# 2013 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Nevada





## Acknowledgments

#### **STATES**

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

#### **FUNDERS**

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# **Executive Summary**

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

## Nevada at a Glance



# Overall 2013 Yearbook Grade

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: C-

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

Goal Breakdown	2013
★ Best Practice	0
Fully Meets	5
Nearly Meets	2
Partially Meets	7
Meets Only a Small Part	4
O Does Not Meet	13

	Progress on Goals Since 2011	
•	Progress has increased	1
<b>(2)</b>	No change in progress	30
•	Progress has decreased	0

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Pre	pared le	acners	Page 5
Admission into Teacher Preparation Elementary Teacher Preparation Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction Teacher Preparation in Mathematics Middle School Teacher Preparation Secondary Teacher Preparation		Secondary Teacher Preparation in Scie Special Education Teacher Preparation Assessing Professional Knowledge Student Teaching Teacher Preparation Program Accountab	
Policy Strengths			
<ul> <li>Teacher candidates are not required to pacademic proficiency as a criterion for a teacher preparation programs.</li> <li>Elementary teacher candidates are not to pass a content test with individually subtests in each of the core content are mathematics.</li> <li>Elementary teacher candidates are not pass a science of reading test to ensure of effective reading instruction, and preprograms are not required to address the topic.</li> <li>Middle school teachers are allowed to to generalist license.</li> </ul>	required scored required to knowledge paration is critical	<ul> <li>Although most secondary teachers content test to teach a core subject secondary science and social studing required to pass content tests for eare licensed to teach.</li> <li>The state offers a K-12 special edution and does not require any content the education teacher candidates.</li> <li>Requirements for teacher preparatingh-quality student teaching experience in the teacher preparation program a does not hold programs accountable of the teachers they produce.</li> </ul>	et area, some es teachers are not each discipline they cation certification esting for special ion do not ensure a erience. approval process
Area 2: Expanding the Pool	of Teach	ers	Page 53
Alternate Route Eligibility Alternate Route Preparation Alternate Route Usage and Providers	<u>•</u>	Part-Time Teaching Licenses Licensure Reciprocity	0
Policy Weaknesses  Admission criteria for the alternate rout certification are not selective or flexible of nontraditional candidates.  Alternate route programs do not provide preparation that is geared toward the in needs of new teachers.	to the needs e efficient	<ul> <li>Although there are no restrictions are limits on the usage of alternat</li> <li>A license with minimal requirement content experts to teach part time</li> <li>Out-of-state teachers are not requirements, and the content of the</li></ul>	e routes. nts that would allo e is not offered. uired to meet the

#### **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers** Page 73 State Data Systems Tenure **Evaluation of Effectiveness** Licensure Advancement Frequency of Evaluations **Equitable Distribution Policy Strengths** Tenure decisions are connected to evidence of Objective evidence of student learning is the teacher effectiveness. 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 on teacher effectiveness. with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher Little school-level data are reported that can help effectiveness, it has not taken other meaningful steps support the equitable distribution of teacher talent. to maximize the system's efficiency and potential. **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers Page 103** Compensation for Prior Work Experience Professional Development Differential Pay Pay Scales Performance Pay **Policy Strengths** Teachers can receive additional pay for working in Districts are given full authority for how teachers are high-need schools or shortage subject areas, and paid, although they are not discouraged from basing performance pay will be available starting with the salary schedules solely on years of experience and 2015-2016 school year. advanced degrees. **Policy Weaknesses** receive unsatisfactory evaluations are not placed on All new teachers do not receive mentoring or other structured improvement plans. induction support. ■ The state does not support additional compensation Professional development is not aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations, and teachers who for relevant prior work experience. Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers Page 127 **Extended Emergency Licenses** Reductions in Force Dismissal for Poor Performance **Policy Strengths** A last hired, first fired layoff policy is prohibited during All teachers of core-subject areas must pass all reductions in force. required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure. **Policy Weaknesses** ■ Ineffective classroom performance is not grounds for dismissal.

