-	C-	D-
Pennsylvania	C-	D+	D
South Carolina	C-	C-	C-
Texas	C-	C-	C-
Washington	C-	C-	D+
West Virginia	C-	D+	D+
California	D+	D+	D+
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	D+	D	D-
Hawaii	D+	D-	D-
Idaho	D+	D+	D-
Maryland	D+	D+	D
New Mexico	D+	D+	D+
Wisconsin	D+	D	D
Alaska	D	D	D
lowa	D	D	D
Kansas	D	D	D-
New Hampshire	D	D-	D-
North Dakota	D	D	D-
Oregon	D	D-	D-
Wyoming	D	D	D-
Nebraska	D-	D-	D-
South Dakota	D-	D	D
Vermont	D-	D-	F
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

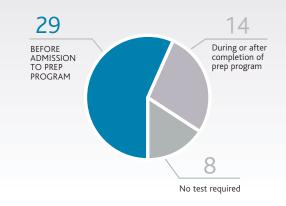
#### BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



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:

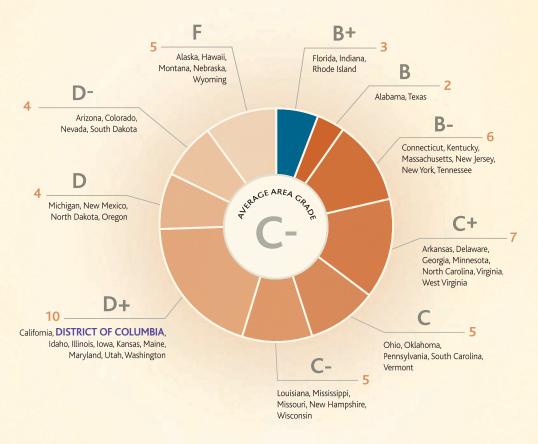


# **Area 1 Summary**



# 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.)

- 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: District of Columbia







Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia does not require aspiring teachers to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs, instead delaying its basic skills assessment until teacher candidates are ready to apply for licensure.

#### Supporting Research

D.C. Municipal Regulations 5-E1601

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

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

The District of Columbia should require 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, as well as facilitate program comparison.

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

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

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The District of Columbia noted that for institutions/organizations accredited via the postbaccalaureate pathway, participants must successfully complete Praxis I tests in reading, writing and mathematics (or equivalent SAT, ACT and/or GRE exams) prior to being admitted into these teacher education programs. The District added that it is also currently revising a state licensure testing policy to require successful completion of the Praxis I (or equivalent) prior to admission into teacher preparation programs

#### LAST WORD

The District of Columbia should consider flipping its requirement, so that the basic skills test is required for traditional undergraduate preparation programs rather than for postbaccalaureate programs, whether traditional or alternative. As discussed in Goal 2-A, 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. For graduate programs, the District should consider other measures of academic proficiency, such as the GRE.

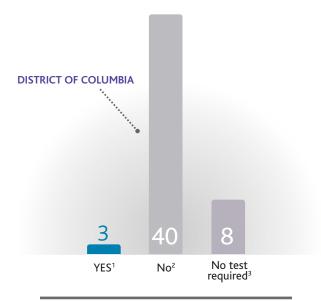


#### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

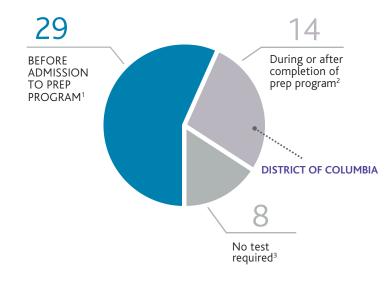
Figure 2

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



- 1. Strong Practice: Delaware, Rhode Island, Texas
- 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?



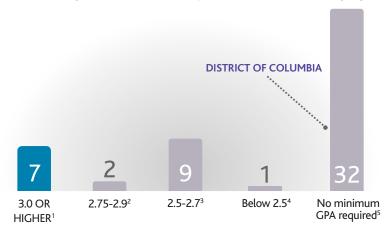
- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington,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

Figure 4		Test normed to teat	Test nomed to test	No test required
Do states measure the	Ö			1980 1980 1980 1980
academic proficiency o	$f \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{L}}$	15 P. 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15	\$ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	1 9 P
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Alabama				
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Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut				
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Florida				
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Idaho				
Illinois				
Indiana				
lowa				
Kansas				
Kentucky				
Louisiana				
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Maryland				
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Oklahoma		1		
Oregon				
Pennsylvania				
Rhode Island				
South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee				
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				

Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission with a 3.0 GPA.

Figure 5

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



- 1. Strong Practice: Delaware, Mississippi<sup>6</sup>, New Jersey<sup>6</sup>, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, Pennsylvania<sup>8</sup>, Rhode Island<sup>6</sup>, Utah
- 2. Kentucky, Texas
- 3. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut<sup>9</sup>, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wisconsin<sup>10</sup>
- 4. Louisiana
- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 6. The 3.0 GPA requirement is a cohort average; individual candidates must have a 2.75 GPA.
- 7. Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission by passing a basic skills test.
- 8. Students can also be admitted with a combination of a 2.8 GPA and qualifying scores on the basic skills test or SAT/ACT.
- 9. Connecticut requires a B- grade point average for all undergraduate courses.
- 10. The GPA admission requirement is 2.5 for undergraduate and 2.75 for graduate programs.

### 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.)

- 1. 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: District of Columbia



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





#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia 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 District is on the right track in ensuring that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with these standards.

The District 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 (PK-3) candidates are required to pass the Praxis II Early Childhood: Content Knowledge test.

However, the District does not require its elementary teacher candidates to earn an academic content specialization.

#### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Test Requirement www.ets.org DCMR 5-E1600.1

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Ensure that content tests adequately measure sufficient knowledge in all subjects.

The District of Columbia should ensure that its new subject-matter test for elementary teacher candidates is well aligned with the Common Core State Standards. To make the test meaningful, the District should also ensure that the passing scores on each subtest reflect high levels of performance. Further, although requiring content testing for early childhood education teacher candidates is a sound requirement, the District of Columbia 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.

The District of Columbia 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. All teacher candidates in the District must complete at least 48 semester hours in a program of general or liberal education that includes at least 12 semester hours each in humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences and math, along with four semester hours in health and physical education. However, these requirements lack the needed specificity to guarantee relevancy to the elementary classroom. The District also relies on NCATE/CAEP standards, suggesting that it uses the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) standards for approving its elementary programs. ACEI standards fall far short of the mark by

offering no mention of world and American history; world, British and American literature; American government; or grammar and composition. The ACEI standards mention important topics in science, but even in those areas, the standards consist mainly of extremely general competencies that programs should help teacher candidates to achieve.

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

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

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis. The District asserted that both traditional undergraduate and post-baccalaureate, and post-baccalaureate alternative route programs model their admissions criteria and/or courses of study to ensure that candidates meet the general education requirements prior to program completion. The District also pointed out that *Education Week*, in its 2013 Quality Counts report, gave it a "yes" in answer to the question on whether substantial coursework is required in the subject area taught.

Figure 7	TEST WITH SEV CONTENT SCORE FOR ELSPARATE OF	Elementary Content tees	Elementary content for	with /
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Utah				
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Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
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#### **TOTAL STATE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.

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

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

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

teach elementary grade	SUBSCORES TEST WITH	Content test with	Test with little	No test required	Not applicate.
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knowledge test?	\$ 3.5 \$ 3.5	Compo Compo	rest to no	$N_{otes_s}$	Not a
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New Hampshire New Jersey					
New Mexico					
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North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio					
Oklahoma					
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Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island	2				
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah	2				
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					

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

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Wisconsin Wyoming																			

Figure 10
What subjects does **District of Columbia** expect elementary teachers to know?

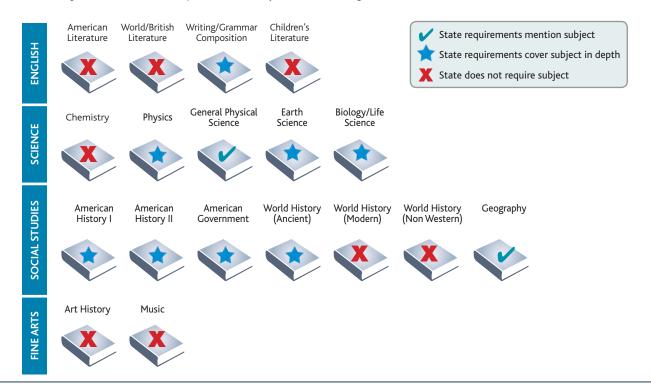
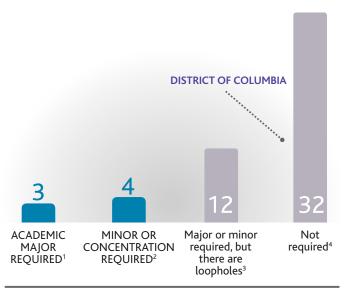


Figure 11

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



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

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

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

#### Background

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



### 1-C Analysis: District of Columbia







#### **ANALYSIS**

Although the District of Columbia requires elementary teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II Multiple Subjects test, which includes reading as a topic, this assessment does not generate a separate reading score and, therefore, does not amount to an adequate stand-alone reading test. Further, although better than previous Praxis tests, the Multiple Subjects test does not appear to be fully aligned with scientifically based reading instruction.

