# 2013 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Illinois





### Acknowledgments

### **STATES**

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

### **FUNDERS**

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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.

### Illinois at a Glance



# Overall 2013 Yearbook Grade

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: C

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

Goal Breakdown	2013
★ Best Practice	1
Fully Meets	5
Nearly Meets	4
Partially Meets	7
Meets Only a Small Part	7
O Does Not Meet	7

	Progress on Goals Since 2011	
•	Progress has increased	3
<b>(2)</b>	No change in progress	27
•	Progress has decreased	1

<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.

Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science
Special Education Teacher Preparation
Special Education Teacher Preparation  Assessing Professional Knowledge  Student Teaching
Student Teaching
Teacher Preparation Program Accountability
Although the state does not articulate an adequate
duration for student teaching, it does ensure that student teachers are placed with cooperating teachers who were selected based on evidence of effectiveness.
■ Middle school teachers are allowed to teach on a K-S
t of generalist license.
<ul> <li>Although most secondary teachers must pass a content test to teach a core subject area, some</li> </ul>
secondary science and social studies teachers are no
ing required to pass content tests for each discipline the are licensed to teach.
The state offers a K-12 special education certification
ge, dress  The teacher preparation program approval process does not hold programs accountable for the quality
of the teachers they produce.
achers Page 53
Part-Time Teaching Licenses
Licensure Reciprocity
, Electrodic reciprocity

dismissal.

### Page 75 **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers** State Data Systems Tenure **Evaluation of Effectiveness** Licensure Advancement Frequency of Evaluations **Equitable Distribution Policy Strengths** School-level teacher effectiveness data are publicly ■ The state has established a data system with reported. the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness and has taken other meaningful steps to maximize the system's efficiency and potential. **Policy Weaknesses** Tenure decisions are connected to evidence of Although objective evidence of student learning teacher effectiveness, but this evidence is not the is a significant component of teacher evaluations, preponderant criterion. it is not the preponderant criterion, and the state Licensure advancement and renewal are not based has failed to articulate other important evaluation on teacher effectiveness. requirements. Annual evaluations for all teachers are not required. **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers Page 105** Compensation for Prior Work Experience Induction Professional Development Differential Pay Pay Scales Performance Pay **Policy Strengths** Teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations are All new teachers receive mentoring. placed on structured improvement plans. Teachers receive feedback from their evaluations, although the state could do more to ensure that all teachers' professional development activities are aligned with findings from their evaluations. **Policy Weaknesses** Although districts have the authority to establish pay The state does not support performance pay or scales, minimum salaries must be based on years of additional compensation for relevant prior work experience and advanced degrees. experience, working in high-need schools or teaching in shortage subject areas. Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers **Page 129** Reductions in Force **Extended Emergency Licenses** Dismissal for Poor Performance **Policy Strengths** Performance is the top criterion for districts to All teachers must pass all required subject-matter consider when determining which teachers to lay off tests as a condition of initial licensure. during reductions in force, and a last hired, first fired Ineffective classroom performance is grounds for

layoff policy is prohibited.

Figure A	Overall State Grade 2013	Overall State Grade 2011	Overall State Grade 2009
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	C	D+	D+
-	C	D+	D+ D+
Mississippi North Carolina	С	D+ 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

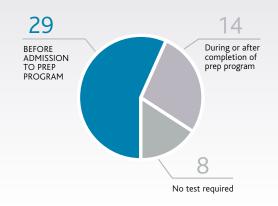
### BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



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:

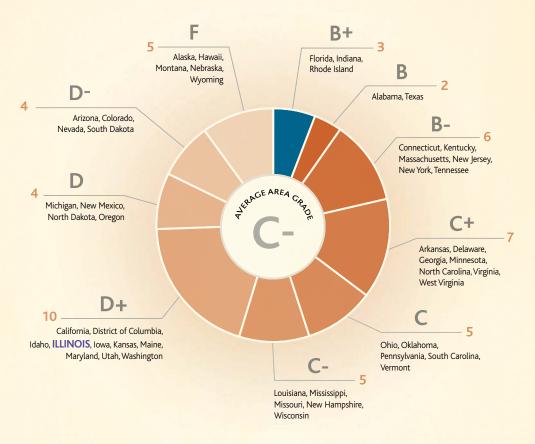


# **Area 1 Summary**



# 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.)

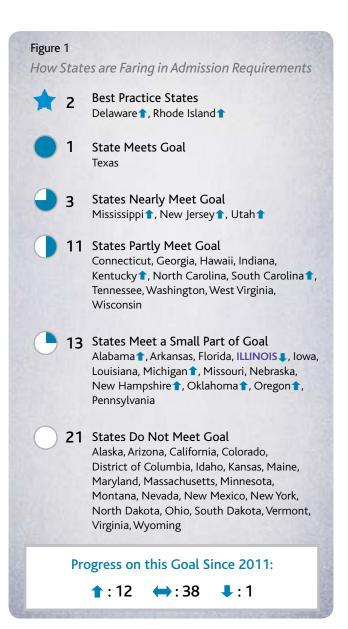
- The state should require teacher candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- 2. All preparation programs in a state should use a common admissions test to facilitate program comparison, 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: Illinois







### **ANALYSIS**

Recently enacted legislation in Illinois no longer requires passage of a basic skills test prior to admission into a teacher preparation program. Instead, teacher candidates must pass the basic skills test prior to student teaching. Although the test is normed just to the prospective teacher population, the state is commended for setting its minimum score for this test at a higher level than what is typical of other states.

Illinois also allows candidates to qualify by means of equivalent scores on the SAT or ACT.

### **Supporting Research**

Illinois Administrative Code Title 23, Section 25.720 HB 490

### 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 to avoid the possibility of an unsuccessful investment of significant public tax dollars. Illinois 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.

Illinois's basic skills test may be more rigorous than most analogous tests in other states. New regulations, which went into effect in September 2010, raised the required scores needed to enter an education school in Illinois, and only 22 percent of test takers passed all four sections of the test. While this is a dramatic shift, it does not indicate whether the test will lead to the selection of candidates who are in the top half of the college-going population. Requiring a common test normed to the general college population would accomplish this goal 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, Illinois 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.

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois noted that the state also allows candidates to qualify by means of equivalent scores on the SAT or ACT Plus Writing. The state added that PA 98-0361 (effective January 1, 2014) requires the basic skills test to be passed prior to student teaching for teachers; prior to the last semester or term of the internship for school support personnel; for admission to a principal preparation program; and at the point of licensure for all other administrative endorsements. Candidates are required to pass a content test prior to the student teacher serving as a teacher of record. PA 98-0581 (effective now) changed the requirements of the content test to the point of licensure for school support personnel and administrators.

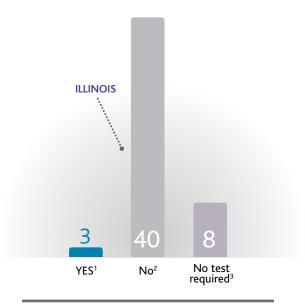


### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

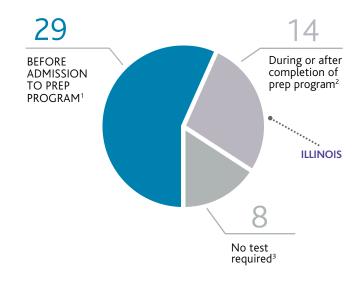
Figure 2

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



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



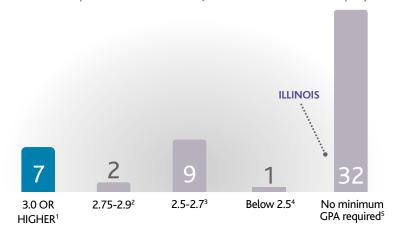
- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, 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		JON TO PREP PROPRIOR TO Candidates or teach	Test nomed to test	No test required
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<sup>1.</sup> 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.
- 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.)

- 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: Illinois







### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois 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. However, the state does not ensure that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with these standards.

Illinois's elementary (K-9) teacher candidates are required to pass the Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) Elementary/Middle Grades assessment, which does not report teacher performance in each subject area. Therefore, it is possible to pass the test and still fail some subject areas.

Illinois only requires its early childhood education teacher candidates, who are allowed to teach up through grade 3, to pass the ILTS Early Childhood Education test, which appears to focus primarily on pedagogy and child development.

In addition, Illinois does not require its elementary teacher candidates to earn an academic content specialization.

### **Supporting Research**

Illinois Licensure Testing System http://www.il.nesinc.com/

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

 Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure sufficient content knowledge of all subjects.

Illinois should require both a rigorous elementary content test as a condition of initial certification and separate, meaningful passing scores for each area on the test. Use of a composite passing score offers no assurance of adequate knowledge in each subject area. A candidate may achieve a passing score and still be seriously deficient in a particular subject area.

Illinois is urged to require all early childhood education teacher candidates who teach elementary grades to pass an appropriate test, either the same test as other elementary teachers or a comparably rigorous one geared to early childhood content. It is especially worrisome that the state allows teachers up through grade 3 to teach without ever having passed an adequate content test.

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

Illinois should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish comprehensive coursework requirements for elementary teacher candidates 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. Illinois does not specify any coursework requirements for general education candidates but does

require the completion of 32 semester hours leading to an elementary education major. In addition, Illinois articulates teacher standards that address important areas such as U.S., world and children's literature; life and physical sciences; and U.S. and world history. However, the state's standards fail to mention some important areas, such as world history, basic chemistry, American government and art history. There are additional standards within the framework of the ILTS content test, such as Illinois, U.S. and world history; but the standards still lack specific mention of important areas such as art history.

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 Illinois 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.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois asserted that the ILTS early childhood test is a content test. The state added that Illinois history is not tested except on one part of the social science history test.

