2013 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Mississippi





Acknowledgments

STATES

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

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STAFF

Sandi Jacobs, *Project Director*Adrienne S. Davis, *Project Assistant*Kathryn M. Doherty, *Special Contributor*Kelli Lakis, *Lead Researcher*Stephanie T. Maltz and Lisa N. Staresina, *Researchers*Phil Lasser, *Research Assistant*

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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.

Mississippi at a Glance



Overall 2013 Yearbook Grade

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: D+

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

Goal Breakdown	2013
★ Best Practice	2
Fully Meets	5
Nearly Meets	4
Partially Meets	6
Meets Only a Small Part	6
O Does Not Meet	8

	Progress on Goals Since 2011	
•	Progress has increased	5
(2)	No change in progress	26
•	Progress has decreased	0

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

Page 5 **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers** Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science Admission into Teacher Preparation **Elementary Teacher Preparation** Special Education Teacher Preparation Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction Assessing Professional Knowledge Teacher Preparation in Mathematics Student Teaching Middle School Teacher Preparation Teacher Preparation Program Accountability Secondary Teacher Preparation **Policy Strengths** All new teachers must pass a pedagogy test. Teacher preparation programs are required to have a cohort GPA of 3.0 for admission. Middle school teachers may not teach on a K-8 generalist license, and they must appropriately pass a single-subject content test. **Policy Weaknesses** ■ The state offers a K-12 special education certification ■ Elementary teacher candidates are not required and does not require any content testing for special to pass a content test with individually scored education teacher candidates. subtests in each of the core content areas, including ■ There are no requirements to ensure that student mathematics. teachers are placed with cooperating teachers who Although preparation programs are required to were selected based on evidence of effectiveness. address the science of reading, candidates are not The teacher preparation program approval process required to pass a test to ensure knowledge of does not hold programs accountable for the quality effective reading instruction. of the teachers they produce. Some secondary science and social studies teachers are not required to pass content tests for each discipline they are licensed to teach. Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers Page 51 Alternate Route Eligibility Part-Time Teaching Licenses Alternate Route Preparation Licensure Reciprocity Alternate Route Usage and Providers **Policy Strengths** Requirements for alternate route preparation are Admission requirements for alternate routes to efficient, although more could be done to meet the certification include evidence of subject-matter immediate needs of new teachers. knowledge and offer flexibility for nontraditional candidates. **Policy Weaknesses** Out-of-state teachers are not required to meet the Usage and providers of alternate routes are restricted. state's testing requirements. The state offers a license with minimal requirements

that would allow content experts to teach part time,

but its usage and intent are unclear.

How is **Mississippi** Faring?

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teacher	rs P	age 71		
State Data Systems	Tenure	\bigcirc		
Evaluation of Effectiveness	Licensure Advancement			
Frequency of Evaluations	Equitable Distribution			
Policy Strengths				
Objective evidence of student learning is the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.	All teachers must be evaluated annually			
Policy Weaknesses	Licensure advancement and renewal are	not based		
Although the state has established a data system with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher	on teacher effectiveness.	TIOL Dased		
effectiveness, it has not taken other meaningful steps	Little school-level data are reported tha	•		
 to maximize the system's efficiency and potential. Tenure decisions are not connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness. 	support the equitable distribution of tea	acher talent.		
Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	Pa	ge 101		
Induction	Compensation for Prior Work Experience	\bigcirc		
Professional Development	Differential Pay			
Pay Scales	Performance Pay			
Policy Strengths				
All new teachers receive mentoring.	 Teachers who receive unsatisfactory eva- placed on structured improvement plan 			
Teachers receive feedback from their evaluations, and professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.	■ Teachers can receive performance pay.	5.		
Policy Weaknesses				
Teacher compensation is controlled by a state salary schedule based on years of experience and advanced degrees.	The state does not support additional compensation for relevant prior work experience, working in high-need schools or teaching in shortage subject areas			
Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers	Pa	ge 125		
Extended Emergency Licenses	Reductions in Force			
Dismissal for Poor Performance		-		
Policy Strengths				
All teachers must pass all required subject-matter test	s as a condition of initial licensure.			
Policy Weaknesses				
 Ineffective classroom performance is not grounds for 	Performance is not considered in detern teachers to lay off during reductions in f			

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

How to Read the Yearbook

GOAL SCORE

The extent to which each goal has been met:



Best Practice



Fully Meets



Nearly Meets



Partially Meets



Meets Only a Small Part



Does Not Meet

PROGRESS INDICATOR

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



Goal progress has increased since 2011



Goal progress has decreased since 2011



Goal progress has remained the same since 2011

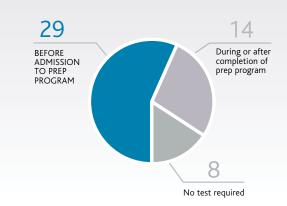
BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



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

READING CHARTS AND TABLES:

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

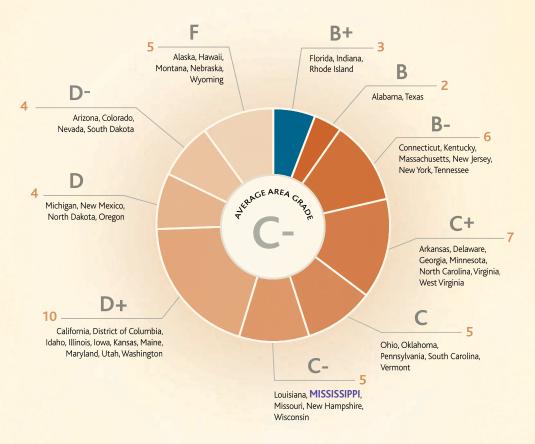


Area 1 Summary



How States are Faring on Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

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

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

Goal A – Admission into Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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



1-A Analysis: Mississippi



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





ANALYSIS

Mississippi requires that approved undergraduate teacher preparation programs only accept teacher candidates who have passed a basic skills test, the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination, normed just to the prospective teacher population, or meet a minimum score on the ACT.

New legislation in Mississippi now requires teacher preparation candidates also to have a minimum GPA of 2.75 on premajor coursework. Institutions are required to have an average cohort GPA of 3.0.

Supporting Research

SB 2188

Mississippi Educator Preparation Programs Process and Performance Reviews: Teacher Education Process Standards http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ed_licensure/pdf/PP_Review_MEPP_2008.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

Mississippi should require an assessment that demonstrates that candidates are academically competitive with all peers, regardless of their intended profession. Requiring a common test normed to the general college population would allow for the selection of applicants in the top half of their class, as well as facilitate program comparison. Mississippi's use of the ACT for admissions is a step in the right direction, but it is just an option and not required.

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, Mississippi 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.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

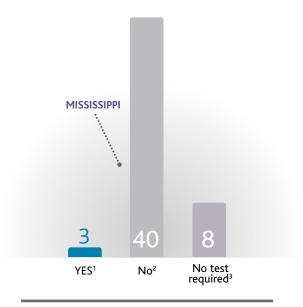
Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

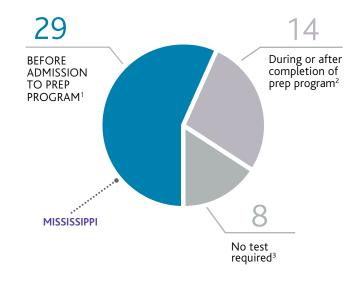
For admission to teacher preparation programs, Rhode Island and Delaware require a test of academic proficiency normed to the general collegebound population rather than a test that is normed just to prospective teachers. Delaware also requires teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or be in the top 50th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

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



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

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



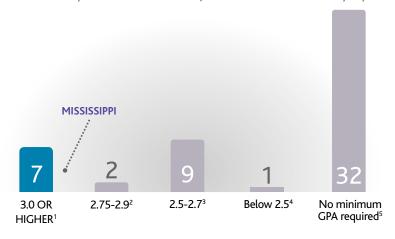
- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington,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

Figure 4	<u>.</u>	Test nomed to teach	Son to prep pogram	No test required
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		26	14	

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

Figure 5

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



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

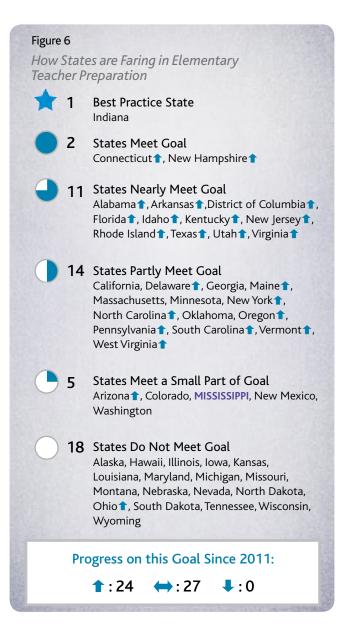
- The state should require all elementary teacher candidates, including those who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license, to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure sufficient content knowledge of all core subjects.
- 2. The state should require that its approved teacher preparation 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: Mississippi



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





ANALYSIS

Mississippi 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.