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

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

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

The District of Columbia should require teacher preparation programs in the state to train candidates in scientifically based reading instruction.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 13		EPARATION UIREMENT	rc /	TEST REQUIR	
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Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	25	26	17	16	18



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

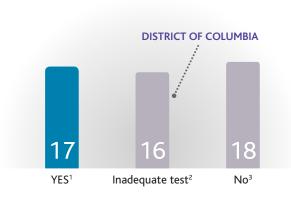
Fifteen states meet this goal by requiring that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Independent reviews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

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

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

Figure 14

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

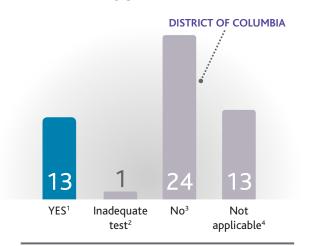


- Strong Practice: Alabama<sup>4</sup>, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, 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: Alabama<sup>5</sup>, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Idaho
- Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, 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.
- 3. 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: District of Columbia



State Nearly Meets Goal





Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Regrettably, the District '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.

The District of Columbia should ensure that early childhood education teacher candidates who teach its elementary grades possess the requisite knowledge of mathematics before entering the classroom. Therefore, the District 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.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The District of Columbia was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis.

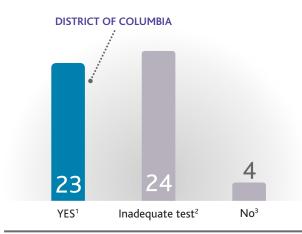


#### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

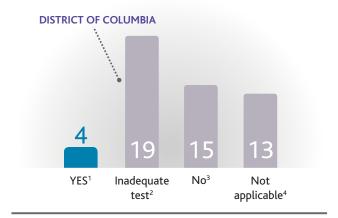
Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



- 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, Texas<sup>4</sup>, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia
- Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Alaska<sup>5</sup>, Hawaii, Montana, Ohio<sup>6</sup>
- 4. Test is not yet available for review.
- 5. Testing is not required for initial licensure.
- 6. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass an adequate content test.

Figure 18

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



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

### Goal E − Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

#### Goal Components

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

- The state should require that new middle school teachers pass a licensing test in every core academic area that they are licensed to teach.
- 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: District of Columbia



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia requires middle-level certification for all middle school teachers, who must complete a minimum of 30 semester hours in a content-related major.

All new middle school teachers in the District 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, the District does not offer a K-8 generalist license.

#### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Test Requirement
www.ets.org
DCMR Title 5, Chapter 16, Section 1610

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Ensure** meaningful content tests.

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

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

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

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

The District of Columbia allows teachers to add a middle school endorsement to an elementary or secondary certification by either completing coursework or passing a content test. The District is urged to require that all teachers who add the middle grade levels to their certificates pass a rigorous subject-matter test to ensure content knowledge of all subject areas before they are allowed in the classroom.

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 20		FRED	\$ /
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West Virginia			
Wisconsin			1
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#### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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

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

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

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

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California				2
Colorado				
Connecticut				
Delaware				
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA				
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Georgia				
Hawaii				
Idaho			3	
Illinois				
Indiana				
Iowa				
Kansas				
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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.
- 4. Maryland allows elementary teachers to teach in departmentalized middle schools if not less than 50 percent of the teaching assignment is within the elementary education grades.
- For nondepartmentalized classrooms, generalist in middle childhood education candidates must pass new assessment with three subtests.
- 6. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
- 7. Candidates opting for middle-level endorsement may either complete a major or pass a content test.

### Goal F − Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

#### Goal Components

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

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

#### Background

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



### 1-F Analysis: District of Columbia



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia requires that its secondary teacher candidates pass a Praxis II content test to teach any core secondary subjects.

Unfortunately, the District 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.

General social studies candidates must pass the Praxis II Social Studies: Content Knowledge test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general social studies but rather can teach any of the topical areas. (For the District's science loophole, see Goal 1-G.)

To add an endorsement area, secondary teachers may choose from the following options: earn a passing score on a Praxis II content exam, complete a major or major equivalent in the subject area, or meet the coursework requirements outlined in the District's regulations.

#### **Supporting Research**

DC Municipal Regulations, 5.1619, 5.1610

Teacher Licensure Requirements osse.dc.gov/seo/cwp/view,a,1224,Q,563671,PM,1.asp

Praxis Testing Requirements

www.ets.org

Teaching Endorsement Licenses

http://www.osse.dc.gov/seo/cwp/view,a,1224,Q,564399,PM,1.asp

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

The District of Columbia wisely requires subject-matter tests for most secondary teachers but should address any loopholes that undermine this policy (see Goal 1-G).

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

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

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

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia asserted that it would be helpful if NCTQ defined general science and social studies because it is the District's belief that these courses cover a blending of the sciences and a blending of topics covered in general social studies classrooms. Therefore, the District contends that it has adopted the appropriate exams for these subjects.

#### **LAST WORD**

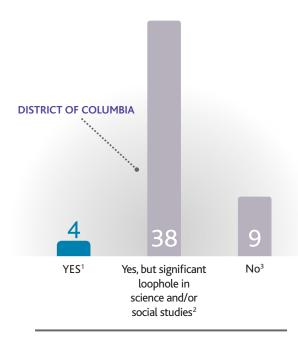
The issue is not that general science and general social studies are allowable licensure areas, but rather that teacher candidates are not required to pass a content test in each subject area prior to entering the classroom. Most high school science courses are specialized, and the teachers of these subjects are not interchangeable. Teachers obtaining the general science license need only pass a general knowledge science exam, which does not ensure subject-specific content knowledge. This means that a teacher with a background in biology could be fully certified to teach advanced chemistry or physics having passed only a general science test—and perhaps answering most of the chemistry or physics questions incorrectly. Likewise, for the general social studies certification, teachers can have a background in a wide variety of fields, ranging from history and political science to anthropology and psychology. Under such a license a teacher who majored in psychology could teach history to high school students having passed only a general knowledge test and answering most—and perhaps all—history questions incorrectly.



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

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

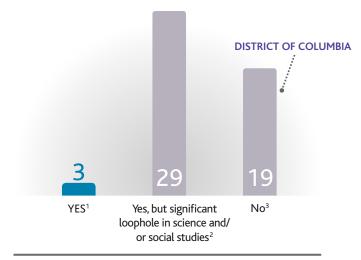
Figure 23 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



- 1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee
- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>4</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin [For more on loopholes, see Goal 1-G (science) and Figure 25 (social studies).}
- 3. Alaska, Arizona<sup>5</sup>, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana,  $New\ Hampshire^5, Washington, Wyoming^6$
- 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.

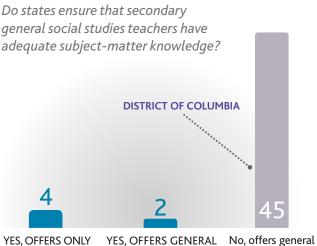
Figure 24 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a

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



SINGLE SUBJECT **SOCIAL** STUDIES LICENSES<sup>2</sup>

**SOCIAL STUDIES** LICENSE WITH ADEQUATE TESTING<sup>1</sup>

social studies license without adequate testing3

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

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

#### Goal Components

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

- 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: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia offers a general science certification for secondary teachers. Candidates must pass the Praxis II General Science 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.

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

### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia asserted that teachers of the discrete sciences—biology, chemistry and physics—must obtain subject-specific licensure in these subject areas and take the relevant subject-specific licensure exams or be deemed "teaching out-of-field." The District cited its regulation stating that licensure is required in the subject areas enumerated in the chapter. A general science license is not the appropriate license for teachers of the discrete sciences, hence the purpose of having licenses specific to the areas of biology, chemistry and physics.

### **Supporting Research**

DCMR 5-E1601.1

### **LAST WORD**

As discussed in Goal 1-F, the District of Columbia requires content tests for licenses in discrete subject areas, including the sciences. The issue here is the general science license. NCTQ is unable to find policy that limits teachers with a general science certificate to teach only general science courses. Rather than rely on assumed common understandings regarding which courses a teacher with a general science certificate may or may not teach, the District should articulate specific policy ensuring that all science teachers are required to pass a subject-specific content test for each area they plan to teach.

Figure 27	5	/8	5	
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### **EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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

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

## Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

## Goal H − Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 1-H Analysis: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia only offers a K-12 special education certification.

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

### Supporting Research

District of Columbia Municipal Regulations Title 5, Sections 1647

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

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

To ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess sufficient knowledge of the subject matter at hand, the District of Columbia should require a rigorous content test that reports separate passing scores for each content area. The District should also set these passing scores to reflect high levels of performance. Failure to ensure that teachers possess requisite content knowledge deprives special education students of the opportunity to reach their academic potential.

Ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.