Illinois added that proposed legislation will differentiate grade levels as follows: early childhood (B-K), elementary education (1-5) and middle grades (5-8).

In a subsequent response, Illinois noted that the state had recently adopted rules that necessitate the total and complete redesign of educator preparation programs for elementary and middle grades. The new requirements are based on teacher preparation standards that were written with a focus on Common Core State Standards so that teachers who are exiting teacher preparation programs for elementary teachers and middle grade teachers will be specifically trained to teach utilizing the Common Core State Standards.

### **Supporting Research**

http://www.isbe.net/rules/proposed/25-stds-websum.htm http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/26ark.pdf http://www.isbe.net/rules/proposed/pdfs/26wf.pdf

### **LAST WORD**

The state's early childhood certification test consists of three subareas: language and literacy development; learning across the curriculum; and diversity, collaboration and professionalism in the early childhood program. Although subtest two requires fundamental understanding of math, science and social science skills, the focus is more pedagogical than content based.

Lementary content test with Elementary content test with EEMENTARY CONTENT Figure 7 SCORE FOR EACH SUBJECT Do states ensure that elementary teachers know core content? Alabama П П Alaska П П Arizona П Arkansas П П П California Colorado П П П П Connecticut П Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho П П П **ILLINOIS** Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana П Maine П П П Maryland Massachusetts П П П Michigan П П П Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada П П New Hampshire New Jersey П П П New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania П П Rhode Island П П П South Carolina П South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П П П Vermont Virginia П Washington West Virginia П П П Wisconsin Wyoming 19 9 19 4



### **TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.

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

<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

<sup>4.</sup> Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass content test.

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

Figure 9			EN	GLISH		/			NCE			S	OCIAI					FINE / ARTS
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Rhode Island			X			*		×	*	*	*	*	*					
South Carolina																		
South Dakota									*									
Tennessee			*			*	*	*				X				*		
Texas			A			*	*	X	*	*	THE STATE OF	T.				*	*	*
Utah			X					X	*	*	X	X	X					
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Figure 10
What subjects does Illinois expect elementary teachers to know?

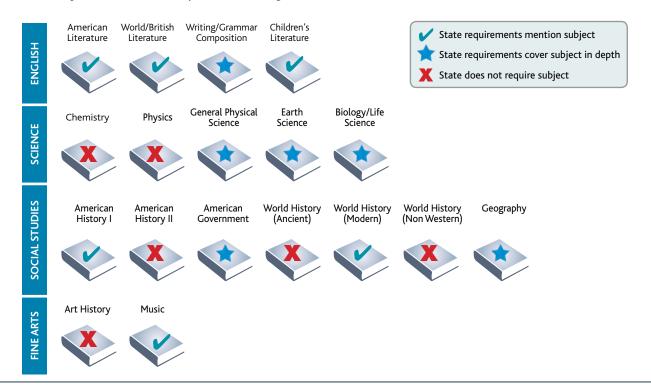
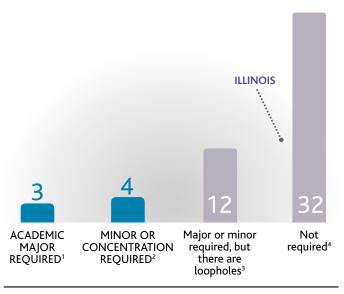


Figure 11

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: Illinois







### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois does not require teacher candidates to pass an assessment that measures knowledge of scientifically based reading instruction prior to certification or at any point thereafter.

Although Illinois requires all teachers to successfully complete coursework in methods of reading and reading in the content area, these requirements are too vague to ensure coursework specifically in the science of reading. Further, the state's new professional teaching standards require knowledge in reading. instruction approaches, including those that "develop word knowledge, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and strategy use in the content areas." However, these standards are inadequate to ensure appropriate knowledge in the science of reading instruction.

### **Supporting Research**

Public Act 097-0607 Illinois Professional Teaching Standards IAC 24.130

#### RECOMMENDATION

Require teacher candidates to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.

Illinois 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.

Illinois 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.

Illinois should require teacher preparation programs in the state to train candidates in scientifically based reading instruction.

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 13		PARATIO	тс /	TEST REQUIRI	
Do states ensure that	READING SCIENCE	Do not address	4PPROPRIATE	£2,	
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of reading?	77.7		PPRC	/ gde <sup>c</sup>	, o , re
s) reading.	-8/	7 %	✓ 🔻	/ =	No reading test
Alabama			1		
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
ILLINOIS					
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Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					



### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

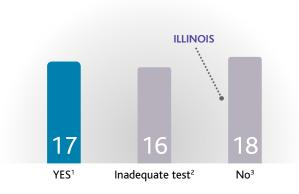
Fifteen states meet this goal by requiring that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Independent reviews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

<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?

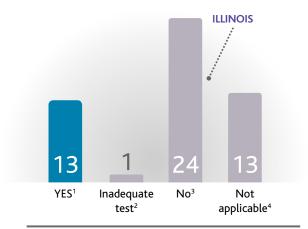


- Strong Practice: Alabama<sup>4</sup>, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia,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

Figure 15

Do states measure knowledge of the science of

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



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

# Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

### Background

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



### 1-D Analysis: Illinois



State Meets a Small Part of Goal Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2011





### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois requires that all new elementary teachers pass a general elementary/middle subject-matter test, the Illinois Licensure Testing System. This assessment lacks a specific mathematics subscore, so one can fail the mathematics portion and still pass the test.

Further, Illinois's early childhood education teachers, who are allowed to teach through grade 3, are not required to pass an adequate content test.

Although the elementary/middle test's standards appropriately address content in mathematics foundations by outlining areas such as algebra, geometry and statistics, the standards are not specifically geared to meet the needs of elementary teachers. In addition, Illinois posts only a limited number of sample items, and a review of this material calls into question the test's rigor; the test items representing elementary school content assess understanding at too superficial a level.

### Supporting Research

Illinois Licensure Testing System www.il.nesinc.com

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require all teacher candidates who teach elementary grades to pass a rigorous mathematics assessment.

Illinois should assess mathematics content with a rigorous assessment tool, such as the test required in Massachusetts that evaluates mathematics knowledge beyond an elementary school level and challenges candidates' understanding of underlying mathematics concepts. Such a test could also be used to allow candidates to test out of coursework requirements. Teacher candidates who lack minimum mathematics knowledge should not be eligible for licensure.

 Require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers.

Illinois must ensure that new teachers are prepared to teach the mathematics content required by the Common Core State Standards. Although the state's testing standards require some knowledge in key areas of mathematics, Illinois should require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers. This includes specific coursework in foundations, algebra and geometry, with some statistics coursework.

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois was helpful in providing facts that enhanced this analysis. In a subsequent response, Illinois added that updated requirements do provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers.

### Supporting Research

23 IAC Subtitle A, Subchapter B, Subpart B Section 26.300-26.470

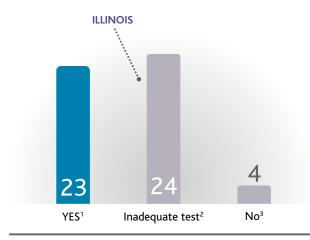


### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

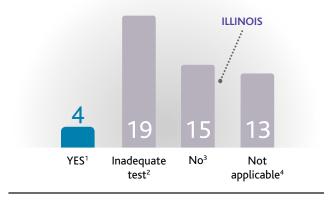
Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



- 1. 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: Illinois



State Does Not Meet Goal (会)



**Progress Since 2011** 

### **ANALYSIS**

Regrettably, although Illinois has redefined its licensure system, it appears the state still allows middle school teachers to teach on a generalist K-9 endorsement. This endorsement allows teachers to teach all subject areas in one classroom within this grade range.

Middle school endorsements may be added to either an elementary or secondary endorsement; however, only additional coursework is required.

Candidates who are teaching middle-level grades on the generalist license must only pass the elementary/middle grades content test.

### **Supporting Research**

Illinois Licensure Testing System www.il.nesinc.com **Endorsement Requirements** http://www.isbe.net/licensure/pdf/ELIS-FAQ-070113.pdf

### **RECOMMENDATION**

### Require content testing in all core areas.

Illinois should require subject-matter testing for all middle school teacher candidates in every core academic area they intend to teach as a condition of initial licensure. To ensure meaningful middle school content tests, the state should set its passing scores to reflect high levels of performance.

### Eliminate the generalist license.

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

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 Illinois who intend to teach a single subject should earn a major in that area.

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois asserted that middle school endorsements may be added to either an elementary or secondary endorsement; however, only additional coursework is required to add the middle grades endorsement. Senior high (9-12) endorsements require passing a content area test.

Illinois added that candidates who are teaching middle-level grades on the generalist license can only teach middle grades without a middle grades endorsement if a school is not departmentalized or if they are teaching middle grades in a minor teaching assignment.

In a subsequent response, Illinois indicated that new rules provide that a middle grades teacher is no longer a generalist, but must be specifically trained to teach specific content areas and provided with targeted training and preparation to be a middle grades teacher (grades 5-8).

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

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

<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.

Figure 21		No test does not report	z /	/
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content test in every core		\$\docume{\pi_{\colored}^{\pi_{\colored}}}\\ \docume{\pi_{\colored}^{\pi_{\colored}}}\\	Cense	6 / 6
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New Mexico				
New York	5			
North Carolina	6			
North Dakota				
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Virginia				Ц
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
	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.
- 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: Illinois



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois requires that its secondary teacher candidates pass an Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) content test to teach any core secondary subjects.

Unfortunately, Illinois 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.