igure A	Overall State Grade 2013	Overall State Grade 2011	Overall State Grade 2009
Florida	0 & B+	O G B	c
Louisiana	В	C-	C-
Rhode Island	В	B-	D D
	_	B-	C-
Tennessee	B B-	C C	C-
Arkansas Connecticut	В-	C-	D+
	В-	C	C-
Georgia Indiana	В-	C+	D D
Massachusetts	В-	C	D+
Michigan	В-	C+	D-
	В-	D+	D+
New Jersey New York	В-	C C	D+
Ohio	В-	C+	
			D+
Oklahoma Colorado	B- C+	B- C	D+
			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

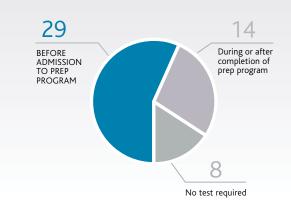
#### BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



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:

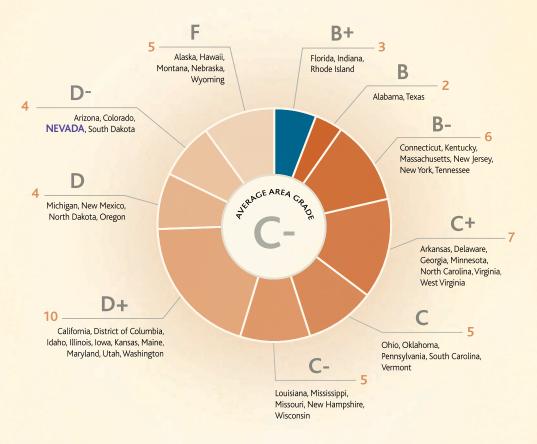


# **Area 1 Summary**



# 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: Nevada



State Does Not Meet Goal





Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Administrative Code 391.036

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada noted that it is the state's understanding that IHEs require their students to pass the Praxis I PPST prior to student teaching.

#### **LAST WORD**

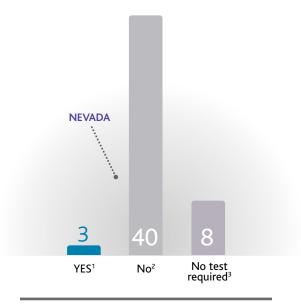
Candidates' academic proficiency should be assessed prior to admission. It is a waste of resources and unfair to candidates to find out prior to student teaching that an individual lacks the basic skills needed to be an effective teacher.



#### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

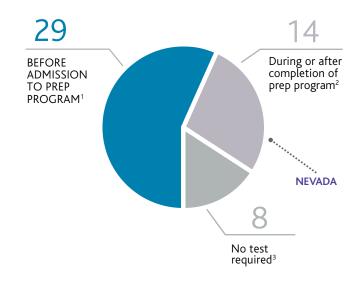
For admission to teacher preparation programs, Rhode Island and Delaware require a test of academic proficiency normed to the general collegebound population rather than a test that is normed just to prospective teachers. Delaware also requires teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or be in the top 50th 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?



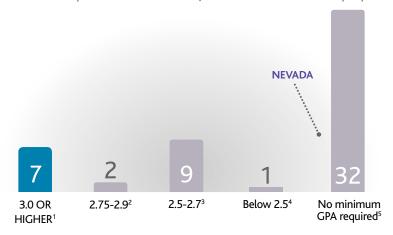
- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, 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

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<sup>1.</sup> Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission with a 3.0 GPA.

Figure 5

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



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

# Goal B − Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

#### Background

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



## 1-B Analysis: Nevada







#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada 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.

Nevada requires candidates to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Instructional Practice and Applications test. Regrettably, this is not an adequate assessment of content knowledge. The description of topics assessed and sample questions focus almost exclusively on methods and instructional strategies, and although it is a sound approach to assess pedagogical knowledge in the context of specific content areas, that does not mean that such a test measures content knowledge.

Early childhood education (B-2) candidates are required to pass the Praxis II Early Childhood: Content Knowledge test.

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

#### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Test Requirement

www.ets.org

Nevada Administrative Code 391.095

Guidelines for Adding an Endorsement

http://teachers.nv.gov/Renewing/Adding\_Endorsement/

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Nevada 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.

Nevada should either articulate a 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. Nevada now requires that elementary teachers complete 18 semester hours of credit that must include at least six semester hours each of science and social studies. These requirements are far from complete and are defined too broadly to guarantee that the courses used to meet them will be relevant to the topics taught in the PK-6 classroom.