Secondary special education teachers are frequently generalists who teach many core subject areas. While it may be unreasonable to expect secondary special education teachers to meet the same requirements for each subject they teach as other teachers who teach only one subject, the District of Columbia'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, the District 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.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The District added that it is currently revising state licensure policies and is considering creating elementary and secondary special education licenses.

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### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 30

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

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

- 1. In Pennsylvania, a candidate who 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: District of Columbia





State Meets Goal (+) Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia requires all new teachers to pass a pedagogy test from the Praxis series in order to attain licensure.

Secondary teachers may choose either the subject-specific pedagogy test or the generic 7-12 assessment.

### **Supporting Research**

www.ets.org/praxis

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Verify that commercially available tests of pedagogy actually align with the District's standards.

The District of Columbia should ensure that its selected tests of professional knowledge measure the knowledge and skills the District expects new teachers to have.

### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

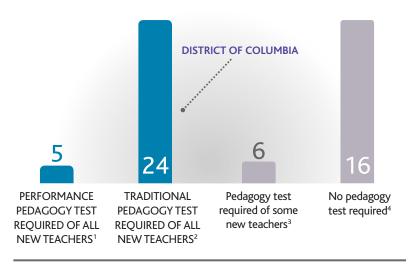
The District of Columbia was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.



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

Figure 32

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



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

## Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

## Goal J − Student Teaching

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 1-J Analysis: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

For teacher candidates who do not complete a state-approved program, the District of Columbia requires a minimum of six semester hours in student teaching. Candidates must be in classrooms for at least 200 clock hours, which must include a minimum of 120 clock hours in direct teaching activities in their senior year. Observation and participation prior to the student teaching experience comprise the remaining hours.

However, the District does not articulate specific student teaching requirements for candidates in its approved preparation programs.

The District also does not specify any requirements for cooperating teachers.

### **Supporting Research**

District of Columbia Municipal Regulations Title 5, Sections 1601 (b)(1)

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

In addition to the ability to mentor an adult, cooperating teachers in the District of Columbia should also be carefully screened for their capacity to further student achievement. Research indicates that the only aspect of a student teaching arrangement that has been shown to have an impact on student achievement is the positive effect of selection of the cooperating teacher by the preparation program, rather than by the student teacher or school district staff.

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

The District of Columbia should require a summative clinical experience for all prospective teachers. Student teaching should be a full-time commitment, as requiring coursework and student teaching simultaneously does a disservice to both. Alignment with a school calendar for at least 10 weeks ensures both adequate classroom experience and exposure to a variety of ancillary professional activities.

Explicitly require that student teaching be completed locally, thus prohibiting candidates from completing this requirement abroad.

Unless preparation programs can establish true satellite campuses to closely supervise student teaching arrangements, placement in foreign or otherwise novel locales should be supplementary to a standard student teaching arrangement. Outsourcing the arrangements for student teaching makes it impossible to ensure the selection of the best cooperating teacher and adequate supervision of the student teacher and may prevent training of the teacher on relevant state instructional frameworks.

### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The District added that although there is no specific length of time identified in regulation for the duration of clinical experiences, all accredited teacher education units in the District require more than 10 weeks of student teaching and/or supervised experience practicing as a teacher of record. The District added that it is currently revising its state licensure and accreditation policies to require a minimum of 10 weeks of student teaching/internship for candidates enrolled in traditional educator preparation programs and will forward documentation to NCTQ when the policy is finalized.

### **LAST WORD**

NCTQ looks forward to reviewing the District's progress in future editions of the *Yearbook*.

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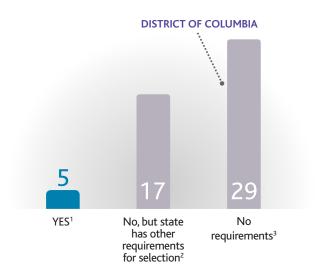


### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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.

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

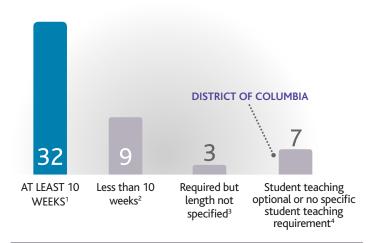
Figure 35
Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



- 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<sup>5</sup>, Wisconsin
- 2. Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Illinois, New Hampshire, Utah
- ${\it 4. \,\, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Maryland, Montana}$
- 5. 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



## 1-K Analysis: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia'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, the District does not collect or report data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.

The District 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. The District collects programs' annual summary licensure test pass rates (80 percent of program completers must pass their licensure exams). However, the 80 percent pass-rate standard, while common among many states, sets the bar quite low and is not a meaningful measure of program performance.

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

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

Through Race to the Top, the District plans to create teacher prep program scorecards so that the public will know how well each program is doing in providing highly effective teachers.

In the District of Columbia, national accreditation is required for program approval.

### **Supporting Research**

http://osse.dc.gov/service/educator-preparation-program-approval-and-accreditation
Race to the Top
http://osse.dc.gov/service/great-teachers-and-leaders
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, the District 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. Although the District has outlined its intentions to ensure that preparation programs are held accountable as part of Race to the Top, it is urged to codify these requirements and specify that they apply to alternate route programs as well as to traditional teacher preparation 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 District of Columbia to establish precise minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category of data. The District should be mindful of setting rigorous standards for program performance, as its current requirement that 80 percent of program graduates pass the state's licensing tests 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 District's website.

The District should produce an annual report card that shows all the data it collects on individual teacher preparation programs, which should be published on the District'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.

The District should not cede its authority and must ensure that it is the state office that considers the evidence of program performance and makes the decision about whether programs should continue to be authorized to prepare teachers.

### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia asserted that per its approved Race to the Top application, it will publish preparation program profiles that include linkages to student achievement data in the fall of 2014.

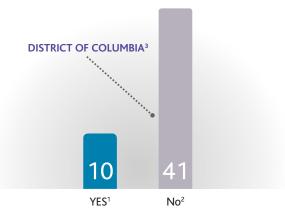
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### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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



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

<sup>1.</sup> For traditional preparation programs only.

<sup>2.</sup> State does not distinguish between alternate route programs and traditional preparation programs in public reporting.

<sup>3.</sup> For alternate routes only.

Figure 40

### Which states collect meaningful data?

#### STUDENT LEARNING GAINS

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

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

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

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

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

#### SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

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

#### **TEACHER RETENTION RATES**

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

1. For alternate route only

Figure 41

What is the relationship between state program

approval and national

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accreditation?

Alabama Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

California

Colorado

Delaware

Florida

Georgia

Hawaii

Idaho Illinois

Connecticut

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** 

National accreditation is

Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland П Massachusetts Michigan П Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada П New Hampshire 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 П 1. National accreditation can be substituted for state approval. 7 13 31 **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2013: 51

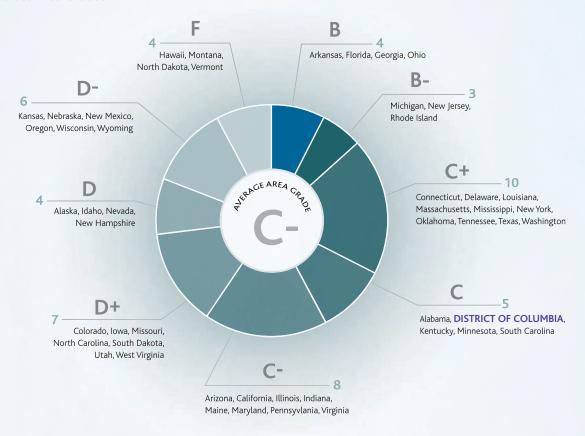
<sup>2.</sup> For institutions with 2,000 or more full-time equivalent students

## **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.)

- 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

### Figure 42 How States are Faring in Alternate Route Eligibility **Best Practice States DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**, Michigan State Meets Goal Minnesota 13 States Nearly Meet Goal Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey 1, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Washington 11 States Partly Meet Goal Alabama, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas 1, Virginia 15 States Meet a Small Part of Goal California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: **1**:2 **+** : 49

### 2-A Analysis: District of Columbia



Best Practice State



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia's alternate route programs require candidates with fewer than five years of successful work experience to demonstrate academic ability with a minimum 3.0 overall GPA or 3.25 GPA in the last 60 hours of coursework. A lower minimum GPA of 2.75 is accepted for candidates with 5-10 years of experience and 2.5 for more than 10 years of work experience. Minor exceptions are considered to accommodate nontraditional candidates with exceptional qualifications. The District is commended for setting high admission standards while allowing flexibility for nontraditional candidates.

Alternate route candidates are required to pass the Praxis I test of basic skills and achieve a passing score on the Praxis II content assessment in the area they wish to teach prior to admission. Equivalency scores on the SAT, ACT, or GRE are accepted in lieu of the basic skills test.

Neither a major nor specific coursework is required; as a result there is no need for a test-out option.