Illinois requires secondary social science teacher candidates to earn a specific subject-area designation (e.g., economics, history, psychology) as part of the broad-field social science endorsement. In addition to completing 32 semester hours of coursework, candidates must also pass the state's subject-specific content test. Regrettably, Illinois allows these candidates to teach all areas of social science at the general level, regardless of the specific designation. However, to teach honors or AP classes, social science teachers must have the designation in that particular area. (For the state's science loophole, see Goal 1-G.)

To add an endorsement to a secondary certificate, teachers in Illinois must also pass a content test. However, teachers receiving a second designation in the sciences or social sciences must either complete 12 semester hours of coursework in the area and pass the required content test or complete a major in the area.

### **Supporting Research**

Illinois Licensure Testing System www.il.nesinc.com 23 Illinois Administrative Code 25.100 Exceptions to the Rules, Effective 2/1/12 http://www.isbe.net/certification/requirements/excptns\_endsmt\_struct\_eff\_feb12.pdf

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

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

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

Although Illinois's policy ensures that social science teachers who teach upper-level courses possess adequate subject-matter knowledge, it falls short when it comes to general-level courses. An economics teacher, having passed only the state's economics content test, could go on to teach political science or anthropology—just not at the honors or AP level. More alarming, perhaps, is that a psychology teacher, having passed only the state's psychology assessment, could teach generallevel history or geography. The state should ensure that all students, not only those in advanced classes, have teachers with sufficient and appropriate content knowledge.

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

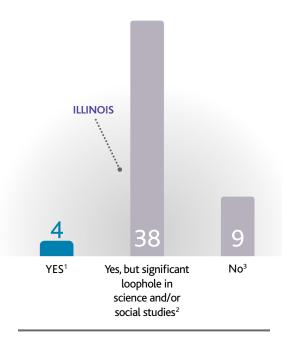
Illinois asserted that in addition to completing 32 semester hours of coursework, candidates must also pass the state's specific content test and complete 12 hours in the designation.



### \*\* 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.

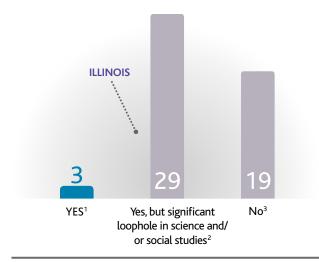
Figure 23 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



- 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<sup>5</sup>, Washington, Wyoming<sup>6</sup>
- 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.

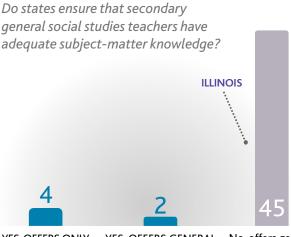
Figure 24

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



YES, OFFERS ONLY SINGLE SUBJECT SOCIAL STUDIES LICENSES<sup>1</sup> YES, OFFERS GENERAL No, offers general **SOCIAL STUDIES** LICENSE WITH ADEQUATE TESTING<sup>2</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.)

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

### Background

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



### 1-G Analysis: Illinois



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois requires secondary science teacher candidates to earn a specific subject-area designation (e.g., biology, physics) as part of the broad-field science endorsement. In addition to completing 32 semester hours of coursework, candidates must also pass the state's subject-specific content test. Regrettably, Illinois allows these candidates to teach all areas of science at the general level, regardless of the specific designation. However, to teach honors or AP classes, science teachers must have the designation in that particular area.

### **Supporting Research**

Illinois Licensure Testing System www.il.nesinc.com

23 Illinois Administrative Code 25.100

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Although Illinois's policy ensures that science teachers who teach upper-level courses possess adequate subject-matter knowledge, it falls short when it comes to general-level courses. A biology teacher, having only passed the state's biology content test, could go on to teach chemistry and physics—just not at the honors or AP level. The state should ensure that all students, not only those in advanced classes, have teachers with sufficient and appropriate content knowledge.

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois asserted that in addition to completing 32 semester hours of coursework, candidates must also pass the state's specific content test and complete 12 hours in the designation.

Alabama	Figure 27	Ď	/8	. /	/
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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: Illinois



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois only offers a K-12 special education certification.

All special education teacher candidates are required to pass the ICTS Special Education General Curriculum test, which is comprised of four subareas: reading and literacy, math, natural sciences and social sciences. These subareas are not individually graded.

### **Supporting Research**

Illinois Administrative Code 23 IAC 25.43

Special Education General Curriculum Test

http://www.isbe.net/certification/pdf/SECG\_fact\_sheet.pdf

### **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 Illinois 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.

Illinois should ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess knowledge of the subject matter at hand. The state should require a rigorous content test that reports separate passing scores for each content area. Illinois 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. Further, the state should ensure that content reflected in its test for special education teachers is no less rigorous than what is expected of general education teachers.

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, Illinois's current policy of only requiring a general content test geared to special education teachers is problematic and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards. To provide a middle ground, Illinois 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.

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois asserted that it offers a PK-21 special education certification, and an endorsement is issued at a grade level. P-21 candidates are not required to take the special education general curriculum test. Candidates seeking a PK endorsement must pass the special education general curriculum test and the applied content area test (i.e., LBS1, deaf and hard of hearing, etc.). Pending legislation will differentiate grade levels.

### Supporting Research

http://www.isbe.net/rules/proposed/pdfs/25wf.pdf

Figure 29		Offes K-72 and	(5)44
Do states distinguish	DOESNOT OFFIRA	<i>≥</i> /	tificatii
between elementary	5 3		8 / 8
and secondary special	SNO.	5 K- 1	Sony
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West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	16	7	28



### **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 real

Which states require subject-matter testing 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

- 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: Illinois





State Meets Goal ( Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois requires all new teachers to pass a pedagogy test based on its standards.

The state requires new teachers to pass its Assessment of Professional Teaching test, which assesses candidates on professional and pedagogical knowledge and skills.

Illinois is also part of the Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA) consortium and began a pilot program in Spring 2011. Beginning September 1, 2015, all teacher candidates must pass an evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness. Institutions must begin phasing in this approved teacher performance assessment no later than July 1, 2013...

### **Supporting Research**

http://www.icts.nesinc.com/IL15\_testselection.asp http://aacte.org/index.php?/Programs/

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. In a subsequent response, Illinois added that the pass rate for the Praxis III should not be compared to the cut scores for passage or pass rates of the edTPA. There is no appropriate manner by which the Praxis pass rate should be compared to the usage of the edTPA. The cut score for passing the edTPA in Illinois has yet to be determined and will not be determined based on the Praxis III in any way.

### LAST WORD

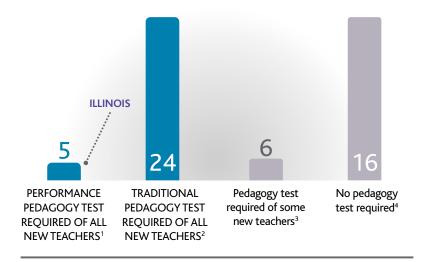
NCTQ is not suggesting that the Praxis III is relevant for establishing cut scores on the edTPA. The point is that the track record of performance assessments in screening candidates has been mixed, and states should bear that in mind as they proceed with the edTPA.



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: Illinois



State Partly Meets Goal 🏻 💮 Progress Since 2011



### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois requires that student teaching credit be "structured as part of comprehensive field experiences and clinical practice."

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, cooperating teachers must be licensed and qualified to teach in the area, have at least three years of experience, and have received a proficient rating or above on their most recent evaluation.

### **Supporting Research**

Illinois Administrative Code, Title 23, Subtitle A, Chapter I, Subchapter b, Part 25.620

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis.

Figure 34		/
riguic 34	SA GER	STUPENT TEACHING 4575-47 LEAST TO WEEL
Do states ensure a	NG 71	EAG, 18
high-quality student	FR47,	\$\frac{F\V_1}{47}\right\}
teaching experience?	SELECT FFECTION	45.5
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Arizona Arkansas		
California		
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Florida		
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North Dakota		
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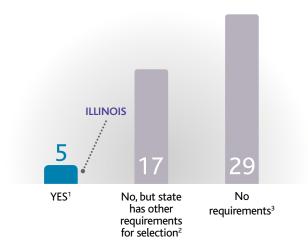
### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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.

<sup>1.</sup> West Virginia allows candidates to student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

Figure 35

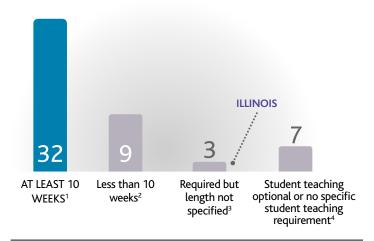
Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



- 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
- 4. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Maryland, Montana
- West Virginia allows candidates to student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

# Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

# Goal K − Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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

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

### 1-K Analysis: Illinois



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



( Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois'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.

Illinois does rely on some objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs. Beginning in 2018, all teacher preparation programs in Illinois will be required to submit to the state data regarding performance evaluations.

Regrettably, Illinois fails to apply any transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval. The state 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, only one program in the state has been identified as low performing—an additional indicator that programs lack accountability.

Illinois posts aggregate and summary assessment pass-rate data per institution on its website; however, the data has not been updated since 2008-2009.

In Illinois, there is some overlap of accreditation and state approval. Review teams are comprised solely of NCATE/CAEP members, and the state has delegated its program review process to NCATE/CAEP.

### **Supporting Research**

Illinois Administrative Code Title 23, Section 25.115 Title II State Reports https://title2.ed.gov Report Cards http://www.isbe.state.il.us/certification/html/t2.htm 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, Illinois should consider the academic achievement gains of students taught by programs' graduates, averaged over the first three years of teaching. Data that are aggregated to the institution (e.g., combining elementary and secondary programs) rather than disaggregated to the specific preparation program are not useful for accountability purposes. Such aggregation can mask significant differences in performance among programs.