Mississippi requires candidates to pass the Praxis II test Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, which, unfortunately, not only combines content with a pedagogy assessment but also does not report teacher performance in each subject area, meaning that it is possible to pass the test and still fail some subject areas, especially given the state's low passing score for the test. Further, based on available information on the Praxis II, there is no reason to expect that the current version required by Mississippi would be well aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

In addition, Mississippi requires that all elementary teacher candidates complete an interdisciplinary program of study that includes two 18- or 21-hour content concentrations. These shall include, but are not limited to:

- 12 credit hours of English;
- 9 credit hours of science:
- 12 credit hours of social studies, and
- 6 credit hours of fine arts/teaching of fine arts. (For math requirements, see Goal 1-D.)

The state requires 18 credit hours of academic content courses in each of the concentration areas, of which three hours may be academic pedagogy courses.

Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirement

www.ets.org

Process Guide

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/educator-licensure/process-and-performance-reviews-2006.pdf?sfvrsn=0

Licensure Guidelines

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/educator-licensure/licensure-guidelines-revised-10-12.pdf?sfvrsn=0

RECOMMENDATION

Require elementary teacher candidates to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure sufficient content knowledge of all subjects.

Mississippi should require both a rigorous content test as a condition of 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.

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

Mississippi should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish more comprehensive coursework requirements for elementary teacher candidates that align with the Common Core State Standards to ensure that candidates will complete coursework relevant to the common topics in elementary grades. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours in the core subject areas of English, science, social studies and fine arts. Mississippi's coursework requirements are sensible indicators of important curricular areas, but there is no guarantee that the courses used to meet these requirements will be relevant to the PK-6 classroom. Further, Mississippi relies on NCATE/CAEP standards, suggesting that the state uses the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) standards for approving its elementary programs. However, ACEI standards fall far short of the mark by offering no mention of world and American history; world, British and American literature; American government; or grammar and composition. ACEI standards do mention important topics in science, but even in those areas, the standards consist mainly of extremely general competencies that programs should help teacher candidates to achieve.

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

Mississippi allows teachers to add a supplemental elementary endorsement to certificates based only on institutional program verification. The state is urged to require that all teachers who add the elementary grade levels to their certificates pass a rigorous subject-matter test to ensure content knowledge of all subject areas before they are allowed in the elementary classroom. Of particular concern is the fact that teachers already teaching at other grade levels may only be prepared to teach a single subject and not the multiple subjects required at the elementary level.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it has adopted the Core Academic Skills for Educators (CASE) test to replace the Praxis I PPLT test. The CASE is a Common Core standards-based test.

Supporting Research

www.ets.org

LAST WORD

The Praxis I is a basic skills test and not a content test, and therefore not relevant to this analysis.

Figure 7	EMENTARY CONTENT SCORE FOR E. SHARE	Steinentay Content tees	Elementary content to	with /
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Wisconsin				
Wyoming				



TOTAL STATE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.

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

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

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

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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.

Do states expect elementary teachers to have in-depth			/ _	/ /	/	/	/	/ _	, ,	- /								/	RTS
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Figure 10
What subjects does Mississippi expect elementary teachers to know?

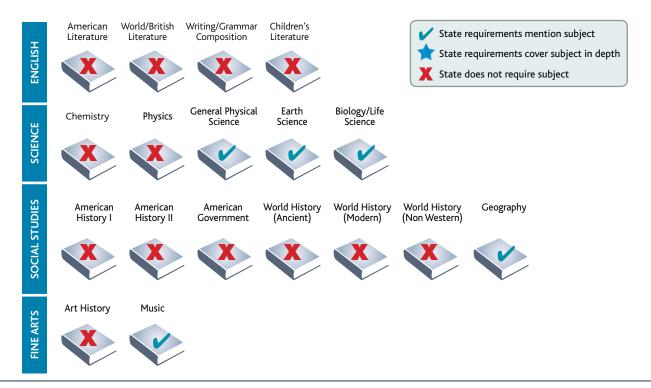
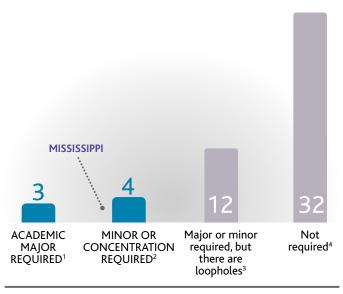


Figure 11

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: Mississippi



State Partly Meets Goal 🕟 Bar Raised for this Goal 😝 Progress Since 2011





ANALYSIS

Mississippi 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.

In its standards for preparation of elementary teachers, Mississippi does require teacher preparation programs to address the science of reading.

Supporting Research

Standards

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/2013-board-agenda/tab-11-february-2013.pdf?sfvrsn=2

RECOMMENDATION

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

Mississippi 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.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

igure 13		PARATIOI UIREMEN	rc /	TEST REQUIRI	
Do states ensure that	FULLY ADDRESS READING SCIENCE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT	Do not address	4PPROPRIATE	£2,	,
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

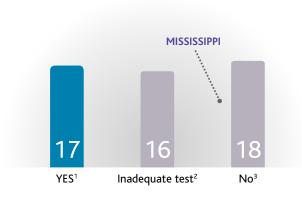
Fifteen states meet this goal by requiring that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Independent reviews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

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

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

Figure 14

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

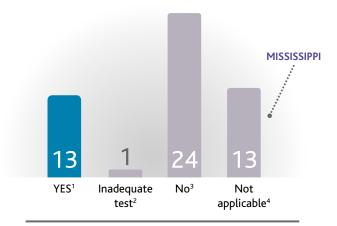


- Strong Practice: Alabama⁴, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁵, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, New 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 roading for early childhood to school who can

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



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

Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

Goal Components

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

- The state should require teacher preparation programs to deliver mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates. This content should be specific to the needs of the elementary teacher (i.e., foundations, algebra and geometry with some statistics).
- 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: Mississippi



State Meets a Small Part Goal 🕟 Bar Raised for this Goal 🙌 Progress Since 2011





ANALYSIS

Mississippi requires that all new elementary teachers pass a general subject-matter test, the Praxis II. This commercial test lacks a specific mathematics subscore, so one can fail the mathematics portion and still pass the test. Further, while this test does cover important elementary school-level content, it barely evaluates candidates' knowledge beyond an elementary school level, does not challenge their understanding of underlying concepts and does not require candidates to apply knowledge in nonroutine, multistep procedures.

Although Mississippi requires elementary teaching candidates to earn at least nine semester hours of credit in mathematics, the state specifies neither the requisite content of these classes nor that they must meet the needs of elementary teachers. Mississippi also relies on NCATE/CAEP standards, suggesting that it uses Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) standards for approving its elementary programs. ACEI standards address content in mathematics foundations, but these standards lack the specificity needed to ensure that teacher preparation programs deliver other mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates.

Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirement

www.ets.org

Process and Performance Reviews

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/educator-licensure/process-and-performance-reviews-2006.pdf?sfvrsn=0

RECOMMENDATION

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

Mississippi 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.

Mississippi must ensure that new teachers are prepared to teach the mathematics content required by the Common Core State Standards. Although ACEI standards require some knowledge in key areas of mathematics, Mississippi 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.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

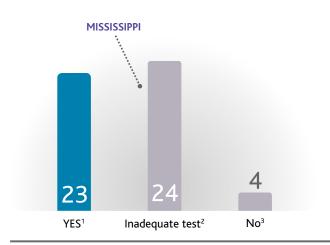


** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

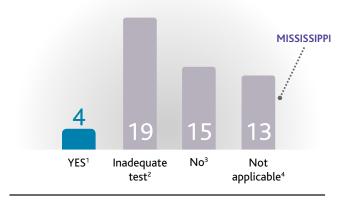
Figure 17

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



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

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



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

Goal E – Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



1-E Analysis: Mississippi



Best Practice State



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi requires middle school teachers to have a "4-8 Subject Area" program of study. This includes two 21-hour content concentrations in academic coursework, a total that can include three to six hours of pedagogy classes in each of the concentration areas. The state also articulates a "7-12 Subject Area" program of study in which teacher candidates must earn a major in the licensed content area.

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

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

Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirement

www.ets.org

Process Guide

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/educator-licensure/process-and-performance-reviews-2006.pdf?sfvrsn=0

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure meaningful content tests.

To ensure meaningful middle school content tests, Mississippi should reevaluate its passing scores so that all tests reflect high levels of performance. All four of the passing scores for the Praxis II middle school content tests are set below the 10th percentile.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 20	K-8 LICENSE NOT OFFE	K-8 lienze offered for	\$ /
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***** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

^{1.} Offers 1-8 license.

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

^{3.} With the exception of mathematics.

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

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Florida				
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- 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: Mississippi



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

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

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

To add a secondary endorsement to a license, teachers in Mississippi may either submit a passing score on a content test or complete 21 hours of coursework in the subject area.