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

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

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

Nevada allows teachers to add certification areas without passing a content test. 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.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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

Figure 7	ELMENTARY CONTENT  SCORE FOR ESPARATE  LEMENTARY CONTENT  SCORE FOR E.	Stennentary Content tees	Elementary content to	with
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#### **TOTAL STATE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.

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

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

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

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

Figure 9			GLISH	/	/		ENCE	,			CIAL S			/ /	FINE ARTS
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Virginia		<b>*</b>		*		* *	*	*	*	*	* 1	t A	*		
Washington						* *	*			*			*		*
West Virginia															
Wisconsin					*		*	*	*		* [				
Wyoming															
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Figure 10
What subjects does Nevada expect elementary teachers to know?

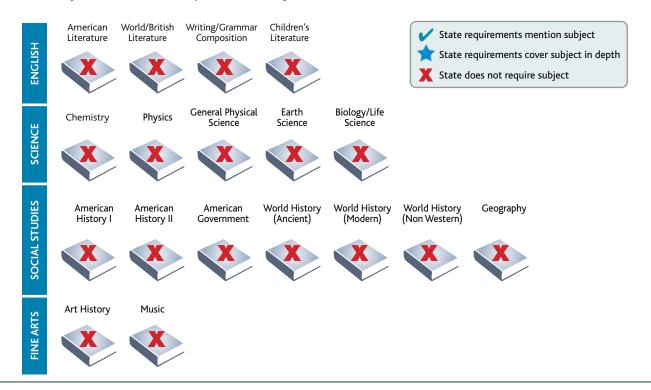
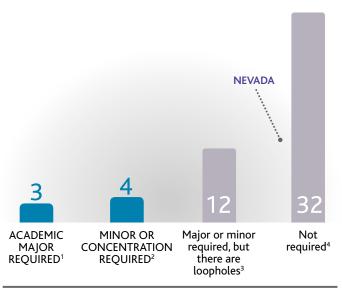


Figure 11

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: **Nevada**







#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada 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.

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Nevada 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.

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

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

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada provided links to the following required Praxis exams: Elementary Education: Instructional Practice and Applications; Early Childhood: Content Knowledge; Education of Young Children; and Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades K-6.

#### **LAST WORD**

These Praxis exams do not address all five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

igure 13		PARATIOI	rc /	TEST REQUIRI	
Do states ensure that	FULLY ADDRESS READING SCIENCE	Do not address		157	
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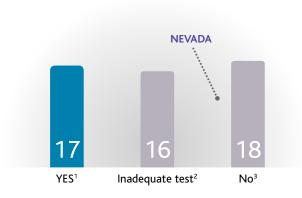
#### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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.

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

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

Figure 14
Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?

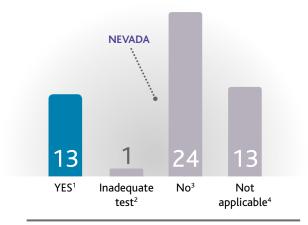


- Strong Practice: Alabama<sup>4</sup>, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia,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

Figure 15

Do states measure knowledge of the science of

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



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

# Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

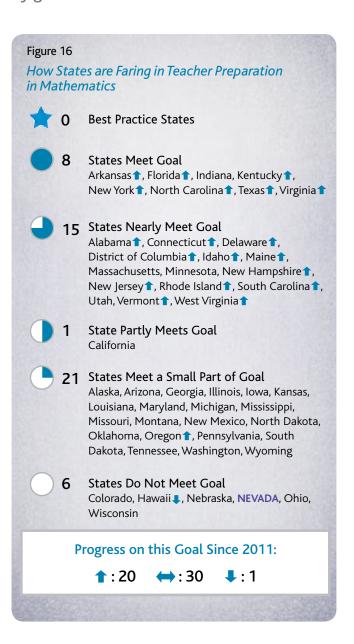
- The state should require teacher preparation programs to deliver mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates. This content should be specific to the needs of the elementary teacher (i.e., foundations, algebra and geometry with some statistics).
- The state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







#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada requires that all new elementary teachers pass a general elementary 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.

Early childhood education teachers in Nevada, who are allowed to teach through grade 2, are required to pass the early childhood general content test, which also does not report an individual math subscore.

Although Nevada now requires elementary teacher candidates to earn at least six credit hours of math, the state specifies neither the requisite content of these classes nor that they must meet the needs of elementary teachers.

#### Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirement

www.ets.org

Nevada Administrative Code 391.095

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Nevada 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.

Nevada must ensure that new teachers are prepared to teach the mathematics content required by the Common Core State Standards. Nevada should explicitly articulate its expectations for the knowledge and skills it expects elementary mathematics teachers to possess and 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.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada asserted that all teachers are also required to pass the Praxis I exam, with extensive measures for testing mathematics. The state added that its elementary test includes math testing.

# **LAST WORD** The Praxis I assessment is a basic skills test. It is not intended to be a licensing test but rather an assessment to be used at the point of admission into a teacher preparation program (see Goal 1-A). Such tests generally assess middle school-level skills. To ensure elementary teachers' minimum mathematics knowledge—which includes the critical areas of numbers and operations; algebra; and, to a lesser degree, data analysis and probability—Nevada should require a rigorous math test, such as the one required in Massachusetts, which challenges candidates' understanding of underlying mathematics concepts.

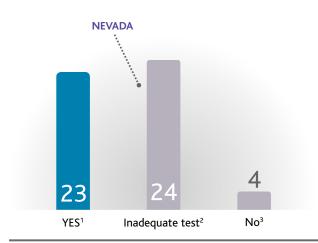


#### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

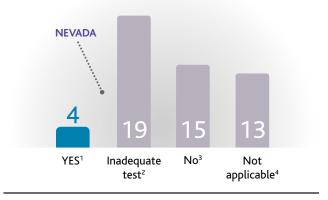
Figure 17

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



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

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



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

# Goal E − Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

#### Goal Components

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

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

#### Background

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



## 1-E Analysis: Nevada



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada offers a middle school license for middle school teachers; candidates must earn 24 semester hours in a major field of endorsement or area of concentration. Teachers with secondary certificates are allowed to teach single subjects in middle school. Those candidates must complete either a major (36 credit hours) or a minor (24 credit hours) in their intended teaching field. Regrettably, Nevada also allows middle school teachers to teach on a generalist K-8 license.

All new middle school teachers in Nevada are also required to pass a Praxis II subject-matter test to attain licensure. However, only secondary and middle school candidates are required to pass a single-subject Praxis II content test to attain licensure. Those seeking the generalist K-8 license are only required to pass the general content test for elementary education. This is especially worrisome considering that elementary teachers in the state are only required to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Instructional Practice and Applications test, which is not even an adequate assessment of content knowledge for elementary teachers.

#### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Test Requirement

www.ets.org

Nevada Administrative Code 391.090, -111, -120

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### Require content testing in all core areas.

Nevada should require subject-matter testing for all middle school teacher candidates in every core academic area they intend to teach as a condition of initial licensure.

To ensure meaningful middle school content tests, Nevada should reevaluate its passing scores so that all tests reflect high levels of performance. For example, the passing score for the Praxis II Middle School Mathematics test is set just above the 8th percentile.

#### ■ Eliminate the generalist license

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

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

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

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

Nevada allows teachers to add areas of certification without passing a content test. The state is urged to require that all teachers who add the middle grade levels to their certificates pass a rigorous subject-matter test to ensure content knowledge of all subject areas before they are allowed in the classroom.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada asserted that middle school teachers are HQT with an elementary license and the Praxis II Elementary Education: Instructional Practice and Applications test (5015). In addition, middle school candidates must take and pass a middle school content exam.

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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.

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

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

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

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

Figure 21		No, test does not report	z /	/
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Tennessee				
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Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin	Ш			

- 1. Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure. 2. Candidates teaching multiple subjects only have to pass
- the elementary test. Single-subject credential does not require 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.
- 5. For nondepartmentalized classrooms, generalist in middle childhood education candidates must pass new assessment with three subtests.
- 6. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
- 7. Candidates opting for middle-level endorsement may either complete a major or pass a content test.

# Goal F – Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

#### Goal Components

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

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

#### Background

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



## 1-F Analysis: Nevada



State Partly Meets Goal



**Progress Since 2011** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

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

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

To add an endorsement to an existing secondary license, teachers in Nevada must submit transcripts to verify the minimum credits required. A content test is not required.

#### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Testing Requirements

www.ets.org

Nevada Administrative Code 391.036, -1306

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

Nevada 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, Nevada should also reevaluate its passing scores so that all tests reflect high levels of performance. For example, the passing score for the Praxis II English Language, Literature and Composition: Content Knowledge test is set just below the 5th percentile.