### ■ Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance.

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

1. Satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison;

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

### ■ Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.

Merely collecting the types of data described above is insufficient for accountability purposes. The next and perhaps more critical step is for the state to establish precise minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category of data. Illinois 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 state's website.

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

### Maintain full authority over teacher preparation program approval.

Illinois should ensure that it is the state that considers the evidence of program performance and makes the decision about whether programs should continue to be authorized to prepare teachers.

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois asserted that programs are approved using criteria based on the rules, school code and administrative procedures set forth by the state, with members of the State Educator Preparation and Licensure board reviewing program proposals based on this criteria. There is also an annual program report in which subscores are reviewed.

Illinois added that it is responsible for initial institutional and unit recognition and for the program review process. Review teams are comprised of state representatives and trained review team members.

In a subsequent response, Illinois stated that great efforts are expended by many people to ensure teacher preparation program accountability is ongoing. The state cited its rules that explain:

Each recognized educational unit shall submit a separate annual program report for each approved program to the State Superintendent of Education, in a format defined by the State Superintendent, no sooner than October 1 and no later than November 30. Content-specific endorsements shall be considered separate programs for reporting purposes. The annual program report shall: 1) update any information previously provided; 2) summarize data about the program's overall structure, faculty, and candidates, and the results of various assessments.

Illinois continued that this Annual Program Report is an extensive report that is reviewed for any information that may provide cause for concern about the quality of an educator preparation program. Each program report is thoroughly reviewed by a team of peers and/or a team of State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board Members (SEPLB). If any red flags are realized, the program is invited to appear before

the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board to explain and to explain any remedies that may have been or plan to be put in place. This process has provided the opportunity for the SEPLB to place programs and sometimes units on probation until concerns are remedied to the satisfaction of the SEPLB. A number of programs and/or units have been placed on probation over the course of the past two years.

### **Supporting Research**

23 Administrative Code Section 25.130, -.145, -.155, -.160 http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/25ark.pdf http://www.isbe.net/prep-eval/default.htm http://www.isbe.net/SEPLB/default.htm

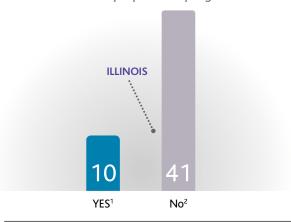
Figure 38	OBJECTIVE PROGRAM.		
Do states hold teacher	% 4 20 20	2. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5.	
preparation programs	DAT.	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	PUBL,
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Arizona			
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California			
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Idaho			
ILLINOIS			
Indiana			
Iowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			2
Louisiana			2
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Michigan		1	
Minnesota			
Mississippi	1		
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### **\*\*** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



- 1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia<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

Alabama Alaska	STATEHA APPROVAL	Overlap o	National, required to
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Connecticut			
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Massachusetts			
Michigan			
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Wyoming			
	7	31	13

Figure 41

What is the relationship between state program

approval and national

<sup>1.</sup> National accreditation can be substituted for state approval.

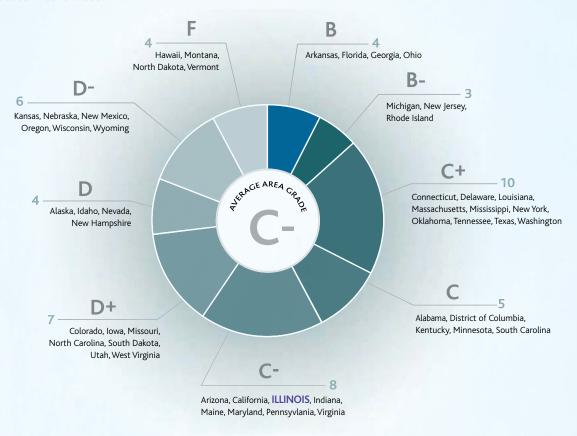
<sup>2.</sup> For institutions with 2,000 or more full-time equivalent students

# **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.)

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



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

### Background

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



### 2-A Analysis: Illinois





State Partly Meets Goal 🕟 Bar Raised for this Goal 🧲



**Progress Since 2011** 

### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois offers three alternate routes to certification: Alternative Certification, the Alternate Route to Certification and the Resident Teacher Certification Program.

Neither the Alternative Certification nor the Alternative Route to Teacher Certification programs requires candidates to demonstrate prior academic performance, such as a minimum GPA, as an entrance standard for the alternate route programs. The Resident Teacher Certification program requires that applicants have a minimum 3.0 GPA for admission.

All routes require candidates to pass a test of basic skills prior to admission. A subject-matter test is required for individuals to begin teaching in the classroom but not for initial entrance to the alternate route program.

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

As of July 2013, Illinois implemented a new system of educator licensure. Alternative Certification, the Alternate Route to Certification and the Resident Teacher Certification Program will convert to an Educator License with Stipulations (ELS). Candidates are required to pass a Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) or the equivalent of a basic skills test.

### **Supporting Research**

105 ILCS 5/21-5b; - 5c

Illinois Alternative and Resident Teacher Certification Programs http://www.isbe.net/profprep/pdfs/alternate.pdf

Illinois Educator Licensure FAQ

http://www.isbe.state.il.us/licensure/pdf/ELIS-faq.pdf

Educator License with Stipulations Endorsement Requirements http://www.isbe.state.il.us/licensure/requirements/ed-lic-w-stip.pdf

### RECOMMENDATION

### Screen all candidates for academic ability.

Illinois is commended for requiring Resident Teacher Certification program candidates to show evidence of above-average academic performance. The state should require that candidates to all of its alternate routes provide some evidence of good academic performance. The standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of 3.0 or higher. A rigorous test appropriate for candidates who have already completed a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be ideal.

### Reconsider basic skills test requirement.

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. Although Illinois's basic skills test is notably more rigorous than similar assessments used in other states (see Goal 1-A), an assessment designed for individuals who already have a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be a more appropriate measure of academic standing.

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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

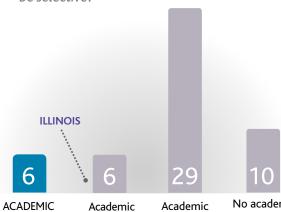
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Virginia		*	
Washington		*	*
West Virginia		*	
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			



### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 44 Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



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

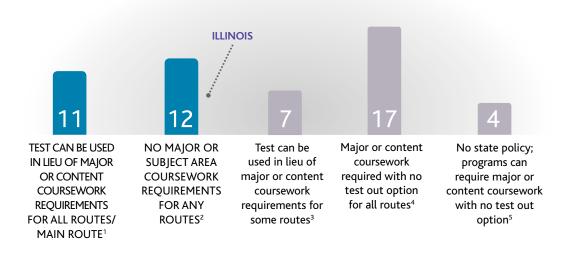
standard exceeds that of traditional programs for some routes<sup>2</sup> standard too low for all routes<sup>3</sup>

No academic standard for any route4

- 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
- 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
- 4. Alaska, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 5. Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, North Dakota

# Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

## ➤ Goal B – Alternate Route Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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



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



### Background

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

### 2-B Analysis: Illinois



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



**Progress Since 2011** 

### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois requires candidates for Alternate Teacher Certification and Alternative Route to Teacher Certification to complete a course of study in education theory and instructional methods, but the state does not specify the amount of coursework required. Teachers in the Resident Teacher Certification program must complete a six-week intensive teacher preparation course the summer prior to entering the classroom and then work toward a master's degree while teaching.

Alternate Teacher Certification candidates have the opportunity for practice teaching, although the state does not provide guidance on this requirement. Candidates in the Alternative Route to Teacher Certification and the Resident Teacher Certification routes are mentored by a certified teacher assigned by the school district for the first year.

The state requires that alternate route programs require less time to complete than traditional programs. The current range for program completion is one and a half to two and a half years. However, teachers may apply for the Standard Teaching Certificate only after completing four years of teaching.

As of July 2013, Illinois implemented a new system of educator licensure. Alternative Certification, the Alternate Route to Certification and the Resident Teacher Certification Program will convert to an Educator License with Stipulations (ELS). There are no specific guidelines about the nature or quantity of coursework for the educator license with stipulations at this time. There is no limit on the amount of coursework that can be required overall, nor on the amount of coursework a candidate can be required to take while also teaching.

### Supporting Research

105 ILCS 5/21-5b; - 5c

Illinois Alternative and Resident Teacher Certification Programs http://www.isbe.net/profprep/pdfs/alternate.pdf Illinois Educator Licensure FAQ http://www.isbe.state.il.us/licensure/pdf/ELIS-faq.pdf

Educator License with Stipulations Endorsement Requirements http://www.isbe.state.il.us/licensure/requirements/ed-lic-w-stip.pdf

### **RECOMMENDATION**

### **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.

### **Extend induction to all alternate route teachers.**

While Illinois is commended for requiring Alternative Route to Teacher Certification and the Resident Teacher Certification teachers to work with a mentor, Alternate Teacher Certification teachers should also receive this support. In addition, the state should consider providing sufficient guidelines to ensure that the induction program is structured for new teacher success. Effective strategies include practice teaching prior to teaching in the classroom, intensive mentoring with full classroom support in the first few weeks or months of school, a reduced teaching load and release time to allow new teachers to observe experienced teachers during each school day.

### Grant standard certification in fewer than four years.

Although Illinois policy states that alternate route programs should be more streamlined than traditional preparation programs, the state should consider shortening the length of time it takes an alternate route teacher to earn standard certification. The route should allow candidates to earn full certification no later than the end of the second year of teaching.

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. Illinois added that Alternative Preparation Programs are held to the same standards and expectations as all programs. These programs must be aligned to the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards, applicable content standards, and all other required standards. The state also cited and quoted the specific requirements for alternate route programs found in state code.