### **Supporting Research**

**Eligibility Requirements** 

http://osse.dc.gov/service/eligibility-requirements-state-only-post-baccalaureate-accreditation-and-program-approval

### **RECOMMENDATION**

### ■ Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

The District's requirement that alternate route candidates pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffectual. However, the District is recognized for allowing candidates to use equivalent scores to fulfill this admission criterion. 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.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

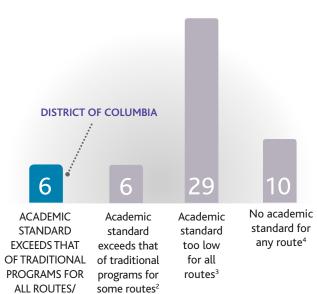
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### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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?



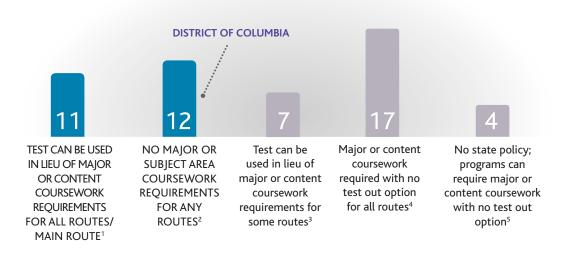
- 1. Strong Practice: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island
- 2. Alabama, Illinois<sup>5</sup>, Indiana, Kentucky<sup>6</sup>, New York, Pennsylvania

MAIN ROUTE1

- 3. Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah
- 5. Illinois' routes are in the process of converting to a single new license.
- 6. Only one of Kentucky's eight alternate routes has a 3.0 GPA requirement.

Figure 45

Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Maine, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas
- 2. Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Washington
- 3. Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia
- 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: District of Columbia



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



**Progress Since 2011** 

### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia establishes specific requirements for alternate route programs through the Pathway II: State-Only Non-Degree Post-Baccalaureate Accreditation and Program Approval process.

The District requires that alternate route programs provide teachers with a minimum of 12 credit hours, or 180 contact hours, of preparation. The District also requires that the program last for a minimum of one year. However, no maximums are articulated nor are specific coursework requirements outlined.

The District does require that individuals participate in a preservice placement prior to taking on full responsibilities in the classroom. In addition, the District requires that alternate route programs provide extensive and frequent monitoring throughout the candidates' first year.

### **Supporting Research**

Standards for State Only Post Bac Approval http://osse.dc.gov/publication/standards-state-only-post-bac-approval

#### RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that new teachers are not burdened by excessive requirements.

Alternate route programs should not be permitted to overburden the new teacher by requiring multiple courses to be taken simultaneously during the school year. The District should also ensure that the program can be completed within two years. Setting minimum requirements, without established maximums, does not ensure that the new teacher will be able to complete the program in an appropriate amount of time without being overburdened by coursework.

Establish coursework guidelines for alternate route preparation programs.

Simply mandating coursework without specifying the purpose can inadvertently send the wrong message to program providers—that "anything goes" as long as credits are granted. However constructive, any course that is not fundamentally practical and immediately necessary should be eliminated as a requirement.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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Arkansas	*	*	*		*
California			*		
Colorado	*		*		
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Washington			*		*
West Virginia		*	*		*
Wisconsin					
Wyoming			*		



### **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.

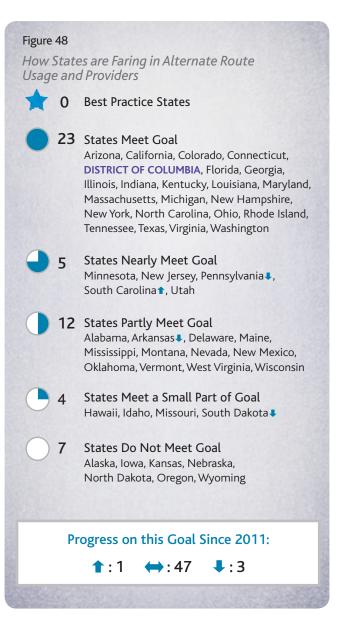
### Goal Components

(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: District of Columbia



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia does not limit the usage or providers of its alternate route.

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

The District is also commended for structuring its programs to allow a diversity of providers, including such respected national programs as The New Teacher Project and Teach For America. A good diversity of providers helps all programs, both university- and nonuniversity-based, to improve.

### **Supporting Research**

DC OSSE Eligibility Requirements

http://osse.dc.gov/service/eligibility-requirements-state-only-post-baccalaureate-accreditation-and-program-approval

### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

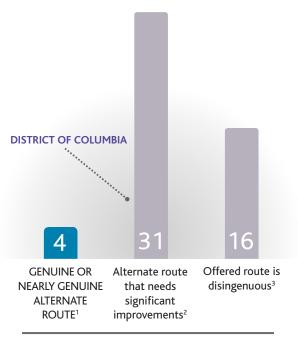
Figure 49	-ROSS	5 / 50
Are states' alternate	4 GF A	S. / Now
routes free from	25 E	/ 6
limitations?	BROAD USAGE ACROSS CEOGRAPH CARES AND	DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS
Alabama		
Alaska		
Arizona	*	*
Arkansas		*
California	*	*
Colorado	*	*
Connecticut	<u>*</u>	*
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### \*\* 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?



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- 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: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

This District of Columbia 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.

The District of Columbia 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.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 53 Do states offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part-time? YES % × Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine П П Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota П Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey 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: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal ( Progress Since 2011



### **ANALYSIS**

Regrettably, the District of Columbia grants a waiver for its licensing tests and issues a full license to any out-of-state teacher who meets all of the following conditions: completion of a state-approved preparation program; possession of a valid level II license in the subject area; and passing scores on basic skills, pedagogy and content tests required in the other state.

Although there is no state-mandated recency requirement for the professional certificate, candidates who do not meet the three conditions above are given a transcript analysis of their credentials, which may result in the requirement of additional coursework and/or state tests.

The District 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 District students.

### **Supporting Research**

Reciprocity

http://osse.dc.gov/service/interstate-licensure-agreement-reciprocity

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

The District of Columbia takes considerable risk by granting a waiver for its licensing tests to any out-of-state teacher who has passed a test in another state. 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.

The District of Columbia 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 the District.

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

Rather than rely on transcripts to assess credentials, the District of Columbia 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).

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.

The District of Columbia should ensure that online teachers based in other states are at least equally as qualified as those who teach in the District. However, the District of Columbia 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.

### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

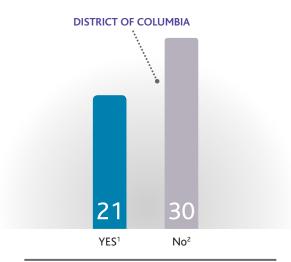
The District of Columbia asserted that it only holds licensed program completers to its tests if they did not complete a comparable exam in the state from which they completed a state-approved preparation program. Completers of state-approved programs, both traditional and alternate, are not required to take any additional coursework. The District added that it will update its website to clarify this information.

Further, the District contended that online teachers serving DCPS students must meet the same licensure requirements as in-classroom DCPS teachers. Its regulations do not make a distinction between online and in-classroom teachers; therefore, the rule applies to all teachers.

#### **LAST WORD**

The District of Columbia should ensure that applicants for licensure meet the District's standards, and not just the standards from the original state. This does not mean that teachers from other states have to retake licensure exams, but rather that they should be held to the District's passing score requirements, given the range in passing scores required by states.

Figure 55 Do states require all out-of-state teachers to pass their licensure tests?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska<sup>3</sup>, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine<sup>4</sup>, Massachusetts<sup>3</sup>, Minnesota, New York<sup>5</sup>, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas<sup>3</sup>, Utah, Washington<sup>6</sup>, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana<sup>7</sup>, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Allows one year to meet testing requirements.
- 4. Maine grants waiver for basic skills and pedagogy tests.
- 5. Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification; all others given two years to meet testing requirements.
- 6. Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification.
- 7. No subject-matter testing for any teacher certification.

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

Figure 56

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

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

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

<sup>4.</sup> Teachers with less than 3 years' experience are subject to transcript review.

Figure 57		State Specific Coffice.	. J	
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#### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

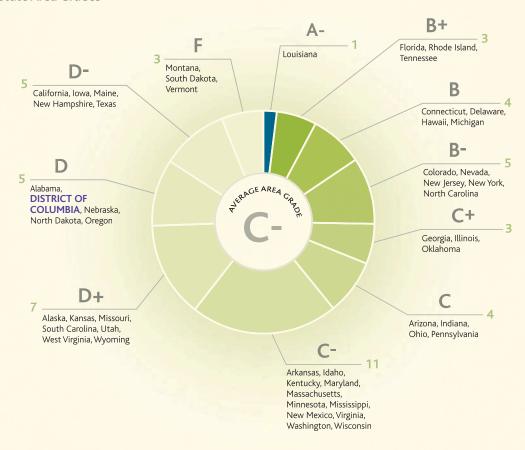
Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet Alabama's and Texas's own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate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

## **Area 3 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Identifying Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



### Topics Included In This Area

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

### Goal A – State Data Systems

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

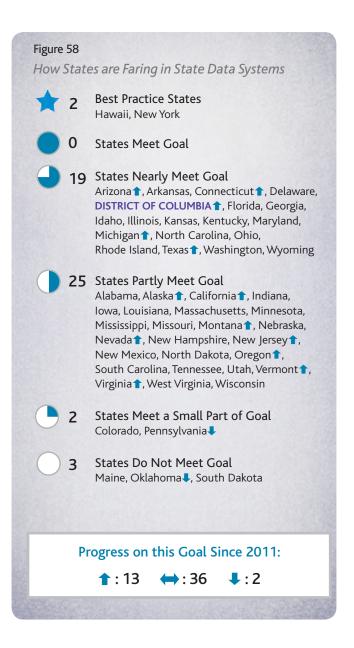
- The state should establish a longitudinal data system with at least the following key components:
  - a. A unique statewide student identifier number that connects student data across key databases across years;
  - b. A unique teacher identifier system that can match individual teacher records with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



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

#### Background

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



### 3-A Analysis: District of Columbia



State Nearly Meets Goal 💎 Bar Raised for this Goal





Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia has a data system with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

The District of Columbia has all three necessary elements of a student- and teacher-level longitudinal data system. The District 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.