Supporting Research

Praxis Testing Requirements

www.ets.org

Process Guide

www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/educator-licensure/process-and-performance-reviews-2006.pdf?sfvrsn=0

Licensure Guidelines

www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/educator-licensure/licensure-guidelines-revised-10-12.pdf?sfvrsn=0

RECOMMENDATION

Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

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

To ensure that its secondary content tests are meaningful, Mississippi should also reevaluate its passing scores so that all tests reflect high levels of performance.

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

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

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

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

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

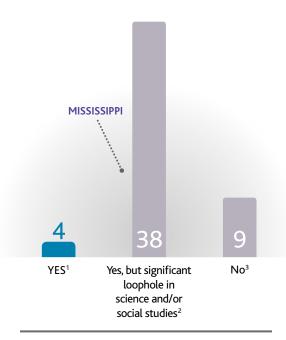
Mississippi was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

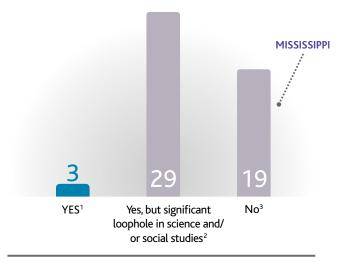
Figure 23 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



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

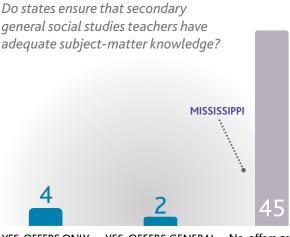
Figure 24 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a

content test in every subject area to add an endorsement?



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

Figure 25



YES, OFFERS ONLY SINGLE SUBJECT SOCIAL STUDIES LICENSES¹ YES, OFFERS GENERAL No, offers general **SOCIAL STUDIES** LICENSE WITH ADEQUATE TESTING²

social studies license without adequate testing3

- 1. Strong Practice: Georgia, Indiana, South Dakota, Tennessee
- 2. Strong Practice: Minnesota⁴, 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, Oklahoma⁵, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Minnesota's test for general social studies is divided into two individually scored subtests.
- 5. Oklahoma offers combination licenses.

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



1-G Analysis: Mississippi



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi offers a supplemental endorsement in general science, which can be added to a certificate with 21 hours of coursework in the subject. A content test is not required. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general science but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

Mississippi also offers an endorsement in physical science, which combines physics and chemistry. Candidates are required to pass the Praxis II Physical Science test.

Supporting Research

Praxis Testing Requirements www.ets.org

RECOMMENDATION

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

By allowing a general science certification—and not requiring a content test for each area—Mississippi is not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. Even though general science is a supplemental endorsement, Mississippi is effectively allowing candidates with minimal coursework in a particular area of science—and no testing requirement—to teach virtually any science subject at the secondary level. In addition, Mississippi's required assessment for its physical science license combines subject areas without reporting individual subscores.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 27	IFC .			
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Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia		1		
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
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EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal H − Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



1-H Analysis: Mississippi



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi only offers a K-12 special education certification.

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

Supporting Research

Licensure Guidelines

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/educator-licensure/licensure-guidelines-k12ents www.ets.org

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

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

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

Ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.

Secondary special education teachers are frequently generalists who teach many core subject areas. While it may be unreasonable to expect secondary special education teachers to meet the same requirements for each subject they teach as other teachers who teach only one subject, Mississippi's current policy of requiring no subject-matter testing is problematic and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards. To provide a middle ground, Mississippi 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.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that mild/moderate K-12 special education teachers are required to pass the Praxis II Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications test for certification.

Figure 29 Do states distinguish between elementary and secondary special education teachers? Alabama	Figure 29		/	/s) _{uo}
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EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 30
Which states requi

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

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

- 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: Mississippi





State Meets Goal (Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

RECOMMENDATION

■ Verify that commercially available tests of pedagogy actually align with state standards. Mississippi should ensure that its selected test of professional knowledge measures the knowledge and skills the state expects new teachers to have.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

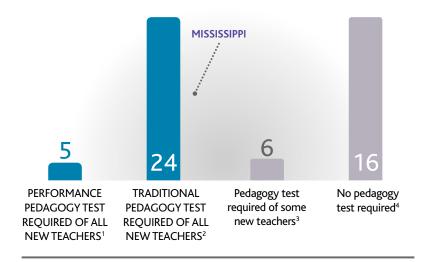
Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



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

Figure 32

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



- 1. Strong Practice: California, Illinois⁵, New York, Tennessee⁶, Washington
- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina⁷, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia
- 3. Connecticut, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Utah⁸, Wyoming
- 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: Mississippi



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Commendably, Mississippi requires candidates to complete at least 12 weeks (60 working days) of full-day student teaching. However, the state does not address the qualifications of cooperating teachers.

Supporting Research

2006 Process Guide

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/educator-licensure/process-and-performance-reviews-2006.pdf?sfvrsn=0

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

- Use evidence from the state's teacher evaluation system to select cooperating teachers.
 - Mississippi requires objective measures of student growth to be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations. The state should therefore utilize its evaluation results, which provide evidence of effectiveness in the classroom, in the selection of effective cooperating teachers.
- 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.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 34	HE.	STODENT FEIGHING LASTS AT LEAST TO WEEK
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Do states ensure a	47IVC BASEI ESC	1 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4
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teaching experience?	PERCONAL PROPERTY	457
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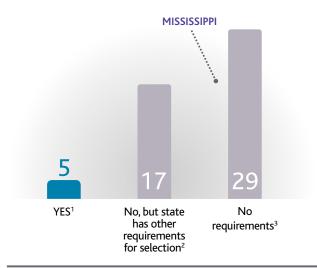
EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

Figure 35

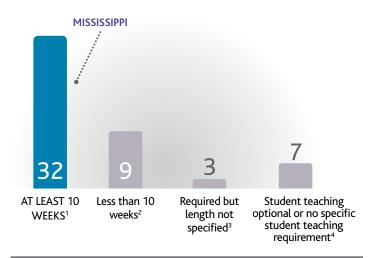
Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



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

Figure 36

Is the student teaching experience of sufficient length?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia⁵, Wisconsin
- 2. Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Illinois, New Hampshire, Utah
- 4. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Maryland, Montana
- West Virginia allows candidates to student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

➤ Goal K — Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

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

1-K Analysis: Mississippi



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

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

The state does rely on some objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of traditional teacher preparation programs. It requires an annual "teacher education performance report," with one component consisting of a job-satisfaction survey rating the job performance of all first-year teachers. Programs that do not receive a satisfactory rating of 80 percent over a three-year period must prepare a plan of improvement. Mississippi also collects programs' annual summary licensure test pass rates (80 percent of program completers must pass their licensure exams). This 80 percent pass-rate standard, while common among many states, sets the bar quite low and is not a meaningful measure of program performance.

However, the state does not collect these data for its alternate routes. Further, there is no evidence that the state's standards for program approval are resulting in greater accountability. In the past three years, no programs in Mississippi have been identified in required federal reporting as low performing.

Mississippi is in the process of implementing an online data dashboard for posting performance and demographic data on teacher preparation programs. However, it is currently not accessible.

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

Supporting Research

2006 Process Guide
http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/educator-licensure/process-and-performance-reviews-2006.pdf?sfvrsn=0
Title II State Reports
https://title2.ed.gov
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, Mississippi 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. Mississippi should expand its requirements to also include such measures as:

- 1. Evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching;
- 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 Mississippi 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.

Mississippi 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.

Mississippi 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.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is in the process of reporting data that connects student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs. The state also indicated that Mississippi's Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development is responsible for the approval of state programs. All programs must be approved by NCATE in addition to receiving approval of the Commission.

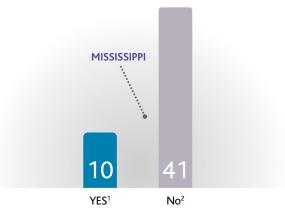
Figure 38	OBJECTIVE PROGRAM.		
Do states hold teacher	\$ <u>\$</u>		A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
preparation programs	1/EP 0/472	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	SUBL/
accountable?	OBJEC) SPECIFIC	MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE COR	DATA PUBLICIY AVAUABLEON WEBS.
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Wyoming			
	26	4	10
	36	4	19



****** 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 Columbia³, Hawaii³, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland³, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York³, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Included in state's Race to the Top plan, but not in policy or yet implemented.

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

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

^{3.} For alternate routes only.

Figure 40

Which states collect meaningful data?