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—Nevada 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.

Nevada should require passing scores on subject-specific content tests, regardless of other course-work 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.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

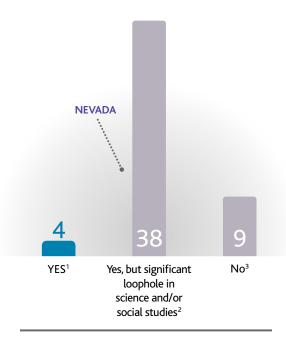
Nevada provided links to the following Praxis II exams: General Science: Content Knowledge; General Science: Content Essays; and Biology: Content Knowledge.



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

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

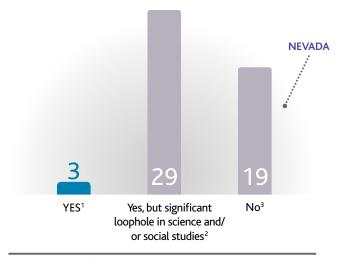
Figure 23 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



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

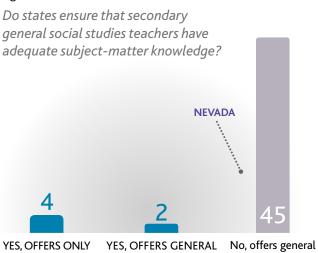
Figure 24 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a

content test in every subject area to add an endorsement?



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

Figure 25



1. Strong Practice: Georgia, Indiana, South Dakota, Tennessee

2. Strong Practice: Minnesota<sup>4</sup>, Missouri

SINGLE SUBJECT

SOCIAL

STUDIES LICENSES<sup>1</sup>

3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma<sup>5</sup>, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

**SOCIAL STUDIES** 

LICENSE WITH

ADEQUATE TESTING<sup>2</sup>

social studies license

without adequate

testing3

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

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



## 1-G Analysis: Nevada



State Does Not Meet Goal



(
Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Nevada also offers an endorsement in physical science. These candidates must also pass the Praxis II General 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.

States that allow general science certifications or combination licenses across multiple science disciplines—and only require a general knowledge science exam—are not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. Nevada's required assessments combine subject areas (e.g., chemistry and physics) and do not report separate scores for each subject area. Therefore, candidates could answer many—perhaps all—chemistry questions, for example, incorrectly yet still be licensed to teach chemistry to high school students.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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11/				
Wyoming			ш	



#### **EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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

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

## Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

## Goal H − Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



### 1-H Analysis: Nevada



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada 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

Nevada Administrative Code 391.343

#### **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 Nevada 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, Nevada should require a rigorous content test that reports separate passing scores for each content area. Nevada 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, Nevada'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, Nevada 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.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada asserted that it does require testing for special education teachers. To be certified as a generalist (resource room), a candidate must pass the Praxis II Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications test and the grade-specific Principles of Learning and Teaching exam. Speech and language handicapped teachers must pass the Praxis II Special Education: Teaching Speech to Students with Language Impairments test.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

The tests required of special education teachers by Nevada do not assess content knowledge.

Figure 29		Offers K-72 and	ion(s)
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and secondary special	SNO	3 K- 1	s on!
education teachers?	1 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	) 940 8134	Offes only a K-12
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#### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 30

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

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

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

Figure 29:

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

## Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

## Goal I – Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

#### Goal Component

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

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

#### Background

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



## 1-I Analysis: Nevada





State Meets Goal Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

#### **Supporting Research**

http://www.ets.org/praxis/nv

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

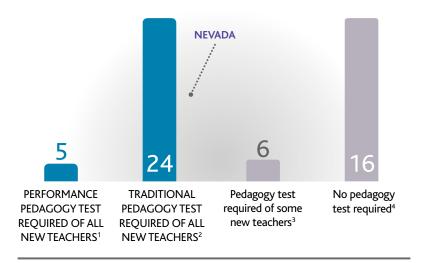
#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**



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

Figure 32

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



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

## Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

## Goal J − Student Teaching

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



### 1-J Analysis: Nevada



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada requires eight semester credits of supervised student teaching. The state does not articulate any requirements for cooperating teachers.