Commendably, the District defines teacher of record as an educator who provides student instruction and evaluation that result in a student's recorded course grades. Further, the District's teacher-student data link can connect more than one educator to a particular student in a given course, and it does have in place a process for teacher roster verification.

The District of Columbia does not publish data on teacher production that connects program completion, certification and hiring statistics.

#### **Supporting Research**

Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### Publish data on teacher production.

From the number of teachers who graduate from preparation programs each year, only a subset are certified, and only some of those certified are actually hired in the state. While it is certainly desirable to produce a big enough pool to give districts a choice in hiring, the substantial oversupply in some teaching areas is not good for the profession. The District of Columbia should look to Maryland's "Teacher Staffing Report" as a model whose primary purpose is to determine teacher shortage areas, while also identifying areas of surplus. By collecting similar hiring data from its districts, the District will form a rich set of data that can inform policy decisions.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

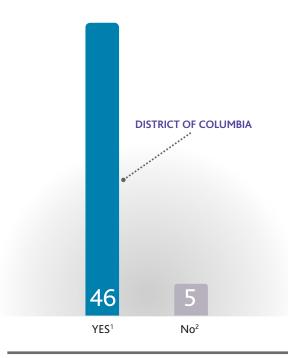
The District of Columbia was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis.

#### **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?



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

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

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#### \* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

### Goal B − Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



## 3-B Analysis: District of Columbia



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia does not require that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of all its teacher evaluations. The District has recently developed Teacher and Leader Evaluation Requirements, as a result of Race to the Top commitments and terms of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility Waiver. However, requirements vary depending on the local education agency (LEA).

Value-added results serve as one component of evaluation for Race to the Top LEAs. Individual value-added information must account for 50 percent of the evaluation for teachers of math and ELA in grades 4-8, unless the LEA has received a student achievement waiver from OSSE, in which case, it must account for at least 30 percent of the evaluation.

Charter LEAs not participating in Race to the Top must meet the DOE requirements for Principle 3, which means including student achievement or growth as a significant factor in teacher evaluations.

The IMPACT system, district-level policy implemented by the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), requires that a teacher's impact on students' achievement accounts for 50 percent of the evaluation score for tested grades and subjects. For nontested grades and subjects, student achievement must count for at least 15 percent of the performance-level determination. Classroom observations are required, and the evaluator must utilize the following multiple evaluation rating categories: highly effective, effective, minimally effective and ineffective.

For Race to the Top LEAs, four rating categories must be used. For other charters receiving federal funds, at least three categories must be used. These evaluations must also include other measures of professional practice such as observations, teacher portfolios, and student and parent surveys.

#### **Supporting Research**

Teacher and Leader Evaluation Requirements

http://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/Teacher%20and%20Leader%20Evaluation%20Requirements%20Brochure.pdf

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

The District of Columbia should require that evidence of student learning be the most significant criterion of all teacher evaluations. One way to guarantee that instructional effectiveness is the preponderant criterion for all evaluations is to codify the requirements articulated in the DCPS policy.

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

In addition to codifying the classroom observation requirement in DCPS's IMPACT system, the District of Columbia should further articulate guidelines that focus classroom observations on the quality of instruction, as measured by student time on task, student grasp or mastery of the lesson objective and efficient use of class time.

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.

Figure 63	REQUIRES THAT STUDENT PREPONDERANT GOLDENT	Requires that student achievement student arien on leophing out is s	Acquires that student significant scheening that student without without con-country.	Requires some object.	iden <sub>Ce</sub>
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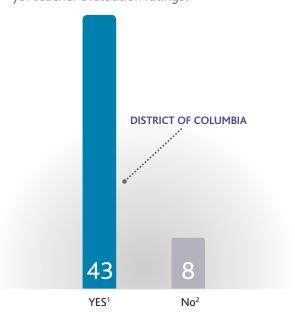
<sup>2.</sup> Explicitly defined for the 2013-2014 school year.

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

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

Figure 65

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



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

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

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

<sup>3.</sup> Requires parent or peer surveys; whole-school student learning or student surveys.



#### **TEXAMPLES 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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<sup>1.</sup> New Hampshire is in the process of developing a state model/criteria for teacher evaluations.

Figure 67		/	EVALUATORS MUST RE.	HERS
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Rhode Island				
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Virginia Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
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<sup>1.</sup> Maryland requires multiple observers for ineffective teachers.

<sup>2.</sup> 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: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal ( Progress Since 2011



#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia does not ensure that all teachers are evaluated annually.

The IMPACT system, district-level policy implemented by the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), requires that teachers are observed five times annually, with the first observation occurring during the first part of the school year. Each formal observation is followed by a conference to discuss ratings, feedback and steps for personal growth. Fewer observations are required as teachers move up the Leadership Initiative for Teachers career ladder by earning effective or highly effective ratings.

The recently developed Teacher and Leader Evaluation Requirements articulate that Race to the Top LEAs must conduct annual evaluations of all teachers, and all other charter LEAs that receive federal funds must conduct "regular" evaluations, under the ESEA flexibility waiver.

#### **Supporting Research**

Teacher and Leader Evaluation Requirements

http://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/Teacher%20and%20Leader%20Evaluation%20Requirements%20Brochure.pdf

DCPS: IMPACT

http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/impact

#### RECOMMENDATION

Require annual formal evaluations for all teachers.

All teachers in the District of Columbia should be evaluated annually. Rather than treated as mere formalities, these teacher evaluations should serve as important tools for rewarding good teachers, helping average teachers improve and holding weak teachers accountable for poor performance.

Base evaluations on multiple observations.

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

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

It is critical that schools and districts closely monitor the performance of new teachers. The District of Columbia 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.

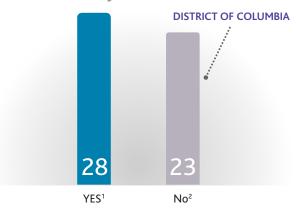
#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The District of Columbia asserted that LEAs must conduct annual observations.

#### **LAST WORD**

LEAs are not explicitly required to conduct annual observations. According to the Teacher and Leader Evaluation Requirements, teacher evaluations must "include other measures of professional practice which may be gathered through multiple formats and sources, such as observations based on rigorous teacher performance standards, teacher portfolios, [and/or] student and parent surveys."

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

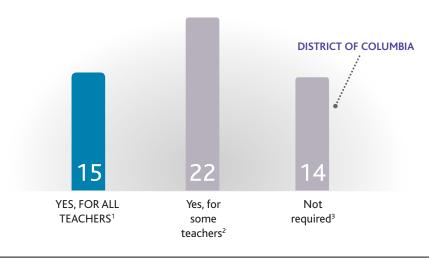


- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland<sup>3</sup>, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West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

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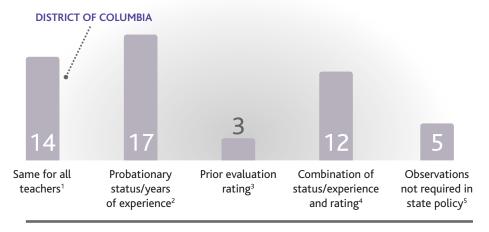
Figure 71

Do states require multiple classroom observations?



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

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



- Alabama, District of Columbia<sup>6</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas², California², Colorado, Florida, Kansas², Minnesota², Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma², Oregon, Pennsylvania², South Carolina, South Dakota², Utah², Washington, West Virginia<sup>8</sup>
- 3. Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio
- 4. Arizona<sup>3</sup>, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts<sup>7</sup>, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas<sup>7</sup>, Virginia<sup>7</sup>, Wisconsin<sup>7</sup>
- 5. Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming
- 6. Depends on LEA requirements.
- 7. Frequency is based on evaluation cycle, not year.
- 8. No observations required after year 5.
- 9. Second observation may be waived for tenured teachers with high performance on first observation.

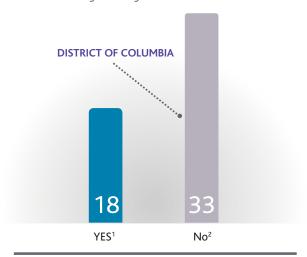


#### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 73

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



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota³, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia
- Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia<sup>4</sup>, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 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: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia does not connect tenure decisions to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

The District does not have a state-level policy concerning the length of the probationary period before teachers can attain permanent status, nor does it indicate any other additional process evaluating cumulative evidence of teacher effectiveness that is required to receive tenure.