STUDENT LEARNING GAINS

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

EVALUATION RESULTS FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES

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

AVERAGE RAW SCORES ON LICENSING TESTS

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

SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

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

TEACHER RETENTION RATES

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

1. For alternate route only

Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas	STATEHAS	Overlap or and state at	National a
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Delaware			
District of Columbia			
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Wyoming			
	7	21	13
	7	31	15

Figure 41

What is the relationship between state program

approval and national

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

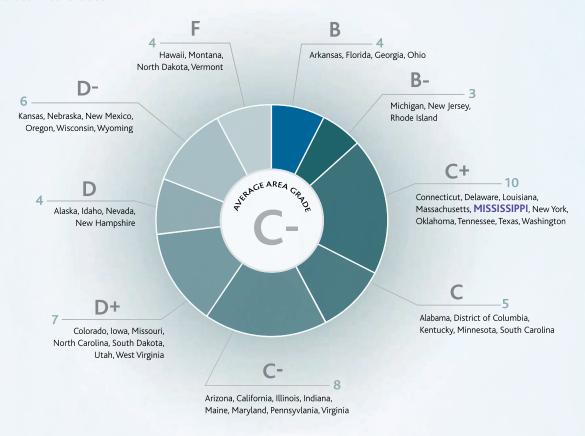
^{2.} For institutions with 2,000 or more full-time equivalent students

Area 2 Summary



How States are Faring in Expanding the Pool of Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility

2-B: Alternate Route Preparation

2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers

2-D: Part-Time Teaching Licenses

2-E: Licensure Reciprocity

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Goal A − Alternate Route Eligibility

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

Goal Components

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

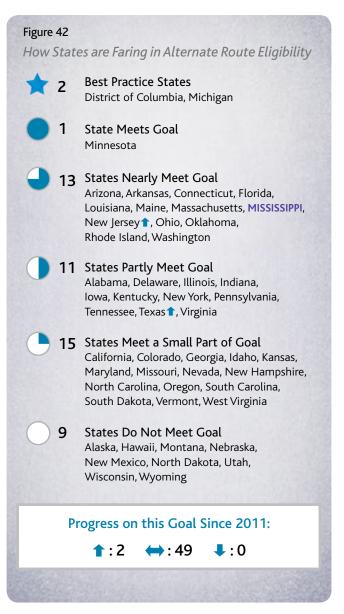
- With some accommodation for work experience, alternate route programs should set a rigorous bar for program entry by requiring that candidates take a rigorous test to demonstrate academic ability, such as the GRE.
- All alternate route candidates, including elementary candidates and those having a 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: Mississippi



State Nearly Meets Goal 🕟 Bar Raised for this Goal





Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi offers four alternate routes to certification: Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Teachers, Master of Arts in Teaching, Teach Mississippi Institute and American Board Certification for Teacher Excellence (ABCTE).

The Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Teachers requires candidates to have a minimum GPA of 2.5 or a 2.75 in their respective majors. Candidates who graduated more than seven years prior to admission must have an overall GPA of 2.0. Candidates in the Master of Arts in Teaching, Teach Mississippi Institute and ABCTE programs do not require applicants to demonstrate prior academic performance.

All candidates must pass the Praxis I basic skills test. Candidates in the ABCTE program must pass that program's own subject-area assessment; all other candidates must pass the Praxis II subject-matter test.

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

Supporting Research

Alternate Route Programs

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/educator-licensure/alternate-route-programs

RECOMMENDATION

Screen all candidates for academic ability.

While Mississippi is recognized for requiring candidates to the Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Teachers alternate route program to provide some evidence of good academic performance, the current standard of 2.5 does not serve as a sufficient indicator of past academic performance. The standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The state should also extend this requirement to all alternate route candidates. A rigorous test appropriate for candidates who have already completed a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be ideal.

Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

The state's requirement that alternate route candidates pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffectual. 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. Passage of a basic skills test provides no assurance that the candidate has the appropriate subject-matter knowledge needed for the classroom. A test designed for individuals who already have a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be a much more appropriate measure of academic standing. The state should eliminate the basic skills test requirement or, at a minimum, accept the equivalent in SAT or ACT scores.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

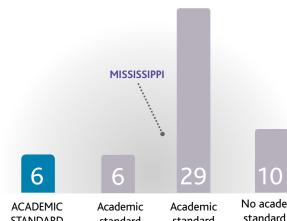
Are states' alternate	STANDA EXCEDS	\$ / BE	REQUIR.
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lexible in admissions?	ACADEM STANDARD FOR	SUBECT-MATTER	NO MAJOR REQUIRED NO LEGO CAN REQUIRED NA LEGO CAN RECUSED
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Arizona Arkansas			
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Colorado			_
Connecticut	*		
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Georgia			*
Hawaii			
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Illinois Indiana			
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Kansas		<u> </u>	- Â
Kentucky			
Louisiana		*	*
Maine		*	*
Maryland			
Massachusetts		*	*
Michigan	*	*	*
Minnesota	*	*	*
MISSISSIPPI Missouri		X	
Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey	*	*	
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			*
North Dakota Ohio		□	□
Oklahoma		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Oregon			
Pennsylvania		<u></u>	
Rhode Island	*		*
South Carolina		*	
South Dakota		<u> </u>	
Tennessee			*
Texas			X
Utah Vermont			
Virginia		□	
Washington		4	→
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

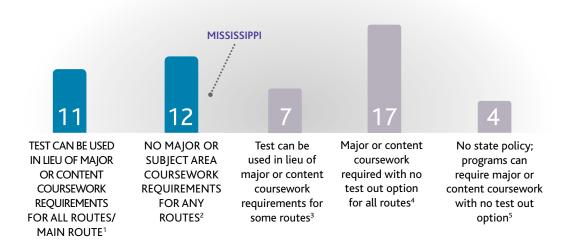
standard exceeds that of traditional programs for some routes² standard too low for all routes³

No academic standard for any route4

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

Figure 45

Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



- 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: Mississippi



State Nearly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2011



ANALYSIS

The Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Teachers (MAPQT) requires candidates to participate in a summer training program for approximately three weeks that is equal to 90 clock hours. The program consists of effective teaching strategies, state curriculum frameworks, planning and instruction and survival skills in the classroom. Candidates then participate in a practicum one Saturday a month for nine months. The practicum focuses on classroom management, peer coaching, school law, data analysis using test results and training modules using interactive video training.

Master of Arts candidates must complete six graduate hours of preteaching coursework requirements from an approved Master of Arts in Teaching program. Coursework includes tests and measurements and classroom management. Candidates must also complete six additional graduate hours, including a supervised internship prescribed by the participating institution.

Teach Mississippi candidates complete an eight-week training session equal to nine semester hours at the graduate level. Coursework includes teaching strategies, classroom management, state curriculum requirements, instructional methods and tests and measurements. Candidates may also complete a 10-week training session online.

American Board Certification for Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) candidates must complete training in one of the following: the MAPQT three-week summer training, an eight-week online training or six hours of initial graduate university courses.

None of the routes provides a practice-teaching opportunity but all require a one-year internship period that includes mentoring. The ABCTE program specifies that mentoring must be provided by a National Board-Certified teacher or a trained mentor certified in the same subject area.

Candidates are eligible for standard certification after one year.

Supporting Research

Alternate Route Programs

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/educator-licensure/alternate-route-programs

RECOMMENDATION

Strengthen the induction experience for new teachers.

While Mississippi is commended for requiring all new teachers to work with a mentor, there are insufficient guidelines indicating 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.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 47		RELEVANT COURCE	REASONABLE PROGRAMILE	PRACTICE TEACHING	NVTENSIVE SUPPORT
Do states' alternate routes	3		. / yy ż		. / 3
provide efficient preparation	£ &	/ 5	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\		. / SIVE
that meets the immediate	HCE PRSE	/ [£] Z ₄ /	18.00	12 ACT	
needs of new teachers?	EFFICIENT COURSEWORK	REL	/ ** /	/ ~8 /	/
Alabama					
Alaska		*	*	*	
Arizona			*	*	
Arkansas	*	<u></u>	*		<u></u>
California			*		
Colorado	*		*		
Connecticut	*				
Delaware				*	
District of Columbia Florida				X	
Georgia	_	_			<u> </u>
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana				*	
Iowa	П		—	- -	
Kansas			*		
Kentucky					*
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland		*	*	*	*
Massachusetts		*		*	
Michigan				*	
Minnesota			*		
MISSISSIPPI	*	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>		
Missouri					*
Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada New Hampshire					
New Jersey	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
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South Carolina	*	*			*
South Dakota			*		
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont				×	
Virginia			△		4
Washington West Virginia		□	X		
West Virginia Wisconsin					
Wyoming			<u> </u>		
** yourning					



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

➤ Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



2-C Analysis: Mississippi



State Partly Meets Goal (Progress Since 2011



ANALYSIS

Mississippi limits the usage of its alternate routes. Mississippi's alternate routes cannot be used for elementary K-3 certification.

The Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Teachers candidates may only teach in the areas of art, biology, business, chemistry, English, French, German, home economics, marketing, math, music, physical education, physics-social studies, Spanish, speech communications, technology education and special education for grades 7-12.

Master of Arts in Teaching candidates may only teach in the areas of art, biology, business, chemistry, elementary education for grades 4-8, English, French, German, home economics, marketing, math, music, physical education, physics, social studies, Spanish, speech communications and technology education.