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Administrative Code 391.095, -.111, -.120

#### **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 Nevada 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.
  - Nevada 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.
- Require teacher candidates to spend at least 10 weeks student teaching.
  - Nevada should require a more extensive summative clinical experience for all prospective teachers. Student teaching should be a full-time commitment, as requiring coursework and student teaching simultaneously does a disservice to both. Alignment with a school calendar for at least 10 weeks ensures both adequate classroom experience and exposure to a variety of ancillary professional activities.
- Explicitly require that student teaching be completed locally, thus prohibiting candidates from completing this requirement abroad.

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Figure 34	OHER.	NOENT TEACHING STS AT LEAST TO WEEK
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high-quality student	RAZIN NESS	15/1
teaching experience?	COOF.	57UDE 145754
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Colorado		
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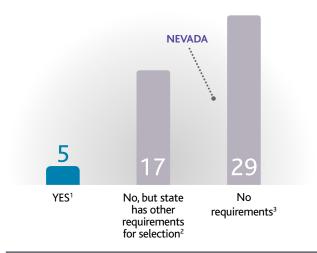
#### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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

Figure 35

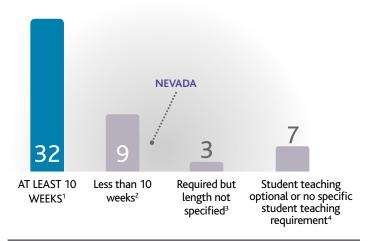
Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



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

Figure 36

Is the student teaching experience of sufficient length?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia<sup>5</sup>, Wisconsin
- 2. Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Illinois, New Hampshire, Utah
- 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 **1**:13

### 1-K Analysis: Nevada



State Partly Meets Goal (+) Progress Since 2011



#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada's approval process for its traditional and alternate route teacher preparation programs could do more to hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

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

The state does rely on some other objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of its traditional teacher preparation programs. Nevada has set minimum standards for traditional program performance; failure to meet those standards precipitates action by the Board of Education that may result in a program losing state approval. The Board reviews any program that reports fewer than 95 percent of its teacher candidates passing their licensure tests, or if school districts report that more than 5 percent of program graduates newly hired by districts are dismissed or not rehired. This 95 percent standard is among the highest in the nation, with most states setting the pass-rate standard at 80 percent.

Nevada also requires each teacher preparation program to submit an annual report, although it is not clear how the information gained from these reports contributes to the program approval process. The report must include:

- The annual accountability report submitted by the institution to the federal government;
- Information regarding the types of teaching positions program graduates have attained;
- · A satisfaction survey that asks program graduates and principals to give their view on the quality of a program's preparation; and
- A plan for improvement based upon these findings.

However, the state does not collect these data for its alternate route programs. 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 Nevada have been identified in required federal reporting as low performing.

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

In Nevada, 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. Nevada delegates its subject-matter program review process to NCATE/CAEP. Programs must align with NCATE/CAEP standards.

#### Supporting Research

Nevada Administrative Code 391.557, .-558, .-560 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, Nevada 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 all programs are preparing teachers for the classroom. Nevada should expand its requirements to its alternate route programs and 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.

#### Publish an annual report card on the state's website.

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

Maintain full authority over the process for approving teacher preparation programs.

Nevada 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.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

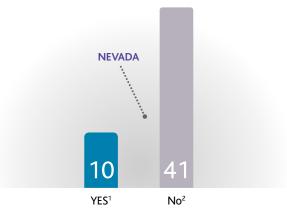
Figure 38	OBJECTIVE PROGRAM.	945	OATA PUBLICIA AVAILABLEOV
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preparation programs	#CJ #CZ		Z 2 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8
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District of Columbia			
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Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			2
Louisiana			2
Maine	<b>1</b>		
Maryland	3		
Massachusetts			
Michigan		1	
Minnesota			
Mississippi	1		
Missouri			
Montana	1		
Nebraska			
NEVADA <sup>1</sup>			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey	1		
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			2
North Dakota			
Ohio <sup>1</sup>			
Oklahoma			_
Oregon			
Pennsylvania	1		
Rhode Island			
South Carolina <sup>1</sup>			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia	<u> </u>		
Washington			
West Virginia	<b>1</b>		
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			Ш
	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 Columbia<sup>a</sup>, Hawaii<sup>a</sup>, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland<sup>a</sup>, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York<sup>3</sup>, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Included in state's Race to the Top plan, but not in policy or yet implemented.