However, although not state policy, one of the key components of the current contract between the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and the Washington Teachers Union is mutual consent regarding teacher hiring, meaning that the teacher and the school must agree for a teacher to get the job. It applies regardless of tenure, so principals may now staff their schools based on the most qualified candidates.

#### **Supporting Research**

Chancellor's Notes, July 9, 2010

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- End the automatic awarding of tenure.
  - The decision to grant tenure should be a deliberate one, based on consideration of a teacher's commitment and actual evidence of classroom effectiveness.
- Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.

  The District of Columbia should make evidence of effectiveness, rather than the number of years in the classroom, the most significant factor when determining this leap in professional standing.
- Articulate a process that local educational agencies must administer when deciding which teachers get tenure.
  - The District of Columbia should require a clear process, such as a hearing, to ensure that the local district reviews a teacher's performance before making a determination regarding tenure.
- Require an adequate probationary period.
  - The District of Columbia should articulate parameters for a probationary period, ideally five years. This would allow sufficient time to collect data that adequately reflect teacher performance.

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The District added that none of the local education agencies (LEAs) in DC, DCPS or public charter awards tenure. Therefore, there is no need for state-level policy in this area.

#### **LAST WORD**

Tenure existed in the District of Columbia Public Schools until just a few years ago, and, absent state-level policy, it could be reinstated without any connection to teacher effectiveness.

low long before a teacher arns tenure?							A WARDS
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South Dakota							
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Washington				7			
West Virginia							
Wisconsin							
Wyoming							

- 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.
- Teachers may also earn career status with an average rating of at least effective for a four-year period and a rating of at least effective for the last two years.
- While technically not on annual contracts, Rhode Island teachers who receive two years of ineffective ratings are dismissed.
- 6. Local school board may extend up to five years.
- 7. At a district's discretion, a teacher may be granted tenure after the second year if he/she receives one of the top two evaluation ratings.



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

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

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

Figure 76	EVDENCE O STUDENT	<i>&gt;</i> /	/
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Missouri			
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New York			
North Carolina		2	
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma	3		
Oregon			
Pennsylvania Rhode Island			
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	11	9	31

### → Goal E – Licensure Advancement

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



## 3-E Analysis: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

To advance from a Regular I Teaching Credential to a Regular II Teaching Credential, teachers must: complete a state-approved preparation program and, "where applicable, the Praxis II, Pedagogy examination, or other nationally recognized test as may be designated by the State Superintendent of Education." They must also have a bachelor's degree.

The District does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. To renew a Regular II Teaching Credential, teachers in the District are required to complete six semester hours of coursework or 90 clock hours of professional development "that contribute to performance and effectiveness as a teacher."

#### **Supporting Research**

http://osse.dc.gov/service/teacher-licensure

Rule 5-E-1601

http://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Gateway/RuleHome.aspx?RuleNumber=5-E1601

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Require evidence of effectiveness as a part of teacher licensing policy.
  - The District of Columbia should require evidence of teacher effectiveness to be a factor in determining whether teachers can renew their licenses or advance to a higher-level license.
- Discontinue license requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.
  - While targeted requirements may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, the District'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.

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

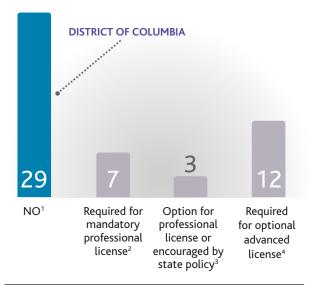
The District of Columbia was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.

Figure 78 Do states require teachers	OBICCTIVE ENDENCE OF	"   IRED		Performarce not considered	
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icensure?	OBJEC EFFECT	Some objective evidence	Consideration given to Performance to	Performance not considered	
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA					
Florida					
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Idaho					
Illinois		2			
Indiana					
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Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
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North Dakota					
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Oregon					
Pennsylvania					
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South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia Washington					
West Virginia					Evidence of effectivene     not for conferring of pr
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					Illinois allows revocation     Maryland uses some obje
	6	4	9	32	systems for renewal, but

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

Figure 79

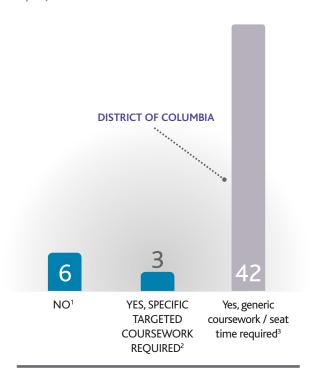
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?



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

Figure 80

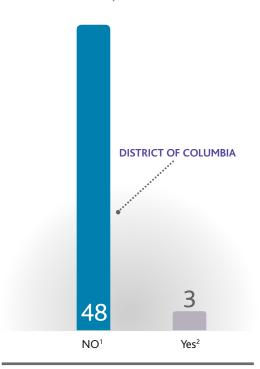
Do states require teachers to take additional coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



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

Figure 81

Do states award lifetime licenses?



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

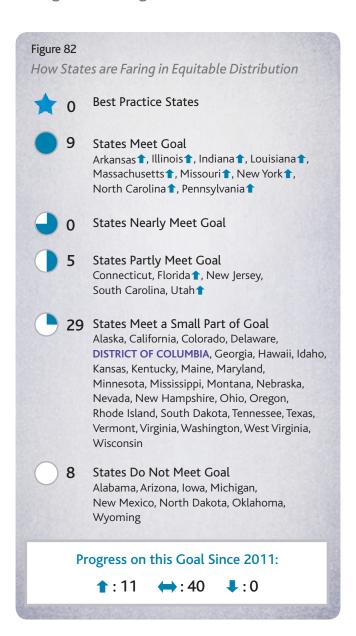
#### **Goal Components**

(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: District of Columbia



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Providing comprehensive reporting may be states' most important role for ensuring the equitable distribution of teachers among schools. The District of Columbia reports little school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

The District does not require districts to publicly report aggregate school-level data about teacher performance, nor does the state collect and publicly report most of the other data recommended by NCTQ. The District does not provide a school-level teacher-quality index that demonstrates the academic backgrounds of a school's teachers and the ratio of new to veteran teachers. The District also does not report on teacher absenteeism or turnover rates.

However, the District does report on the percentage of classes taught by highly qualified teachers for each school.

#### **Supporting Research**

2012-2013 School Data http://www.learndc.org/schoolprofiles/view#0452/reportcard

#### RECOMMENDATION

■ Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

The District of Columbia should make aggregate school-level data about teacher performance from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness—publicly available. Given that the District 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.

Publish other data that facilitate comparisons across schools.

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

Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

As the District of Columbia does with highly qualified teachers, it 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.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The District noted that, while the analysis is accurate, it reports effectiveness and equity data in the Race to the Top Annual Performance Report.

#### Supporting Research

https://www.rtt-apr.us/state/district-of-columbia/2011-2012/gtal

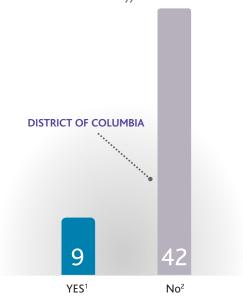
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#### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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?

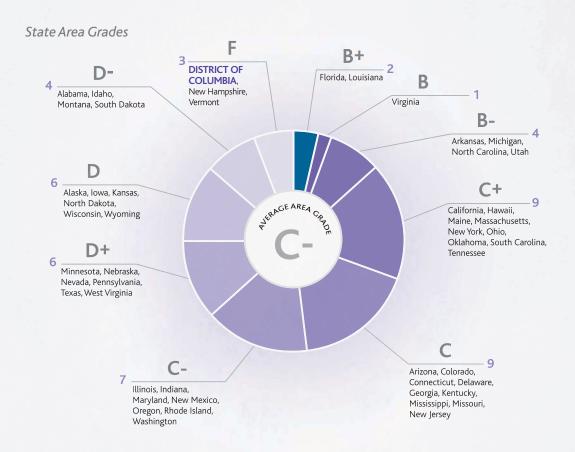


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas<sup>3</sup>, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts<sup>4</sup>, Missouri, New York, North Carolina,
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida<sup>5</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky,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

## **Area 4 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Retaining Effective Teachers



4-A: Induction	4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience
	4-D. Compensation for Filor 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: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) requires that all new teachers participate in a three-year mentoring and induction program. Mentor support includes "classroom management and effective teaching techniques."

However, this applies only to DCPS and is not District-level policy.

#### **Supporting Research**

Collective bargaining agreement 2007-2012 http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/Files/downloads/ABOUT%20DCPS/Press/Final-WTU-DCPS-Tentative-Agreement.pdf

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

Set specific parameters.