Teach Mississippi candidates may only teach in the areas of biology, business, chemistry, English, French, German, home economics, marketing, math, physics, social studies, Spanish, speech communications, technology education and special education in grades 7-12.

American Board Certification for Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) candidates may only teach in the areas of biology, chemistry, English, math and physics in grades 7-12.

Although the state is host to a diversity of providers, including ABCTE and Teach For America, all programs operate in partnership with a university or college. Further, the specific requirements for the state's three alternate routes are articulated in terms of credit hours, effectively precluding nonhigher education providers.

Supporting Research

Alternative Route Programs

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/educator-licensure/alternate-route-programs

Teach For America

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/2011-board-agenda/tab_15_october_2011.pdf?sfvrsn=2

RECOMMENDATION

Broaden usage for all alternate routes.

Mississippi should reconsider grade-level and subject-area restrictions on its alternate route. Alternate routes should not be programs of last resort for hard-to-staff subjects, grade levels or geographic areas but rather a way to expand the teacher pipeline throughout the state.

Further expand the diversity of alternate route providers.

The state should continue to consider policies that encourage additional providers, such as school districts and other nonprofit organizations, to operate programs.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi noted that alternate route programs have been approved to offer the same certification endorsements and provide provisionary licenses for the same time period of three years, effective 2014.

Supporting Research

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/educator-licensure/alternate-route-programs

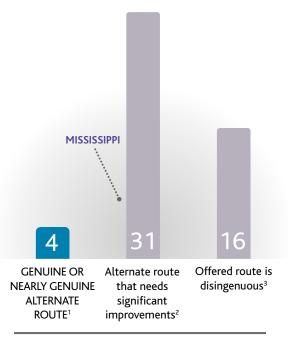
Figure 49	CROSS	S / S
Are states' alternate	A GE A SRADE CARE	F PROV.
routes free from	D US	/ 6
limitations?	BROAD USAGE ACROSS CEOGRAPHICARE, AND	DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS
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California		*
Colorado		*
Connecticut		*
Delaware		*
District of Columbia	<u> </u>	*
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Idaho		
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Nevada		*
New Hampshire	*	*
New Jersey	*	
New Mexico	*	
New York	*	*
North Carolina	*	<u> </u>
North Dakota		
Ohio Oklahoma	*	*
Oregon Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island	*	*
South Carolina	Î	-
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Tennessee	□	<u></u>
Texas	*	*
Utah	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	
Vermont	*	
Virginia	*	*
Washington	*	*
West Virginia		*
Wisconsin		*
Wyoming		
For some alternate routes For most of	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?



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

Figure 51	PREREQUISITE OF STRONG	VERIFICATION OF SUBJECT			× /) ORK	/	y /	D _M _W	IDERS
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Arkansas		*	*	*	*	*		*		*
California						*			*	*
Colorado			*	*		*			*	*
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Florida		*	*			*			*	*
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New Mexico							*		*	
New York								*	*	*
North Carolina North Dakota			*						*	*
Ohio										
Oklahoma		*	*				★		*	*
Oregon		*	*							*
Pennsylvania		*								<u></u> ★
Rhode Island	*		*	*	*		*		*	÷
South Carolina		*		*	*			*		*
South Dakota		*				*				
Tennessee			*						*	*
Texas						*			→	÷
Utah			Ô						*	Ô
Vermont							*		*	
Virginia		*		*					*	*
Washington		*	*			*		*	*	*
West Virginia		*			*	*		*		*
Wisconsin										*
Wyoming						*				
For some alternate routes F	or most or m	ost widely u	sed alternate	routes 🐪	For all alter	rnate routes				

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: Mississippi



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi offers the Expert Citizen Special License. This one-year license is granted to local business or other professional personnel to offer specialized or technical courses. No specific requirements for the license are outlined.

Supporting Research

Mississippi Code 37-3-2(6)(c)

RECOMMENDATION

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

It is unclear whether the Expert Citizen Special License serves as a vehicle for individuals with deep subject-area knowledge to teach a limited number of courses without fulfilling a complete set of certification requirements. It appears that this may be the intent of the license; however, state policy does not describe the conditions of employment, whether it is for part-time or full-time teaching or requirements that candidates must fulfill.

Require applicants to pass a subject-matter test.

The Expert Citizen Special License could 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. The state should require a subject-matter test to ensure expertise in a content area. Only a subject-matter test ensures that teachers on the Expert Citizen license know the specific content they will need to teach.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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



TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Goal E − Licensure Reciprocity

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



2-E Analysis: Mississippi



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Regrettably, Mississippi grants a waiver of its licensing tests to any out-of-state teacher who has a passing score on a subject test required for certification by the issuing state.

Teachers with comparable out-of-state certificates are eligible for Mississippi's professional certificate. There is no state-mandated recency requirement; however, transcripts are required for all applicants. It is not clear whether the state analyzes transcripts to determine whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route or whether additional coursework will be required.

Mississippi 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 Mississippi requires all teachers employed by its Virtual Public School to be licensed by the state, it is not clear whether teachers located outside Mississippi must meet the state's certification requirements.

Supporting Research

Reciprocity License

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/educator-licensure/reciprocity-license

RECOMMENDATION

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

Mississippi takes considerable risk by granting a waiver for its licensing tests to any out-of-state teacher with a passing test score in another state. It should not provide any waivers of its teacher tests unless an applicant can provide evidence of a passing score under its own standards.

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

Mississippi should consider discontinuing its requirement for the submission of transcripts. Transcript analysis is likely to result in additional coursework requirements, even for traditionally prepared teachers; alternate route teachers, on the other hand, almost invariably will have to virtually begin anew, repeating some, most or all of a teacher preparation program in Mississippi.

- Require evidence of effective teaching when determining eligibility for full certification.
 - Rather than rely on transcripts to assess credentials, Mississippi 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.

 Mississippi should ensure that online teachers based in other states are at least equally as qualified.

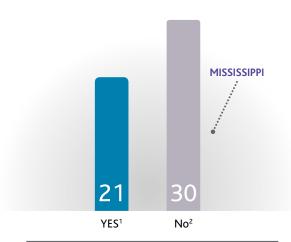
Mississippi should ensure that online teachers based in other states are at least equally as qualified as those who teach in the state. However, Mississippi should balance the interests of its students in having qualified online instructors with making certain that these requirements do not create unnecessary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

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi asserted that it requires valid certificates from other states to qualify for a reciprocity license. Teachers must forward the test scores used to receive that out-of-state license, along with an official transcript.

Figure 55

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



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

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

Figure 56

^{1.} State conducts transcript reviews.

^{2.} Recency requirement is for alternate route.

^{3.} For traditionally prepared teachers only.

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

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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

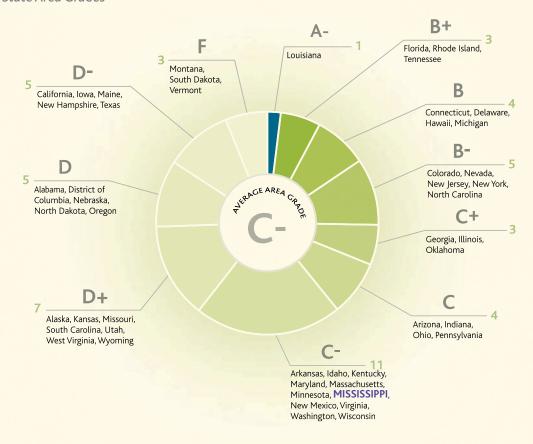
Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet Alabama's and Texas's own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate 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.
- 2. Student growth or value-added data provided through the state's longitudinal data system should be considered among the criteria used to determine teachers' effectiveness.
- To ensure that data provided through the state data system is actionable and reliable, the state should have a clear definition of "teacher of record" and require its consistent use statewide.
- 4. Data provided through the state's longitudinal data system should be used to publicly report information on teacher production.



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

Background

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



3-A Analysis: Mississippi



State Partly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

Mississippi 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. The state also has the capacity to match student test records from year to year in order to measure student academic growth.

Mississippi 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, but it does have in place a process for teacher roster verification.

Mississippi does not publish data on teacher production that connects program completion, certification and hiring statistics.

Supporting Research

Data Quality Campaign

www.dataqualitycampaign.org

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, Mississippi 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 Mississippi should be able to link more than one educator to a particular student.

Publish data on teacher production.

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

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

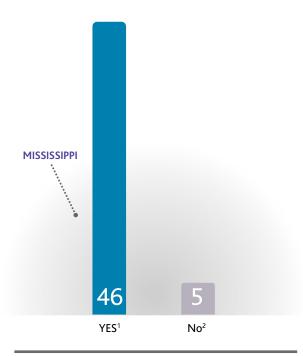
LAST WORD

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

Figure 59

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

needed to assess teacher effectiveness: unique teacher and student identifiers that can be matched to test records over time?



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

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: Mississippi





State Meets Goal 🏠 Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Commendably, Mississippi now requires that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations. Beginning school year 2014-2015, all teachers will be evaluated using the statewide educator evaluation system: the Mississippi Statewide Teacher Appraisal Rubric (M-STAR) and the recently adopted Educator Evaluation Growth Model.