### **Supporting Research**

23 Illinois Administrative Code 25.60

Figure 47		/ 180	-	/	/
Do states' alternate routes		ZEW <sub>C</sub>	/ Æ	. / Jan	/ 80
provide efficient preparation	J. K.	/ %	IF I	Z Z E	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
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Arizona			*	*	
Arkansas	*	*	*		<b>*</b>
California Colorado	_				
Connecticut	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	
Delaware	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>→</b>
District of Columbia	$\hat{\Box}$		$\hat{\Box}$	<u> </u>	Ô
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Georgia	*	*	<b>*</b>		*
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Virginia	*				
Washington			*		*
West Virginia		*	*		*
Wisconsin					
			A		



### **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.
- 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: Illinois



State Meets Goal (=)



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois does not limit the usage or providers of its alternate routes.

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

The state is commended for structuring its programs to allow a diversity of providers. A good diversity of providers helps all programs, both university- and nonuniversity-based, to improve.

As of July 2013, Illinois implemented a new system of educator licensure. Alternative Certification, the Alternate Route to Certification and the Resident Teacher Certification Program will convert to an Educator License with Stipulations (ELS).

### **Supporting Research**

105 ILCS 5/21-5b

Illinois Educator Licensure FAQ http://www.isbe.state.il.us/licensure/pdf/ELIS-faq.pdf Educator License with Stipulations Endorsement Requirements http://www.isbe.state.il.us/licensure/requirements/ed-lic-w-stip.pdf

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

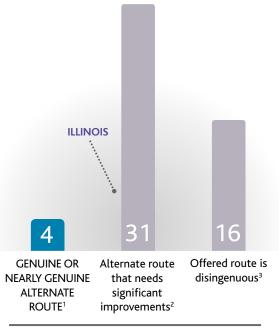
Illinois was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.

Figure 49	4CROS	WOE
Are states' alternate	SAGE	Jr PRC
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Washington	*	*
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Wisconsin		*
Wyoming		
For some alternate routes For most	or most widely 🜟 F	

### \*\* 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?



<sup>1.</sup> Strong Practice: Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, Rhode Island

<sup>2.</sup> 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

<sup>3.</sup> Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming

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Wyoming						*				

# 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: Illinois



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois 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.

Illinois 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.

### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois pointed out that what NCTQ refers to as part-time teaching licenses the state refers to as educator licenses with stipulations endorsed for Provisional Career and Technical Educator. The requirements of Section 25.72 apply to individuals seeking an educator license with stipulations endorsed for provisional career and technical educator pursuant to Section 21B-20(2)(F) of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/21B-20(2)(F)]. Each applicant for an educator license with stipulations endorsed for provisional career and technical educator shall present evidence of having completed 8,000 hours of work experience in the last 10 years immediately preceding application in the skill area for which the applicant is seeking employment. (See Section 21B-20(2)(F).) The required evidence of this work experience shall be written statements from former supervisors who can be reached for verification or, in cases in which supervisors are no longer available to verify the individual's employment, affidavits by the applicant describing the work experience.

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### **EXAMPLE 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: Illinois



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

As of July 1, 2013, out-of-state candidates in Illinois may apply for the Professional Educator License. They must have successfully completed the following: a preparation program with an applicable major, at least three semester hours in cross-categorical special education methods, at least six semester hours of coursework in methods of reading and reading in the content area, and at least three semester hours in ESL/bilingual methods. Candidates must also have passed the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP), applicable content tests and the Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT).

Candidates seeking middle grade endorsements in Illinois must complete 18 semester hours in the content area and two additional three-semester-hour courses in middle grades education. One course must include coursework in middle school philosophy, curriculum and instructional methods for designing and teaching developmentally appropriate programs in the middle grades, including content area reading instruction. The additional three semester hours of coursework must be in educational psychology, focusing on the developmental characteristics of early adolescents and the role of the middle grade teacher in assessment, coordination, and referral of students to health and social services.

Out-of-state teachers who do not meet these requirements may apply for the Educator License with Stipulations, which allows two years to meet the requirements for the professional license.

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

Illinois 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.

Although Illinois requires online teachers—or those giving instruction in remote education programs—to be certificated, the state does not articulate whether those instructors based outside Illinois must meet the state's certification requirements.

### **Supporting Research**

Application Checklist
http://www.isbe.state.il.us/certification/pdf/application\_checklist.pdf
Information for Out-of-State Applicants
http://www.isbe.state.il.us/certification/pdf/oos-req-IL-lic-req0613.pdf

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Illinois should insert flexibility into its policy by allowing a test-out option for its coursework requirements.

Illinois is also urged to discontinue its practice of transcript analysis, for it 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 Illinois. Regardless of whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route, all certified out-of-state teachers should receive equal treatment.

- Require evidence of effective teaching when determining eligibility for full certification.
  - Rather than rely on transcripts to assess credentials, Illinois 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).
- Ensure that requirements for online teachers are as rigorous as those for in-state teachers.

  Illinois should ensure that online teachers based in other states are at least equally as qualified as those who teach in the state. However, Illinois 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.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

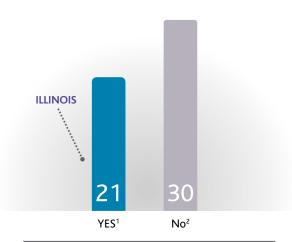
Illinois was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state added that transcripts are not required for all applicants.

#### **LAST WORD**

The submission of transcripts should be unnecessary for certified out-of-state teachers, unless the state has some reason to suspect that the certifying state routinely certifies teachers who do not have a degree.

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
- Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana', Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Allows one year to meet testing requirements.
- 4. Maine grants waiver for basic skills and pedagogy tests.
- Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification; all others given two years to meet testing requirements.
- 6. Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification.
- 7. No subject-matter testing for any teacher certification.

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

Figure 56

<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.

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

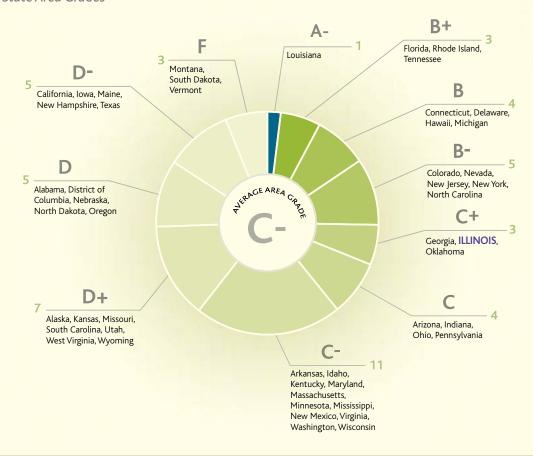
Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet Alabama's and Texas's own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate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

# **Area 3 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Identifying Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



## Topics Included In This Area

- 3-A: State Data Systems 3-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.)

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



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

#### Background

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



# 3-A Analysis: Illinois



State Nearly Meets Goal 🕟 Bar Raised for this Goal





Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

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

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

Illinois publishes an annual report entitled "Educator Supply and Demand in Illinois." This document includes the number of program completers and new certificates issued, broken down by type of certification, along with demand factors that include enrollment projections and workforce growth. An analysis of the over/under supply of teachers presents data on areas for which institutions may be producing too many or too few educators, the unfilled position data used to identify regional shortages (i.e., where supply has not met local demand) and district ratings of the supply of applicants for vacancies.

#### **Supporting Research**

Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org Supply and Demand http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/supply\_and\_demand.htm

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

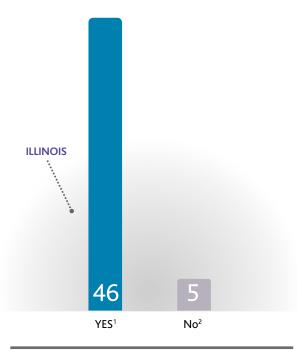
To ensure that data provided through the state data system are actionable and reliable, Illinois should articulate a definition of teacher of record and require its consistent use throughout the state. The state's definition should reflect instruction rather than grading, and Illinois should develop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

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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,

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

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

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

## Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



## 3-B Analysis: Illinois



State Partly Meets Goal (🖨) Progress Since 2011



#### **ANALYSIS**

Although the state requires student performance data to be a factor, Illinois does not require that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations. Districts develop evaluation systems based on criteria set forth by the state, or they can choose to use all or a portion of the state's model, the Model Teacher Evaluation System.

By the 2016-2017 school year, student achievement must be a "significant" factor in teacher evaluations. Illinois has defined "significant" as at least 30 percent of the performance evaluation rating assigned. Further, joint committees formed by school districts must agree on the student growth criteria within 180 days, or a district must default to the state model, which requires student growth to count for 50 percent.

For each category of teacher, districts must include the use of at least one Type I (statewide or beyond) or Type II (districtwide) assessment and at least one Type III (aligned with course curriculum) assessment, along with a measurement model to assess student growth on these assessments. SLOs are one option districts can choose as a measurement model. Teachers without Type I or Type II assessments must use two Type III assessments. Examples include teacher-created assessments and student work samples or portfolios.

The following four performance categories must be used: excellent, proficient, needs improvement and unsatisfactory.

Classroom observations are required.

#### **Supporting Research**

Performance Evaluation Reform Act http://www.isbe.state.il.us/PEAC/pdf/PA096-0861\_SB315.pdf

23 IAC 50.110, -.200

Guidance on Student Learning Objectives in Teacher Evaluation: Fact Sheet http://www.isbe.state.il.us/PEAC/pdf/guidance/13-5-te-slo-fact-sheet.pdf

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Illinois's requirement falls short by failing to require that evidence of student learning be the most significant criterion. The state should either require a common evaluation instrument in which evidence of student learning is the most significant criterion, or it should specifically require that student learning be the preponderant criterion in local evaluation processes. This can be accomplished by requiring objective evidence to count for at least half of the evaluation score or through other scoring mechanisms, such as a matrix, that ensure that nothing affects the overall score more. Whether state or locally developed, a teacher should not be able to receive a satisfactory rating if found ineffective in the classroom.