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

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

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

Figure 40

#### Which states collect meaningful data?

#### STUDENT LEARNING GAINS

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

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

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

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

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

#### SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

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

#### TEACHER RETENTION RATES

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

1. For alternate route only

Figure 41

What is the relationship between state program

approval and national

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П

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П

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accreditation?

Alabama Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

California

Colorado

Delaware

Florida

Georgia

Hawaii

Indiana

Kansas

Kentucky

Louisiana Maine

Maryland

Michigan

Minnesota

Mississippi

Missouri Montana

Nebraska

**NEVADA** 

Massachusetts

Iowa

Idaho Illinois

Connecticut

District of Columbia

National accreditation is required for program approval

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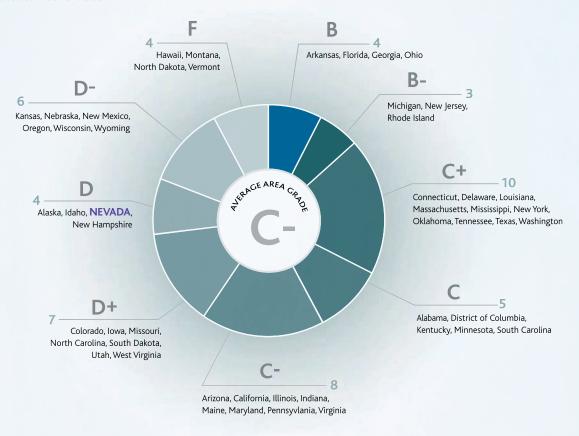
П П New Hampshire New Jersey П П New Mexico П П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio  $\Box$ П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П Vermont Virginia П Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 1. National accreditation can be substituted for state approval. 2. For institutions with 2,000 or more full-time equivalent students 7 13 31

## **Area 2 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Expanding the Pool of Teachers

State Area Grades



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

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

## Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

## Goal A − Alternate Route Eligibility

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

#### Background

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

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

### 2-A Analysis: **Nevada**







#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada requires applicants to take a basic skills test and a subject-matter test prior to admission. The subject-matter test cannot be used to test out of content coursework requirements.

Candidates must have a bachelor's degree in the subject area they plan to teach, the equivalent of two years of full-time teaching experience and five years of work experience.

#### Supporting Research

Nevada Revised Statutes 391.019

**Special Qualifications** 

http://teachers.nv.gov/Licenses/Special\_Qualifications/

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### Screen all candidates for academic ability.

Nevada should require that candidates to its alternate routes provide some evidence of good academic performance. The standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of 3.0 or higher. A rigorous test appropriate for candidates who have already completed a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be ideal.

#### Allow flexibility in demonstrating subject-matter knowledge.

Nevada should not require that applicants have a major in the subject area they will teach; a rigorous subject-matter test can provide sufficient evidence of content knowledge. Exacting coursework requirements could dissuade talented individuals who lack precisely the right courses from pursuing a career in teaching.

#### ■ 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. 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. At a minimum, the state should eliminate the basic skills test requirement or accept the equivalent in SAT or ACT scores.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

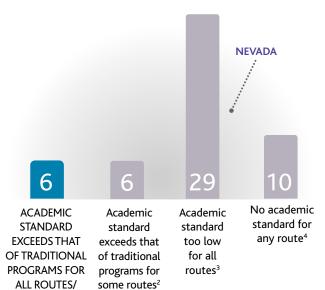
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#### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 44 Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



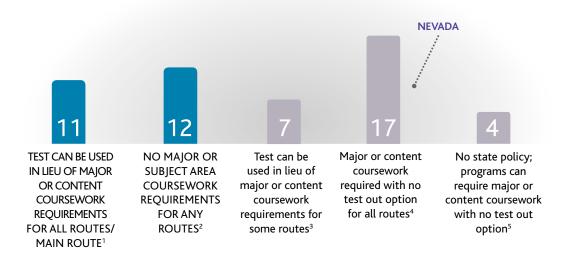
- 1. Strong Practice: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island
- 2. Alabama, Illinois<sup>5</sup>, Indiana, Kentucky<sup>6</sup>, New York, Pennsylvania

MAIN ROUTE1

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

Figure 45

Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



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



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

The Nevada Commission on Professional Standards sets specific guidelines for alternate route programs, including to "significantly limit the amount of coursework required." A waiver should be granted for coursework to candidates who achieve a certain score on a test.