By school year 2014-2015, 50 percent of teacher evaluation scores must be comprised of objective student growth data. For teachers in state-tested areas, 30 percent must be individual growth and 20 percent must be schoolwide growth. Initially, for teachers in nonstate-tested areas, 50 percent must be based on schoolwide growth; by school year 2015-2016, 30 percent must be student learning objectives and 20 percent schoolwide growth. The remaining 50 percent for all teachers will consist of M-STAR (30 percent) and professional growth goals (20 percent).

Four performance levels must also be used: distinguished, effective, emerging and unsatisfactory.

M-STAR requires classroom observations; student surveys are optional.

Supporting Research

M-STAR Guidance Manual

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/teacher-center/m-star-guidance-manual.pdf?sfvrsn=0

Implementation Timeline

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/teacher-center/missisippi-teacher-evaluation-system

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi noted that after the field test year (2013-2014), it will analyze the evaluation data and adjust the criteria as warranted.

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

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

Figure 64 Type of suriey not specified Is survey data used as part of teacher evaluations? Alabama Alaska¹ Arizona П П П Arkansas California Colorado 2 Connecticut³ П П Delaware П П District of Columbia П Florida Georgia Hawaii П Idaho 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 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 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.

^{2.} Explicitly allowed but not required.

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



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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 П Hawaii П П Idaho П П Illinois Indiana 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

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

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

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

➤ Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



3-C Analysis: Mississippi





State Meets Goal (1) Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

All teachers in Mississippi must be evaluated annually. Mississippi's new statewide evaluation instrument, M-STAR, is planned for full implementation during the 2014-2015 school year.

M-STAR requires all teachers to receive at least two formal classroom observations with postobservations conferences. The formative observation is conducted in the fall and the summative observation in the spring. A minimum of five walkthrough classroom visits are also required throughout the school year.

Supporting Research

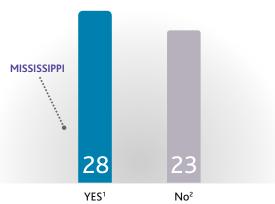
M-STAR Guidance Manual

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/teacher-center/m-star-guidance-manual.pdf?sfvrsn=0

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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

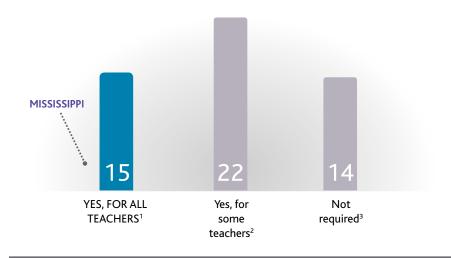


- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland³, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West Virginia,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

Figure 70 Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year? Alabama Alaska Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Ildaho Illinois Ill			,
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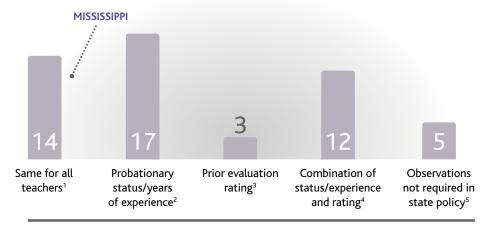
Figure 71

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?



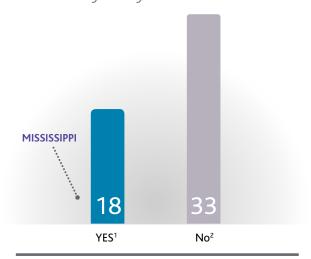
- Alabama, District of Columbia⁶, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas⁷, California⁷, Colorado, Florida, Kansas⁷, Minnesota⁷, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma⁷, Oregon, Pennsylvania⁷, South Carolina,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



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



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

Goal D - Tenure

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



3-D Analysis: Mississippi



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi does not connect tenure decisions to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Teachers in Mississippi are awarded nonprobationary status automatically after a one-year probationary period, absent an additional process that evaluates cumulative evidence of teacher effectiveness. Although not referred to as "tenure," awarding nonprobationary status has the same implications.

Supporting Research

Employee Policy and Procedures Manual, Section 5.0

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/human-resources-library/5-0-employment-status-2011-kr-draft-2-0E18200B0591A.pdf?sfvrsn=2

RECOMMENDATION

■ End the automatic awarding of tenure.

The decision to grant tenure should be a deliberate one, based on consideration of a teacher's commitment and actual evidence of classroom effectiveness.

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

Mississippi should make evidence of effectiveness, rather than the number of years in the class-room, the most significant factor when determining this leap in professional standing.

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

Mississippi should require a clear process, such as a hearing, to ensure that the local district reviews a teacher's performance before making a determination regarding tenure.

Require a longer probationary period.

Mississippi should extend its probationary period, ideally to five years. This would allow sufficient time to collect data that adequately reflect teacher performance.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

Figure 76	EVDENCE OF STUDENT PREDVINGS, THE	<pre> </pre>	/
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Goal E – Licensure Advancement

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



3-E Analysis: Mississippi



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

The state offers four certifications that are all valid for five years and are all renewable. The Class A license, which appears most closely to resemble an initial certification, requires a bachelor's degree and passage of applicable Praxis II tests. Teachers may renew the Class A license by completing one of the following: 10 continuing education units in content or skill-related area, three semester hours in content or skill-related area and five continuing education units in content or skill-related area, six semester hours in content or skill-related area or completion of the NBPTS process. Teachers may advance to the Class AA license by meeting the Class A requirements and earning a master's degree. A Class AAA license requires Class A criteria and a specialist degree, and a Class AAAA license requires Class A criteria and a doctoral degree.

Mississippi does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Mississippi teachers must renew their licenses every five years. Teachers with a Class A license (bachelor's degree level) must complete 10 continuing education units (CEUs), three semester hours and five CEUs, and six semester hours, or complete of the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards process. Those with Class AA licenses and above must complete three semester hours or five CEUs.

Supporting Research

Mississippi Licensure Guidelines

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/educator-licensure/licensure-guidelines-revised-5-21-13.pdf?sfvrsn=0

RECOMMENDATION

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

Mississippi should require evidence of teacher effectiveness to be a factor in determining whether teachers can renew their licenses or advance to a higher-level license.

Discontinue licensure requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

While targeted requirements may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Mississippi'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 requirement tying teacher advancement to master's degrees.

Mississippi should remove its mandate that teachers obtain a master's degree for license advancement. 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.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

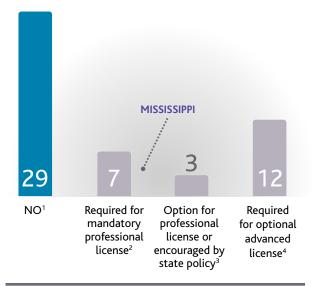
Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 78 Do states require teachers	OBICTIVE VIDENCE OF	UIRED Se	Consideration siven to classic mance to	Performance not considered	
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- Evidence of effectiveness is required for license renewal but not for conferring of professional license.
- 2. Illinois allows revocation of licenses based on ineffectiveness.
- Maryland uses some objective evidence through their evaluation systems for renewal, but advancement to professional license is still based on earning an advanced degree.

Figure 79

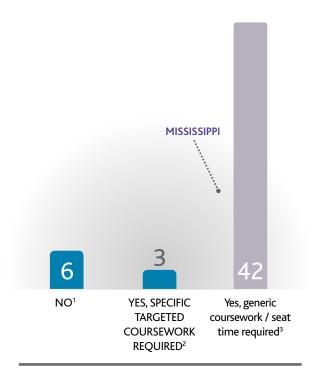
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?



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

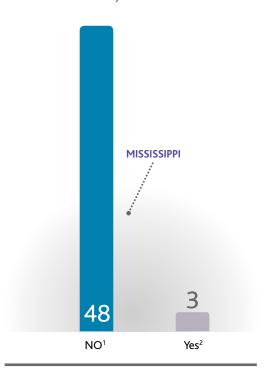
Figure 80

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



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

Figure 81 Do states award lifetime licenses?



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



TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

→ Goal F — Equitable Distribution

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



3-F Analysis: Mississippi



State Meets a Small Part of 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. Mississippi reports little school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

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

Mississippi does report on the percentage of teachers on emergency or provisional credentials and the percentage of highly qualified teachers. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district.

Supporting Research

2011-12 School Report Cards http://www.msreportcard.com/rc2012/?dist=4820

RECOMMENDATION

■ Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

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

Publish other data that facilitate comparisons across schools.

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

Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

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.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi indicated that the state will post school-level teacher performance data on its website (www.mde.k12.ms.us) in 2016.