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

Although Illinois requires classroom observations as part of teacher evaluations, the state should 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.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. In a subsequent response, Illinois indicated that, contrary to the recommendations for this goal, the state does require that the evaluation of teacher practice be based upon the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards. Per PERA Administrative Rules, the school district is required to use an instructional framework that is based on research regarding effective instruction, addresses at least planning, instructional delivery, and classroom management, and aligns to the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards. The framework shall align to the roles and responsibilities of each teacher who is being evaluated and contain a rubric that aligns to the instructional framework being used. The teacher evaluation plan must, by statute, consider the teacher's attendance and competency in the subject matter taught, as well as specify the teacher's strengths and weaknesses and the reasons for identifying the areas as such. The Performance Evaluation Advisory Council has recommended the best tool to align to this is the Danielson Framework for Teaching.

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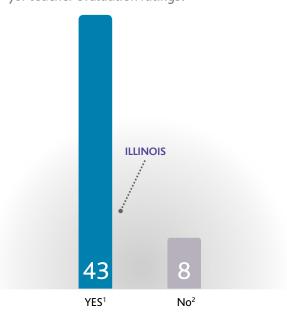
The state has an ESEA waiver requiring an evaluation system that includes student achievement as a significant factor. However, no specific guidelines or policies have been articulated.

<sup>2.</sup> Explicitly defined for the 2013-2014 school year.

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

Figure 65

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



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

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

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

 $<sup>{\</sup>it 3. Requires parent or peer surveys; whole-school student learning or student surveys.}\\$ 



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

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

Figure 66 Do states direct how teachers should be evaluated? Alabama Alaska Arizona П Arkansas California П П Colorado Connecticut П Delaware П District of Columbia П П Florida Georgia Hawaii П П Idaho П П **ILLINOIS** Indiana П Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland П П Massachusetts Michigan П П Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana П Nebraska Nevada П П New Hampshire П New Jersey П New Mexico П П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П П Vermont Virginia П Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming П П 9 12 30

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

Figure 67		_ /	EVALUATORS MUSTRE	THERS
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West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
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	4	34	3	13

<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.
- 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: Illinois



State Does Not Meet Goal ( 🔶 Progress Since 2011



#### **ANALYSIS**

Regrettably, Illinois does not ensure that all teachers are evaluated annually.

Nonprobationary teachers are evaluated once every two years. Those rated as either needs improvement or unsatisfactory must be evaluated at least once during the following school year. New teachers in Illinois must be evaluated annually. However, the state does not articulate when the evaluation must occur.

Also, all new teachers—and nonprobationary teachers who receive a rating of needs improvement or unsatisfactory—must be observed three times per school year, two of which must be formal observations. All other nonprobationary teachers must be observed twice during the observation cycle.

#### **Supporting Research**

Performance Evaluation Reform Act http://www.isbe.state.il.us/PEAC/pdf/PA096-0861\_SB315.pdf 23 IAC 50.110

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Require annual formal evaluations for all teachers.

All teachers in Illinois 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, Illinois should require multiple observations for all teachers, even those who have nonprobationary status.

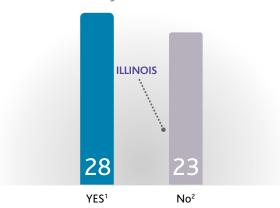
#### Ensure that new teachers are observed and receive feedback early in the school year.

It is critical that schools and districts closely monitor the performance of new teachers. Illinois 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.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. Illinois added that although the legislation and administrative rules do not specify when the evaluations of teachers must occur, this is a process issue that is generally addressed in collective bargaining agreements and/or district evaluation plans/policies. But, for teacher evaluations for a school year to be considered for reductions in force in that year, the teacher evaluation generally must be completed no later than 75 days prior to the end of the school term in order to legally notify a teacher that they will not be re-employed the following school year. Consequently, because a pre and a post conference is required for each formal observation, it is very unlikely that teacher observations throughout the year be held up until the end of that possible cycle. It is in the best interest of all parties for the observations to be performed throughout the school year, and especially during the first three quarters of the school year.

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

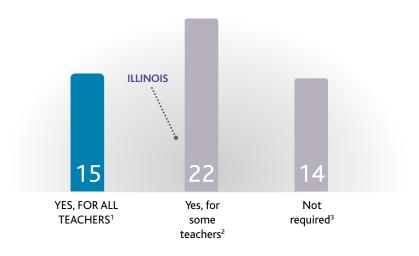


- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland<sup>3</sup>, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West 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
- ${\it 3. Regulations sunset on September 30, 2014.}$

Figure 70		ANNUAL EVALUATION OF
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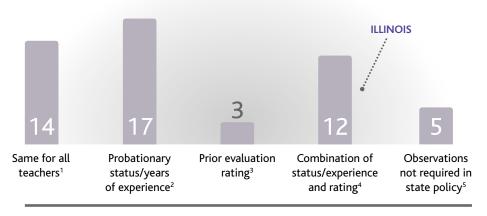
Figure 71

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?



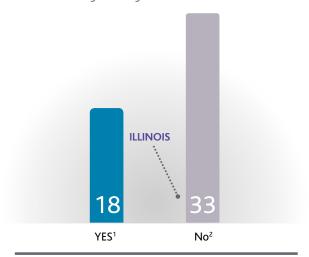
- Alabama, District of Columbia<sup>6</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas<sup>7</sup>, California<sup>7</sup>, Colorado, Florida, Kansas<sup>7</sup>, Minnesota<sup>7</sup>, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, Oregon, Pennsylvania<sup>7</sup>, South Carolina, South Dakota<sup>7</sup>, Utah<sup>7</sup>, Washington, West Virginia<sup>8</sup>
- 3. Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio
- 4. Arizona<sup>9</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 Dakota<sup>3</sup>, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia
- 2. Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia<sup>4</sup>, Wisconsin,
- 3. New teachers must be evaluated early in the year; observations not explicit.
- 4. Teachers in their first year are informally evaluated early in the year.

## Goal D - Tenure

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



## 3-D Analysis: Illinois



State Partly Meets Goal



#### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois could do more to connect tenure decisions to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

The state requires a four-year probationary period, after which a teacher is eligible for nonprobationary status, or contractual continued service. To qualify for nonprobationary status, teachers must receive four consecutive overall evaluation ratings consisting of at least proficient in the last term (school year) and at least proficient in either the second or third term. If at the end of four years, the teacher does not qualify for nonprobationary status, then he or she is dismissed.

Teachers in Illinois may also qualify for accelerated contractual continued service with three consecutive terms in which the teacher receives overall evaluation ratings of excellent.

Because Illinois's teacher evaluation ratings are not centered primarily on evidence of student learning (see Goal 3-B), basing tenure decisions on these evaluation ratings ensures that classroom effectiveness is considered, but it does not ensure that it is the preponderant criterion.

#### **Supporting Research**

Illinois Compiled Statutes 105:5/24-11; 105:5/34-84

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.
  Illinois 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.
- Ensure that the probationary period is adequate.
  Illinois should make certain that its probationary period allows sufficient time to collect data that adequately reflect teacher performance.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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



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

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

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

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	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: Illinois



State Partly Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Although the state's policy has considerable room for improvement, Illinois is on the right track when it comes to basing licensure advancement and renewal on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

New legislation in Illinois removed the tiered licensure system and replaced it with the Professional Educator License. This license must be renewed every five years by completing one of the following: an advanced degree, at least eight semester hours of coursework in an approved education-related program or 120 continuing professional development units.

Teachers can earn continuing professional development units, including but not limited to the following: completion of at least four semester hours of graduate level coursework on the assessment of one's own performance in relation to the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards; completion of all activities pertaining to NBPTS certification; completion of a performance-based assessment; completion of requirements for meeting the Illinois criteria for becoming "highly qualified"; earning a subsequent certificate or additional endorsement; or earning a postbaccalaureate, education-related certificate.

The superintendent may suspend or revoke a certificate for incompetency, which is now defined as receiving an unsatisfactory rating on a performance evaluation for two or more school terms of service within a period of seven school terms of service. When determining action based on incompetency, the superintendent must consider factors that include the following: the time between the unsatisfactory ratings, the quality of the remediation plans and whether one of the unsatisfactory ratings occurred during the first year of a teaching assignment.

#### **Supporting Research**

Illinois Administrative Code Title 23,25.25 and 25.800

105 ILCS 5/21B-20; 21B-45; 21-14(e)

http://www.isbe.state.il.us/certification/html/experienced\_teacher.htm

http://www.isbe.net/certification/pdf/prof\_development\_requirements.pdf

http://www.isbe.net/certification/html/new\_teacher.htm

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Require evidence of effectiveness as a part of teacher licensing policy.
  - Although Illinois's new revocation policy is a step in the right direction, the state should also incorporate performance reviews into its license renewal policy.
- Discontinue licensure requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.
  - While targeted requirements may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Illinois's general, nonspecific coursework requirements for license advancement and renewal merely call for teachers to complete a certain amount of seat time. These requirements do not correlate with teacher effectiveness.
- End license advancement tied to master's degrees.
  - While an option (not a requirement) for advancement, Illinois should not emphasize obtaining a master's degree as a means of license advancement for teachers. Research is conclusive and emphatic that master's degrees do not have any significant correlation to classroom performance. Rather, advancement should be based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

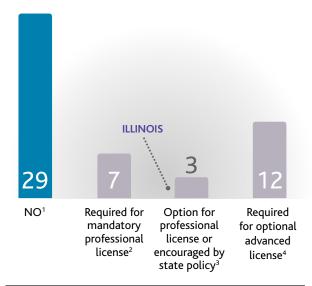
Illinois was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state also noted that pending legislation will affect this statement: "Teachers must renew their licenses every five years by completing approved professional development, including four semester hours of graduate credit or 120 clock hours of professional development aligned with Illinois standards."