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

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

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

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

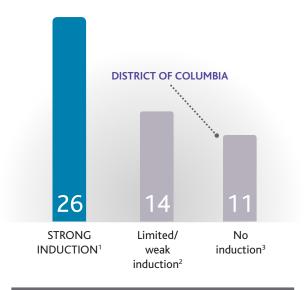
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#### **TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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



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

# Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

# Goal B − Professional Development

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



# 4-B Analysis: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia does not require that teachers receive feedback following evaluations.

The IMPACT evaluation system used by the District of Columbia Public School requires that professional development activities be informed by results from teacher evaluations for low-performing teachers. Principals are encouraged to provide professional development and create improvement plans for teachers rated developing or minimally effective. However, the District does not have similar District-level policy.

#### **Supporting Research**

DCPS Impact

http://www.dc.gov/DCPS/In+the+Classroom/Ensuring+Teacher+Success/IMPACT+(Performance+Assessment)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance.
  - In order to increase their effectiveness in the classroom, teachers need to receive feedback on strengths and areas that need improvement identified in their evaluations. As such, the District of Columbia should adopt District-level policy requiring that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their classroom performance.
- Ensure that professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.
  - Professional development that is not informed by evaluation results may be of little value to teachers' professional growth and aim of increasing their effectiveness in the classroom. The District of Columbia should adopt District-level policy to ensure that teacher evaluation results are used in determining professional development needs and activities.
- Ensure that teachers receiving less than effective ratings are placed on a professional improvement plan.

The District of Columbia should adopt a policy requiring that teachers who receive even one unsatisfactory evaluation be placed on structured improvement plans. These plans should focus on performance areas that directly connect to student learning and should identify noted deficiencies, define specific action steps necessary to address these deficiencies and describe how and when progress will be measured.

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia indicated that its ESEA Waiver requires that teachers receive timely feedback on their performance, as well as use evaluation data to inform professional development.

#### **Supporting Research**

http://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/Teacher%20 and %20 Leader%20 Evaluation%20 Requirements%20 Brochure.pdf



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

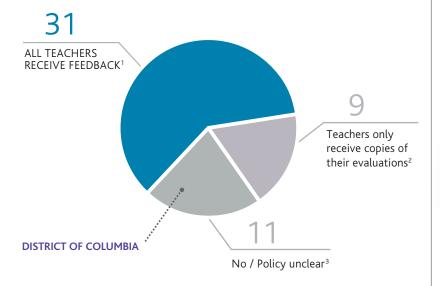
Louisiana and North Carolina require that teachers receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations and direct districts to connect professional development to teachers' identified needs. Both states also require that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement 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.

Figure 89		FRALLATION MICHAEL	MPROFERENCE COMENT TEACHERS WITH PLANS FOR
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Figure 90

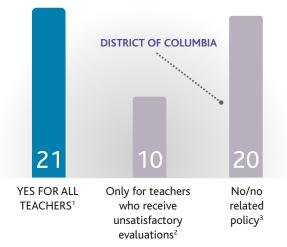
Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?



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

Figure 91

Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



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

# Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

# Goal C − Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

#### Goal Components

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

- While the state may find it appropriate to articulate teachers' starting salaries, it should not require districts to adhere to a statedictated salary schedule that defines steps and lanes and sets minimum pay at each level.
- 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: District of Columbia



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia does not address salary requirements, seemingly giving local school districts the authority to set pay scales.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Discourage local school districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.
  - While still leaving local school districts the flexibility to establish their own pay scale, the District of Columbia should articulate policies that definitively discourage them 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, the District of Columbia should articulate policies that discourage local school districts from determining the highest steps on the pay scale solely by seniority.

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this 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 What role does the state play in deciding teacher pay rates? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas П California Colorado Connecticut П Delaware П **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** Florida Georgia Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois П Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana Maine Maryland П Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 27 9 15

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

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

Figure 94 Do states prevent district	REQUIRES PEREORY	PROHIBITS ADDITE	Leaves pay to die.	Requires compensation for
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- 1. For advanced degrees earned after April 2014.
- 2. Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training".
- 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: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia does not encourage local school districts to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience. The District's regulations do include some reference to subject-area work experience, but these appear to be local district-level policies and not a matter of state-level oversight.

#### **Supporting Research**

District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) 5-1106

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

While still leaving local school districts with the flexibility to determine their own pay scales, the District of Columbia should encourage them 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.

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

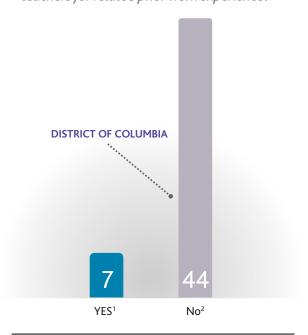
The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



#### **TEXAMPLE 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, Hawaii<sup>3</sup>, 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: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subject areas or by teaching in high-need schools.

Through IMPACTplus, DCPS offers annual bonuses for teaching high-need subject areas. DCPS also offers annual bonuses for teaching in high-poverty schools, defined as schools that have 60 percent or higher free and reduced-price lunches.

However, these are not state-level policies and only apply to DCPS.

#### **Supporting Research**

Overview of Impact

http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/In+the+Classroom/Ensuring+Teacher+Success/IMPACT+(Performance+Assessment)/An+Overview+of+IMPACT

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

The District of Columbia should encourage local school districts to link compensation to district needs. Such policies can help them achieve a more equitable distribution of teachers.

■ Consider tying National Board supplements to teaching in high-needs schools.

This differential pay could be an incentive to attract some of the state's most effective teachers to its low-performing schools.

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 98		HIGH NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT	
Do states provide				AREAS	
incentives to teach in	·	Loan forgiveness	/ 7	Loan fogsiveness	/
high-need schools	Ž	,iven	N. WILL	,iven	16
or shortage subject	FERE	100,000	FERE	100	ddn
areas?	DIFFERENTIAL		DIFFERENTIAL	<sup>'Je</sup> 07	Nosuppor
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lowa					
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Maine	1				
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Oklahoma					
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Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
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Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in subject shortage areas.

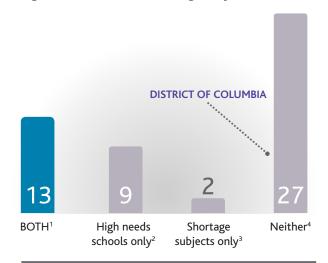
<sup>2.</sup> South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in high-need schools.



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

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

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



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

# **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers**

# Goal F − Performance Pay

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



### 4-F Analysis: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) supports performance pay.

DCPS' IMPACTplus is a performance-based compensation plan with two methods for rewarding highly effective teachers. Teachers are eligible for an annual bonus based on the school's free and reduced-price lunch rate, student growth based on data assessment and teaching in a "high-need" subject. In addition, teachers with highly effective ratings are eligible for an increase in salary base. The schools' free and reduced-price lunches are taken into account when determining service credit.

However, this applies only to DCPS and is not District-level policy.

#### **Supporting Research**

IMPACT Guidebook

http://www.dc.gov/DCPS/In+the+Classroom/Ensuring+Teacher+Success/IMPACT+%28Performance+Assessment%29/IMPACT+Guidebooks

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Whether it implements the plan at the state or local level, the District of Columbia 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.

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia noted that the ESEA Waiver requires that performance data be used to inform compensation decisions.

#### **Supporting Research**

http://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/ Teacher%20and%20Leader%20Evaluation%20Requirements%20Brochure.pdf

Figure 101	PERCORMANCEFACTORED	PERCORMANCE BONUES	Performance pay Pennits.	State supported per	) 
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	PER VIO	A MA	erfori	State State	foes,
	- = £ /	Q ₹ \	2 6	/ 'd' //	Does not support
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Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	6	2	8	9	26



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

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

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

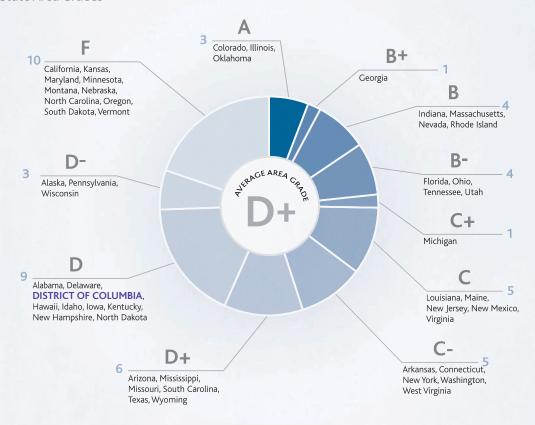
<sup>2.</sup> Nevada's initiative does not go into effect until 2015-2016.

# **Area 5 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Exiting Ineffective Teachers

State Area Grades



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

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

# Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

### Goal A – Extended Emergency Licenses

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

- 1. 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

### Figure 102 How States are Faring in Licensure Loopholes **Best Practice States** Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, New Jersey States Meet Goal Nevada, New Mexico, South Carolina 14 States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**, Georgia, Iowa 1, Kentucky, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Utah, West Virginia States Partly Meet Goal New York, Wyoming States Meet a Small Part of Goal Michigan, Vermont 26 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin Progress on this Goal Since 2011: **1**:1 **=**:50 **!**:0

### 5-A Analysis: District of Columbia



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia allows the state superintendent to issue a one-year nonrenewable Transitional Teaching Credential to a candidate who has not met all licensure requirements, including subject-matter testing. To qualify, candidates must have a bachelor's degree and have completed either an academic major that qualifies them to teach in the content area or an approved teacher preparation program. In addition, the Transitional Teaching Credential may be awarded to out-of-state candidates who hold a valid teaching license but have not taken the tests required for a Regular II license.