LAST WORD

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

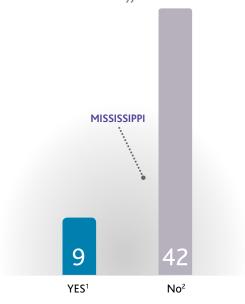
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** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

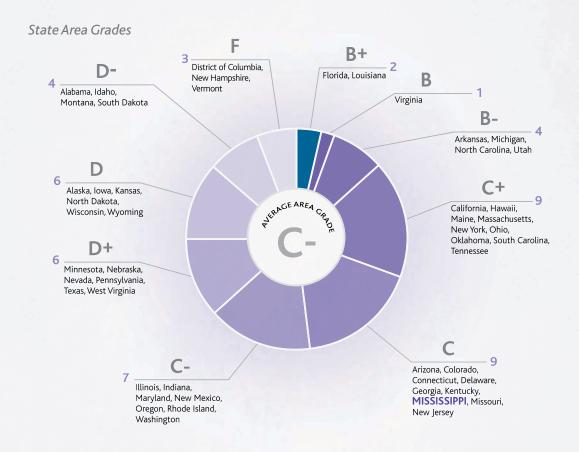


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas³, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts⁴, Missouri, New York, North Carolina,
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida⁵, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota,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

Area 4 Summary



How States are Faring in Retaining Effective Teachers





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.)

- 1. 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.
- 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: Mississippi



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi requires that all new teachers receive mentoring. The state mandates that all new teachers are assigned a mentor and allows the "selection, nature and extent of duties of mentor teachers" to be determined by the school district. However, Mississippi requires that the mentor program include "beginning teacher and mentor teacher consultations and observations, orientation sessions, and professional development training, which should include classroom discipline and/or management training" as well as a minimum of 90 hours of contact between mentors and new teachers. Mentors must have at least three years of teaching experience and also must successfully complete an approved training program. Starting in the 2008-2009 school year, mentors receive \$1,000 for each new teacher (up to two) they are assigned. A district may also grant release time for additional duties.

Supporting Research

Mississippi Statute 37-9-201-211

Mentoring and Induction

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/teacher-center/mentoring-and-induction

RECOMMENDATION

Expand guidelines to include other key areas.

While still leaving districts flexibility, Mississippi should articulate minimum guidelines for a high-quality induction experience. Mentors should be required to be trained in the content area or grade level similar to that of the new teacher. The state should set a timeline in which mentors are assigned to all new teachers to offer support during the critical first weeks of school and should mandate methods of performance evaluation.

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

To ensure that the experience is meaningful, Mississippi should make certain that induction includes strategies such as reduced teaching load and/or frequent release time to observe other teachers.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi noted that due to budget constraints, state funding for mentor stipends is no longer available.

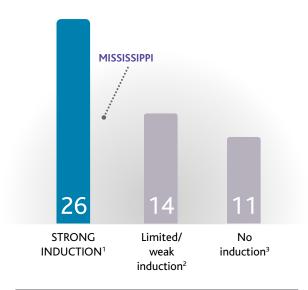
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T EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal B − Professional Development

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



4-B Analysis: Mississippi





State Meets Goal Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi requires that each teacher has pre- and post-observation conferences with his or her evaluator to discuss strengths and areas that need improvement based on observations. At the summative post-observation conferences teachers are given their M-STAR rating.

The state's evaluation guidelines specify that all teachers "receive professional development and support designed to address any area(s) identified for growth." Teachers receiving a rating of distinguished receive "professional development linked to specific areas to ensure they have the support they need to continue to grow and develop their skills." Any teacher rated unsatisfactory receives "immediate and comprehensive professional development and support designed to address the identified area(s) for growth."

Supporting Research

Mississippi Code Sec. 37-18-7

Mississippi Statewide Teacher Appraisal Rubric (MSTAR) System Guide http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/teacher-center/m-star-guidance-manual.pdf?sfvrsn=0

Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards 2012

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/accreditation-library/revised-10-9-12-2012-stds.pdf?sfvrsn=2

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

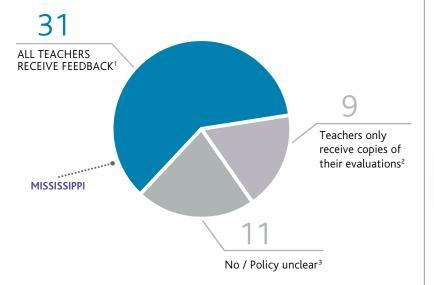
Louisiana and North Carolina require that teachers receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations and direct districts to connect professional development to teachers' identified needs. Both states also require that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement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

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

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Figure 90

Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?

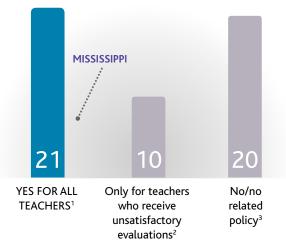


- Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia,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

Figure 91

Do states require that teacher evaluations

Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

> Goal C − Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

Goal Components

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

- 1. While the state may find it appropriate to articulate teachers' starting salaries, it should not require districts to adhere to a statedictated 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: Mississippi



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

To determine teachers' salaries, Mississippi provides local districts with a Minimum Salary Schedule. Because the salary schedule provided by the state is based on teachers' years of experience and earned advanced degrees, the state in effect mandates how districts will pay teachers.

Supporting Research

Mississippi Code 37-19-7

RECOMMENDATION

- Give districts flexibility to determine their own pay structure and scales.
 - While Mississippi may find it appropriate to articulate the starting salary that a teacher should be paid, it should not require districts to adhere to a state-dictated salary schedule.
- Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.
 - The inclusion of advanced degrees in the state schedule is particularly problematic, as this sends a clear message to both districts and teachers that attaining such degrees is desirable and should be rewarded; exhaustive research has shown unequivocally that advanced degrees do not have an impact on teacher effectiveness. Further, by establishing a guideline for teacher salaries that includes advanced degrees, the state limits the ability of districts to structure their pay scale in ways that do emphasize teacher effectiveness.
- Discourage salary schedules that imply that teachers with the most experience are the most effective.

Similarly, Mississippi's salary schedule sends a message to districts that the highest step on the pay scale should be determined solely by seniority.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

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

Figure 94	Ļ	PROHBITS ADDITE	AraceDorge PAY Leaves pay to die-	ion /
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- 1. For advanced degrees earned after April 2014.
- $\hbox{2. Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training". } \\$
- 3. Texas has a minimum salary schedule based on years of experience. Compensation for advanced degrees is left to district discretion.
- 4. Beginning in 2015-2016.

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

▶ Goal D – Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

Goal Component

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

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

Background

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



4-D Analysis: Mississippi



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi 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, Mississippi 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.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

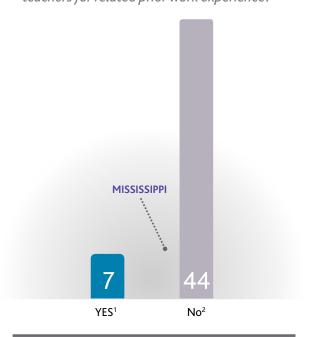
Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

> Goal E − Differential Pay

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

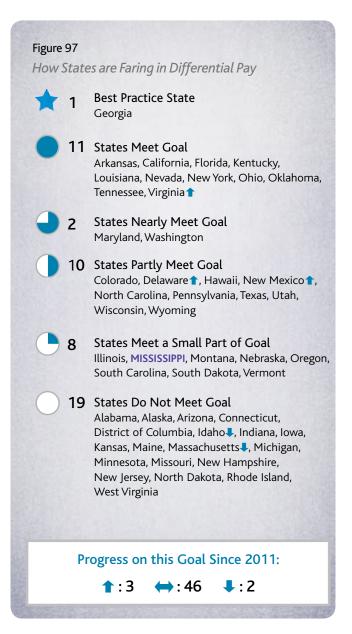
Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



4-E Analysis: Mississippi



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi has established a Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Program to attract qualified teachers for both geographical areas and subject areas where a critical teacher shortage exists. The program awards full scholarships to those who render service to the state.

Mississippi also has a Teacher Loan Repayment Program. Teachers who have received an alternate route license in a critical shortage subject area or hold a teaching certificate in any subject area and who agree to teach in a critical geographical shortage area can apply for \$12,000 of loan forgiveness (\$3,000 payable per year for up to a maximum of four years).

Teachers with at least three years of experience who are National Board Certified are eligible to receive an annual salary supplement of \$6,000. However, this differential pay is not tied to high-need schools or subject-area shortages.

Supporting Research

Mississippi Code 37-159-3

Mississippi Teacher Loan Repayment Program

http://www.mississippi.edu/riseupms/financialaid-step3-grants-loans.php?article_id=239

National Board Certification

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/school-financial-services/school-financial-services-master-teacher

RECOMMENDATION

Expand differential pay initiatives for teachers in subject-shortage areas and high-need schools.

Although the state's loan forgiveness program is a desirable recruitment and retention tools for teachers at certain points in their careers, Mississippi should expand its program to include all teachers. A salary differential is an attractive incentive for every teacher, not just those with education debt.

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

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

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this 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.