Figure 78	OBJECTIVE FUDENCE OF	£ /		/.
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- 1. 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

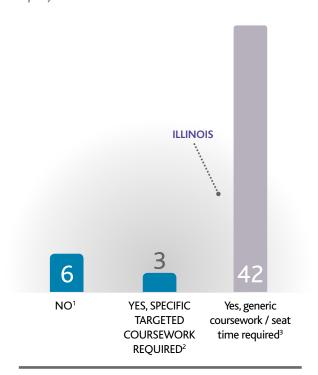
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?



- 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
- 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

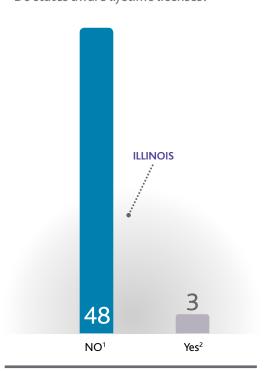
Do states require teachers to take additional coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



- 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, Mississipipi, 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: Illinois



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Beginning in 2013, school report cards will contain data regarding the percentage of teachers rated "Proficient" or "Excellent" by the state's teacher evaluation system. School report cards also contain data on teacher absenteeism and turnover at each school. In 2014, data on "teacher qualifications" will be available on school report cards; however, it is not clear at present what will be included in this category.

#### **Supporting Research**

2013 Illinois Report Card Mock Up http://iirc.niu.edu/HTMLPage.aspx?source=newreportcard

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

Providing comparative data for schools with similar poverty and minority populations would yield an even more comprehensive picture of gaps in the equitable distribution of teachers.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

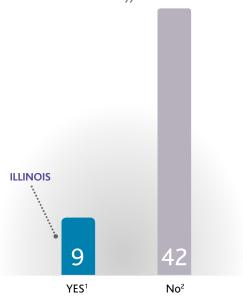
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#### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

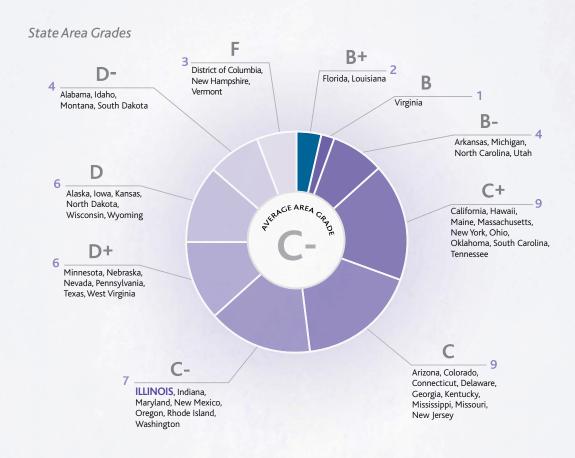


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas³, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts<sup>4</sup>, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida<sup>5</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, 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



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

# Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

## Goal A - Induction

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



## 4-A Analysis: Illinois



State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois requires that all districts develop induction and mentoring programs that adhere to requirements set forth by the State Board of Education. Schools may receive up to \$1,200 for each new teacher provided its plan assigns a mentor teacher to each new teacher for at least two years. The state requires that mentors and teachers must have at least 40 hours of contact per year and further specifies that 30 of those hours must be face-to-face meetings.

Mentors must have been teaching for at least three years and must have ratings of either "excellent" or "proficient" on the two most recent performance evaluations. Illinois requires all mentor programs to be evaluated to determine their impact on retention and performance of beginning teachers. New teachers must be granted release time and reduced course loads for both teachers and mentors. The state induction guidelines required that all induction and mentoring programs must be aligned with the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards' content area standards and any applicable local school improvement and development plans.

#### **Supporting Research**

105 ILCS 5/Art. 21A

23 Illinois Administrative Code 65.110-170
Induction and Mentoring Standards
http://www.isbe.state.il.us/certification/pdf/induction\_mentoring.pdf

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Prioritize funding for induction program.

Illinois is commended for delineating strong policy to support new teachers. However, the code indicates that funding may not always be available for this program. NCTQ encourages the state to prioritize funding for its induction program.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

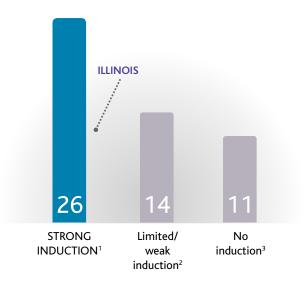
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#### **TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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: Illinois



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois requires that a copy of the evaluation is included in the teacher's personnel file and that a copy is given to the teacher. In addition, the evaluation plan must include the specification of the teacher's strengths and weaknesses and supporting reasons for the comments made. Evaluators are also instructed to give feedback after each classroom observation orally or in writing. The state also specifies that professional development activities for teachers with needs improvement or unsatisfactory evaluations must be aligned with findings from teacher evaluations. However, the state does not require that all teachers receive professional development linked to evaluation results. In addition, teachers rated unsatisfactory are placed on 90-day remediation plans.

#### **Supporting Research**

Illinois Compiled Statute, 105, Sec. 24A-5
Illinois Administrative Code Title 23 Section 50:120

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ 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. Illinois should ensure that districts utilize teacher evaluation results in determining professional development needs and activities for all teachers not just those rated needs improvement or unsatisfactory.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Illinois recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

#### **LAST WORD**

This analysis was updated subsequent to the state's review.



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

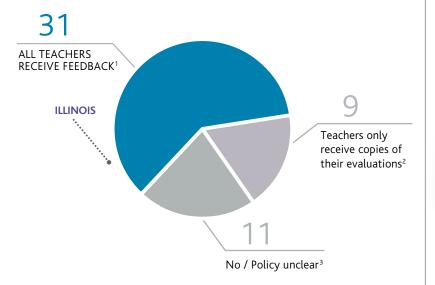
Louisiana and North Carolina require that teachers receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations and direct districts to connect professional development to teachers' identified needs. Both states also require that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement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

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

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Figure 90

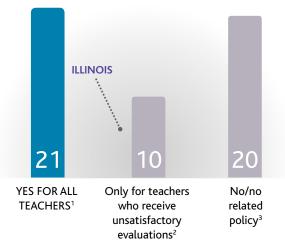
Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?



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

Figure 91

Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



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

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

#### Background

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



### 4-C Analysis: Illinois



State Meets Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Although Illinois gives local districts the authority for pay scales, the state requires minimum salaries based on teachers' years of experience and earned advanced degrees, in effect mandating how districts will pay teachers.

#### **Supporting Research**

105 Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS) 5/24-8; 5/10-20.7

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Give districts flexibility to determine their own pay structure and scales.

While Illinois does not require local districts to adhere to a state-dictated schedule, it still mandates a minimum salary based on years of experience and earned advanced degree, thereby not giving full authority to districts. Furthermore, considering that the minimum salary requirements are based on the 1980 school year, it is questionable that they serve any purpose at all.

Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.

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

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

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

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**



#### **TEXAMPLES 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.

on years of service, experience and training.

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<sup>1.</sup> Colorado gives districts the option of a salary schedule, a performance pay policy or a combination of both. 2. Rhode Island requires that local district salary schedules are based

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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.)

 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: Illinois



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

While still leaving districts with the flexibility to determine their own pay scales, Illinois should encourage districts to incorporate mechanisms such as starting these teachers at a higher salary than other new teachers. Such policies would be attractive to career changers with related work experience, such as in the STEM subjects.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

### **EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 96

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



- 1. Strong Practice: California, Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas, Washington
- 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: Illinois



State Meets Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois does not support differential pay by which teachers can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. However, the state has no regulatory language preventing districts from providing such differential pay.

Illinois offers incentives for those teaching in high-need schools. Teachers working in "hard-to-staff" schools are eligible for \$25,000 in forgivable loans for direct expenses associated with teacher preparation programs. Loans are fully forgiven after five years of service; partial forgiveness is given for shorter periods of service.

#### **Supporting Research**

110 Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS) 48/5
23 Illinois Administrative Code 60.100

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Support differential pay initiatives for effective teachers in shortage-subject areas.
  Illinois should encourage districts to link compensation to district needs. Such policies can help districts achieve a more equitable distribution of teachers.
- Expand differential pay initiatives for teachers in high-need schools.

  Although the state's loan forgiveness program is a desirable recruitment and retention tool for teachers early in their careers, Illinois should expand its program to include those who are already part of the teaching pool. A salary differential is an attractive incentive for every teacher, not just those with education debt.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Figure 98		HIGH NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT	
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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.

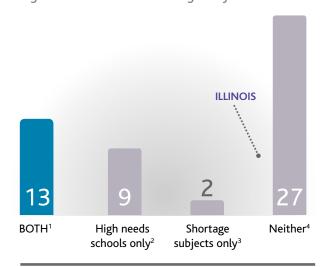
<sup>2.</sup> South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in high-need schools.



#### **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.
- 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: Illinois



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Whether it implements the plan at the state or local level, Illinois 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.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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North Carolina			- i		
North Dakota					
Ohio					
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Oregon					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming		Ш		Ш	
	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.