#### **Supporting Research**

DCMR 5-1601.6

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

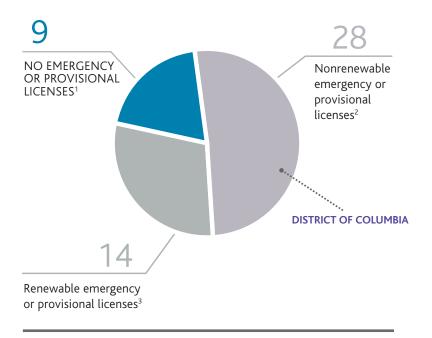
How long can new teachers				unspecifed
practice without passing licensing tests?	NO DEFERRAL	Up to 1 year	Up to 2 Jeans	3 reas or more (or unspecified)
Alabama				
Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut				
Delaware				
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA				
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Kentucky				
Louisiana				
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**Colorado**, **Illinois**, **Mississippi**, and **New Jersey** require all new teachers to pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure.

Figure 104

Do states still award emergency licenses?



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

# Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

### Goal B − Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

- 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 ↑, Arizona ↑, Arkansas ↑, Connecticut ↑, Delaware, Georgia 1, Louisiana 1, Maine 1, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey 1, New Mexico ♠, Ohio, Pennsylvania ♠, Virginia ♠, Washington 1, 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: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia Public School (DCPS) system's IMPACT evaluation program ensures that teacher ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal. The IMPACT guidebook specifies that individuals who receive ineffective ratings be "subject to separation from the school system."

In addition, teachers who are terminated have one opportunity to appeal. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher may file an appeal to the Superintendent of Schools within 10 days. The time frame for the hearing, however, is not addressed.

Unfortunately, this strong policy exists only at the district level. The District has no state-level policy governing teacher dismissal.

#### **Supporting Research**

DCPS IMPACT http://www.dc.gov/DCPS/In+the+Classroom/Ensuring+Teacher+Success/IMPACT+%28Performance+Assessment%29/An+Overview+of+IMPACT#3

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### Codify policies to ensure that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

While the IMPACT system implemented by DCPS and the contract between DCPS and the Washington Teachers Union represent significant policy advancements in the areas of teacher evaluation, tenure, placement and dismissal, these are district-level and not state-level policies. The District is encouraged to codify its teacher-dismissal requirements in state statute and/or regulation.

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia stated that its ESEA waiver requires that performance data be used to inform retention decisions. None of the LEAs in DC, DCPS or public charter awards tenure, so there is no need for tenure-related policy in this area.

#### **Supporting Research**

http://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/Teacher%20and%20Leader%20Evaluation%20Requirements%20Brochure.pdf

#### **LAST WORD**

NCTQ encourages the District of Columbia to codify the use of teacher evaluations to inform personnel decisions, such as when to dismiss a teacher. The ESEA waiver is a time-limited commitment, not permanent policy.



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

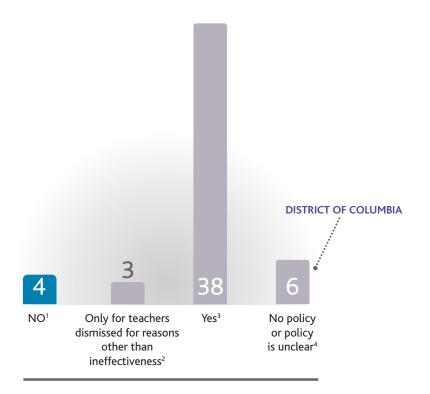
Florida and Oklahoma clearly articulate that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal. In both states, teachers are eligible for dismissal after two annual ratings of unsatisfactory performance. Each state has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed 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 Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan П Minnesota Mississippi П Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada П New Hampshire П New Jersey New Mexico П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 29 22

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

Figure 107

Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



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

# Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

### Goal C – Reductions in Force

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

#### Goal Component

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

 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: District of Columbia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) ensures that multiple factors are considered when determining which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force, including: 1) previous year's final evaluation, 2) unique skills and qualifications, 3) other contributions to the local education program and 4) length of service.

However, this code appears to refer to local district-level policy and not state-level oversight.

#### **Supporting Research**

DCMR 1503.2

http://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Gateway/RuleHome.aspx?RuleNumber=5-E1503

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Codify policies at the state level to ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off and that performance is considered.

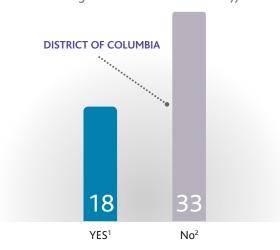
It appears that the code cited here does not refer to state-level policy. The District is encouraged to codify its reduction in force requirements in state statute and/or regulation, while also adding provisions that ensure that performance is considered.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The District of Columbia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 109

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



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

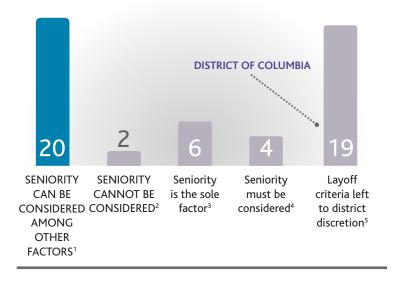
Figure 110		/
De states a server districts	~	SENORITY CANNOT BE
Do states prevent districts	MUS	102
from basing layoffs solely	NCE.	/ <del>%</del> 6
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New Jersey		
New Mexico		
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	10	



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

Figure 111

Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?



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

# Goals and Keywords

GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Te	achers
<b>1-A:</b> Admission into Teacher Preparation	The state should require teacher preparation programs to admit only candidates with strong academic records.	admission requirements, academic proficiency measures, basic skills tests, GPA
<b>1-B:</b> Elementary Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that its teacher preparation programs provide elementary teachers with a broad liberal arts education, providing the necessary foundation for teaching to the Common Core or similar state standards.	license/certification, elementary teachers early childhood teachers, content tests, elementary coursework/standards, content specialization requirements
1-C: Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	The state should ensure that new elementary teachers know the science of reading instruction.	license/certification, elementary teachers early childhood teachers, science of reading tests, science of reading coursework/standards
1-D: Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	The state should ensure that new elementary teachers have sufficient knowledge of the mathematics content taught in elementary grades.	license/certification, elementary teachers early childhood teachers, math content tests, math coursework/standards
<b>1-E:</b> Middle School Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.	license/certification, middle school teachers, content tests, K-8 licenses, content specialization requirements
1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate gradelevel content.	license/certification, secondary teachers, secondary social studies, content tests, endorsements
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 I	Pool
<b>2-A:</b> 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
<b>2-B:</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, studen practice teaching, induction, mentoring
<b>2-C:</b> 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
<b>2-D:</b> 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
<b>2-E</b> : 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	hers
<b>3-A:</b> 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
<b>3-B:</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
<b>3-C:</b> Frequency of Evaluations	The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.	teacher evaluation, evaluation frequency classroom observations, feedback
<b>3-D:</b> Tenure	The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.	tenure, probationary period, continuing contracts, teacher effectiveness
<b>3-E:</b> 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
<b>3-F:</b> Equitable	The state should publicly report districts' distribution of teacher talent among schools to identify	public reporting, aggregate school-level data, evaluation ratings, school report

# Goals and Keywords

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

# Teacher Policy Priorities for District of Columbia

AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
Require teacher preparation programs to screen candidates prior to admission by using a common test normed to the general college-bound population, and limit acceptance to those candidates demonstrating academic ability in the top 50th percentile.	Goal 1-A
Adopt a rigorous stand-alone science of reading test for all elementary teacher candidates.	Goal 1-C
Specifically require secondary social studies and science teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.	Goal 1-F Goal 1-G
■ Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and ensure that both elementary and secondary special education teachers possess adequate and appropriate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.	Goal 1-H
Ensure that cooperating teachers for student teaching placements have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning, and require teacher candidates to spend at least 10 weeks student teaching.	Goal 1-J
Hold teacher preparation programs accountable by collecting data that connect student achievement gains to programs, as well as other meaningful data that reflect program performance, and by establishing the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.	Goal 1-K
AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool	
Establish guidelines for alternate route programs that require preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers.	Goal 2-B
Require out-of-state teachers to meet the state's own testing requirements.	Goal 2-E
	100
AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	
Require student growth to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.	Goal 3-B
Formally evaluate all teachers annually.	Goal 3-C
■ Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.	Goal 3-D
Base licensure advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license and licensure renewal on evidence of effectiveness.	Goal 3-E
■ Publish aggregate school-level teacher evaluation ratings from an evaluation system based on	Goal 3-F

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

AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers		
Make ineffective classroom performance grounds for dismissal.	Goal 5-B	
Require teacher effectiveness as a factor when determining which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force.	Goal 5-C	