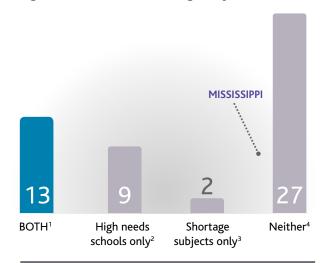
^{2.} South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in high-need schools.



TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal F − Performance Pay

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

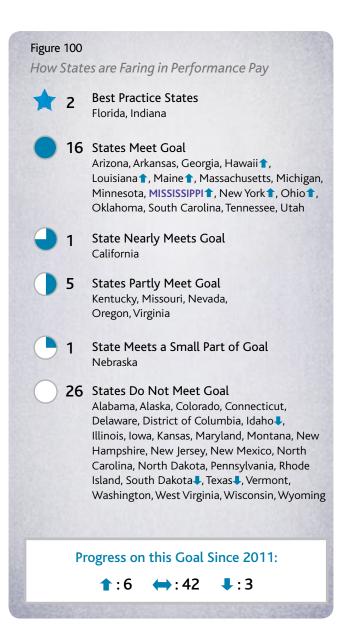
Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



4-F Analysis: Mississippi



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi supports performance pay. The Mississippi Performance Based Pay plan "may provide monies from state funds to school districts for the purposes of rewarding certified teachers...at individual schools showing improvement in student test scores." The state does not address the amount of the award, and the plan is only supported if funding is available.

In 2010, Mississippi received a five-year Teacher Incentive Fund grant to establish a pilot program to develop and implement a performance-based compensation system (PBCS) in 10 schools across the state. The performance-based compensation system is based on "school and/or individual accomplishments and demonstrated through improvements in student growth, multiple observations of effective practice, and performance of leadership roles and responsibilities."

Supporting Research

Mississippi Code 37-19-7(4)

Mississippi 2010 Teacher Incentive Fund Grantee Application http://www2.ed.gov/programs/teacherincentive/apps/a100130.pdf

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis. The state added that in 2012, Governor Phil Bryant proposed the implementation of a performance-based compensation salary to reward high-performing teachers. Four districts are currently piloting the system. Pilots were given the flexibility to design their own systems; however, performance will be measured by M-STAR scores, student growth data and attainment of district goals. Outcome data will be used to shape future policy.

Supporting Research

http://www.governorbryant.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Education-Works-Outline.pdf

Figure 101	PERCORMANCEFACTORE	PERCORMANCE BONUES	Performance pay Pennix.	State supported per-	-υ _ν ω /
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****** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

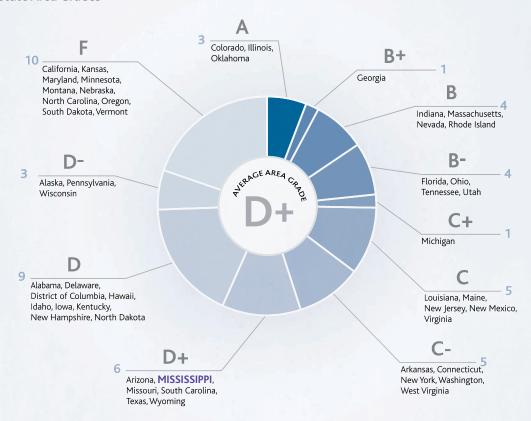
^{2.} Nevada's initiative does not go into effect until 2015-2016.

Area 5 Summary



How States are Faring in Exiting Ineffective Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

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

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal A − Extended Emergency Licenses

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



5-A Analysis: **Mississippi**



Best Practice State



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi requires that all new teachers pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure.

Supporting Research

Mississippi Educator Licensure

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/educator-licensure/renewal-reinstatement

http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/educator-licensure/licensure-updates

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

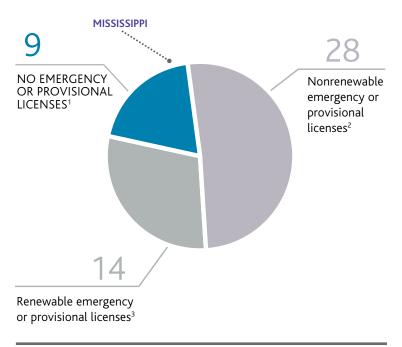
Figure 103		/		
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Colorado, **Illinois**, **Mississippi**, and **New Jersey** require all new teachers to pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure.

Figure 104

Do states still award emergency licenses?



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

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal B - Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

Goal Components

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

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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: Mississippi



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi does not explicitly make teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal, nor does the state distinguish 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. The process is the same regardless of the grounds for cancellation, which include "incompetence, neglect of duty, immoral conduct, intemperance, brutal treatment of a pupil or other good cause."

In Mississippi, tenured teachers who are terminated may appeal multiple times. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher has five days to file a written request for a hearing, which must take place within 30 days. Teachers may then file additional appeals with the chancery court and then with the Supreme Court. The time frame of these appeals is not addressed by the state.

Supporting Research

Mississippi Code 37-9-59; 113

RECOMMENDATION

Specify that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

Euphemistic terms such as "incompetency" are ambiguous at best and may be interpreted as concerning dereliction of duty rather than ineffectiveness. Mississippi should explicitly make teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal so that districts do not feel they lack the legal basis for terminating consistently poor performers.

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

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

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

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

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that teacher evaluations will inform personnel decisions in 2016-2017.



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

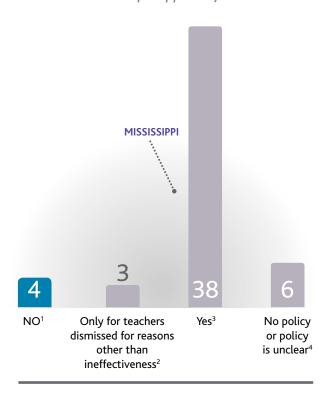
Florida and Oklahoma clearly articulate that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal. In both states, teachers are eligible for dismissal after two annual ratings of unsatisfactory performance. Each state has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed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

Figure 106 Do states articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal? Alabama Alaska Arizona П Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut П Delaware П District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois П Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky 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

^{1.} A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not articulated that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

Figure 107

Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



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

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal C − Reductions in Force

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

Goal Component

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

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

Background

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



5-C Analysis: Mississippi



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Mississippi does not have policy that addresses the factors used by districts to determine which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force.

RECOMMENDATION

- Require that districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.
 - Mississippi can still leave districts flexibility in determining layoff policies, but it should do so within a framework that ensures that classroom performance is considered.
- Ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off.

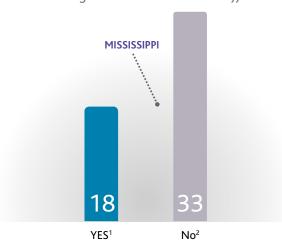
 Unlike some states, Mississippi does not require that districts consider seniority; however, the state should do more to prevent districts from making decisions solely on this basis.

MISSISSIPPI RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Mississippi recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 109

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



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

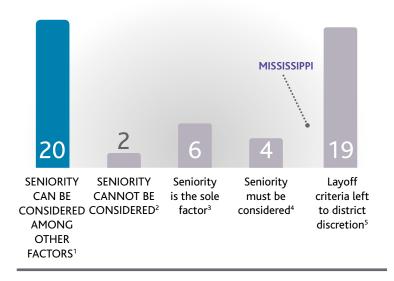




Colorado, **Florida**, and **Indiana** all specify that in determining which teachers to lay off during a reduction in force, classroom performance is the top criterion. These states also articulate that seniority can only be considered after a teacher's performance is taken into account.

Figure 111

Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?



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

Goals and Keywords

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

Goals and Keywords

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

Goals and Keywords

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

Teacher Policy Priorities for Mississippi

AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
Adopt an elementary content test with independently scored subject-matter subtests in each of the core areas.	Goal 1-B
Require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous stand-alone science of reading test.	Goal 1-C
Adopt a rigorous stand-alone math test for all elementary teacher candidates.	Goal 1-D
Specifically require secondary social studies and science teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.	Goal 1-F Goal 1-G
Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and ensure that both elementary and secondary special education teachers possess adequate and appropriate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.	Goal 1-H
■ Ensure that cooperating teachers for student teaching placements have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.	Goal 1-J
Hold teacher preparation programs accountable by collecting data that connect student achievement gains to programs, as well as other meaningful data that reflect program performance, and by establishing the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.	Goal 1-K
AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Real	

AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool		
Broaden alternate route usage.	Goal 2-C	
Require out-of-state teachers to meet the state's own testing requirements.	Goal 2-E	
	17	
AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers		
Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.	Goal 3-D	
Base licensure advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license and licensure renewal on evidence of effectiveness.	Goal 3-E	
Publish aggregate school-level teacher evaluation ratings from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness.	Goal 3-F	

AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	
Give districts control of teachers' pay structure and scales, but discourage districts from basing teacher pay scales primarily on advanced degrees and seniority.	Goal 4-C
Expand incentives for effective teachers in both shortage subject shortage areas and high-need schools to include differential pay.	Goal 4-E

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