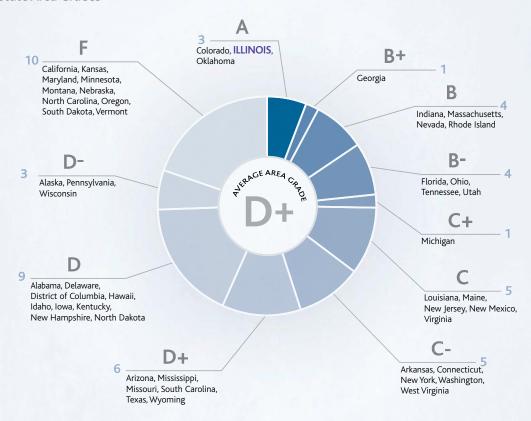
<sup>2.</sup> Nevada's initiative does not go into effect until 2015-2016.

## **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.)

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

#### Background

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



## 5-A Analysis: Illinois



**Best Practice State** 



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois requires that all applicants seeking a state license must pass a subject-matter test, without exception. "No candidate shall be allowed to student teach, serve as the teacher of record, or begin an internship or residency required for licensure until he or she has passed the applicable content area test."

#### **Supporting Research**

S.B. 1799

105 ILCS 5/21B-20; 21B-30

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

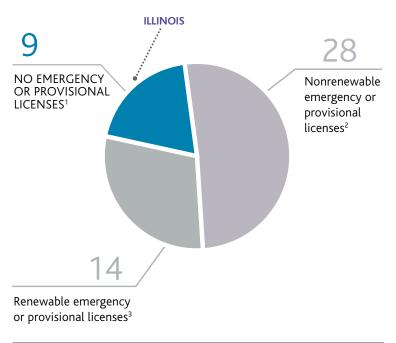
Figure 103  How long can new teachers				3 years or more for unspecified)
practice without passing				lor uns
licensing tests?	P84	/ <sub>*</sub>	gars	, more
	NO DEFERRAL	Up to 1 year	Up to 2 years	3)rears or
Alabama				
Alaska				
Arizona				
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Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
		14		



**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 ↑, West Virginia ↑, 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: Illinois



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Illinois specifically identifies classroom ineffectiveness as grounds for dismissal. For teachers placed on remediation plans for poor performance who receive a subsequent unsatisfactory performance rating within three years, "the school district may forego remediation and seek dismissal."

The state also distinguishes the due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance from those facing other charges commonly associated with license revocation such as a felony and/or morality violations.

For teachers that have received an unsatisfactory performance evaluation and failed to complete a remediation with a rating of proficient or better, there is an "optional alternative evaluative dismissal process." The teacher must receive written notice of dismissal within 30 days of the final remediation evaluation. Each party has two days to present evidence at a hearing before a hearing officer. The hearing officer must have completed a prequalification program designed for performance evaluators, which involves rigorous training and "an independent observer's determination that the evaluator's ratings properly align to the requirements established by the State Board." The hearing officer must issue "findings of fact and recommendation" within 30 days of the hearing's close to the State Board of Education, which then issues a decision within 45 days. An additional appeal to the appellate court—for judicial review—is also permitted within 35 days. The cost of this appeal is borne by the teacher.

#### **Supporting Research**

105 ILCS 5/24-16.5 and 105 ILCS 5/24A-5(2)m

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Ensure that the appeals process occurs within a reasonable time frame, and that due process rights are distinguished between dismissal for classroom ineffectiveness and dismissal for morality violations, felonies or dereliction of duty.

Illinois is commended for differentiating due process rights between loss of employment and issues with far-reaching consequences that could permanently affect a teacher's right to practice through its new "optional alternative evaluative dismissal process." However, by making this dismissal process "optional" and an "alternative," districts have the potential to opt out of this more expedient process. In addition, Illinois should ensure that the opportunity to appeal occurs only once and only at the district level.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**



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

Figure 106

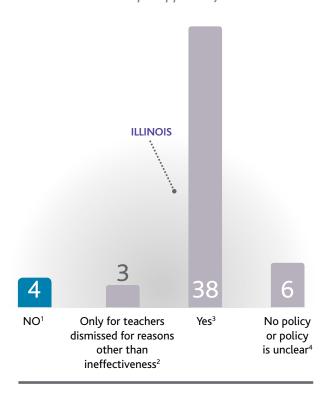
Florida and Oklahoma clearly articulate that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal. In both states, teachers are eligible for dismissal after two annual ratings of unsatisfactory performance. Each state has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed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

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

<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<sup>5</sup>, Utah, Vermont
- Though a teacher returns to probationary status after two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations, Nevada does not articulate clear policy about its appeals process.

## Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

### ➤ Goal C – Reductions in Force

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

#### Goal Component

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

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

#### Background

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



### 5-C Analysis: Illinois



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

In Illinois, teacher performance—measured by a performance evaluation— is considered as the top criterion for districts in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.

Each teacher is categorized in one of four groups according to their evaluation ratings. Grouping 1 includes probationary teachers that have not received performance evaluation ratings; Grouping 2 includes teachers who have received needs improvement or unsatisfactory on either of their previous two ratings; Grouping 3 consists of teachers who have received satisfactory or proficient on both of their previous two ratings; Grouping 4 consists of teachers who have received two excellent ratings in either of the last two or three ratings, so long as the third rating was satisfactory or proficient.

The policy states: "Among teachers qualified to hold a position, teachers must be dismissed in the order of their Groupings, with teachers in Grouping 1 dismissed first and teachers in Grouping 4 dismissed last." If teachers in Groupings 2, 3 or 4 have the same performance rating, the teacher with the least seniority is dismissed first, unless an alternative method is established by the district.

However, this policy applies only to school districts with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants. For Chicago, the district with more than 500,000 inhabitants, the state's code requires that teachers' qualifications, certifications, experience, performance ratings or evaluations, and any other factors relating to an employee's job performance, be taken into account in determining who is laid off during reductions in force.

#### **Supporting Research**

105 ILCS 5/24-12, Chapter 122; 105 ILCS 5/34-18

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

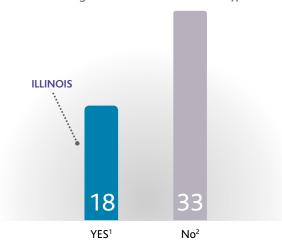
Consider whether groupings sufficiently prioritize classroom performance.

Illinois has developed sound policy for incorporating classroom performance into reduction-in-force decisions. To achieve its overall goals in districts with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants, the state may want to consider further dividing Grouping 2. Laying off teachers with a single needs-improvement rating before teachers with more seniority, but perhaps with multiple unsatisfactory ratings, may run counter to the state's intentions.

#### **ILLINOIS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Figure 109

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



- Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, 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.

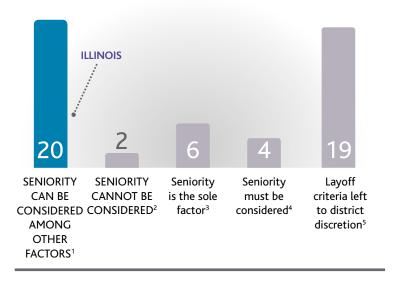




**Colorado**, **Florida**, and **Indiana** all specify that in determining which teachers to lay off during a reduction in force, classroom performance is the top criterion. These states also articulate that seniority can only be considered after a teacher's performance is taken into account.

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
<b>1-F:</b> 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
<b>1-G:</b> 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

AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching F  The state should require alternate route programs to exceed the admission requirements of traditional	Pool  alternate route programs, admission
to exceed the admission requirements of traditional	alternate route programs, admission
preparation programs while also being flexible to the needs of nontraditional candidates.	requirements, GPA, academic proficiency measures, subject-matter test, flexibility/ test-out
The state should ensure that its alternate routes provide efficient preparation that is relevant to the immediate needs of new teachers, as well as adequate mentoring and support.	alternate route programs, coursework requirements, length of program, student practice teaching, induction, mentoring
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
The state should offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.	part-time license/certificate, adjunct license
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
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
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
The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.	teacher evaluation, evaluation frequency classroom observations, feedback
The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.	tenure, probationary period, continuing contracts, teacher effectiveness
The state should base licensure advancement on evidence of teacher effectiveness.	probationary license, professional license license renewal, evidence of teacher effectiveness, coursework requirements
The state should publicly report districts' distribution of teacher talent among schools to identify inequities in schools serving disadvantaged children.	public reporting, aggregate school-level data, evaluation ratings, school report cards, teacher absenteeism rate, turnover rate
	the immediate needs of new teachers, as well as adequate mentoring and support.  The state should provide an alternate route that is free from limitations on its usage and allows a diversity of providers.  The state should offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.  The state should help to make licenses fully portable among states, with appropriate safeguards.  AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teach The state should have a data system that contributes some of the evidence needed to assess teacher effectiveness.  The state should require instructional effectiveness to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.  The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.  The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.  The state should base licensure advancement on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

## Goals and Keywords

GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teacl	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>1-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 schoo
<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 Illinois

■ Eliminate licensure obstacles for out-of-state teachers.

AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	1400010000
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-
Adopt an elementary content test with independently scored subject-matter subtests in each of the core areas.	Goal 1-
Require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous stand-alone science of reading test.	Goal 1-
Adopt a rigorous stand-alone math test for all elementary teacher candidates.	Goal 1-
Eliminate the generalist K-8 license, and ensure that all middle school teacher candidates pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.	Goal 1-
Specifically require secondary social studies and science teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.	Goal 1-
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-I
Require teacher candidates to spend at least 10 weeks student teaching.	Goal 1-
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-
	學系
AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool	
Increase admission requirements to alternate route programs, including a high bar for academic proficiency and passage of a subject-matter test.	Goal 2-
Establish guidelines for alternate route programs that require preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. Ensure programs provide intensive induction support to alternate route teachers.	Goal 2-

Goal 2-E

AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers		
Require evidence of student learning 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	

AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers		
■ 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	