The Commission on Professional Standards also requires providers to offer supervised, school-based experiences and ongoing support for candidates, such as mentoring or coaching.

The state asserts that programs should be completed in two or fewer years, and that candidates will be eligible for standard certification upon completion.

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Revised Statutes 391.019

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Establish coursework guidelines for all alternate route preparation programs.

Nevada is commended for its intention to limit the amount of coursework that alternate route candidates will be required to take. As it moves forward, Nevada should articulate guidelines regarding the nature and amount of coursework required of candidates. Requirements should be manageable and contribute to the immediate needs of new teachers. Appropriate coursework should include grade-level or subject-level seminars, methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction.

Ensure that new teachers are supported in the first year of teaching.

While Nevada is commended for requiring programs to provide coaching and mentoring support, the state should offer detailed mentoring guidelines to ensure that new teachers will receive the support they need to facilitate their success in the classroom. 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 relief time to allow new teachers to observe experienced teachers during each school day.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada noted that there are parameters in place that allow Alternative Routes to Licensure (ARL) candidates to test out of secondary content requirements.

Figure 47		RELEVANT COURCE	REASONABLE PROCRAMILE	PRACTICE TEACHING	MTENSIVESUPPORT
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### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

## Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

## ➤ Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

#### Goal Components

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

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

#### Background

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



### 2-C Analysis: Nevada



State Partly Meets Goal 🕒 Progress Since 2011



#### **ANALYSIS**

Although it does not place restrictions on providers, Nevada limits the usage of its alternate routes.

Nevada's alternate route is only available to teach middle school or junior high school. This restriction is not applicable to Teach For America or ABCTE.

Nevada allows alternative teacher education and training to be provided by institutions of higher education as well as by other providers that operate independently, including Teach For America and ABCTE. The state is commended for structuring its programs to allow a diversity of providers. A good diversity of providers helps all programs, both university- and nonuniversity-based, to improve.

#### Supporting Research

Nevada Revised Statutes 391.019

Nevada Teach For America

http://www.teachforamerica.org/where-we-work/las-vegas-valley

Nevada ABCTE

http://abcte.org/nevada-now-accepts-abcte-as-a-route-to-teacher-licensure/

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### Broaden usage for all alternate routes.

Nevada should reconsider grade-level restrictions on its alternate route. The state should also provide a true alternative path to certification and eliminate requirements that alternate route teachers can only be hired if traditionally certified teachers cannot be found. 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.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

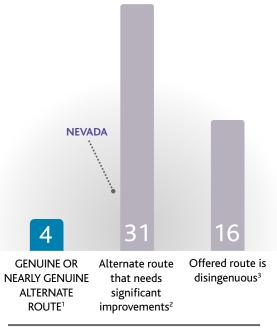
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#### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 50 Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification?



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

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## Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

## ➤ Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



## 2-D Analysis: Nevada



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO 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: Nevada



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Regrettably, Nevada grants a waiver for its licensing tests to an out-of-state teacher with a valid, standard license from another state and with one year of experience.

Teachers with valid out-of-state certificates may be eligible for Nevada's initial teaching license. Applicants must have three years of teaching experience, a requirement for which there is no apparent justification.

Furthermore, Nevada routinely reviews the college transcripts of licensed out-of-state teachers. States that reach a determination about an applicant's licensure status on the basis of the course titles listed on the applicant's transcript may end up mistakenly equating the amount of required coursework with the teacher's qualifications.

Nevada also requires all out-of-state teachers to either take coursework or pass examinations pertaining to Nevada school law, the Nevada Constitution and the U.S. Constitution.

Nevada 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.

Nevada requires online teachers to hold a license that authorizes them to teach both the subject area and grade levels in the state in which the license was issued.

#### **Supporting Research**

Reciprocity
http://teachers.nv.gov/Getting\_Started/Reciprocity/
Testing Requirements
http://teachers.nv.gov/Getting\_Started/Testing/
NAC 388.835

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Nevada takes considerable risk by granting a waiver for its licensing tests to out-of-state teachers with a standard license and one year of experience. The state should not provide any waivers of its teacher tests unless an applicant can provide evidence of a passing score under its own standards. The negative impact on student learning stemming from a teacher's inadequate subject-matter knowledge is not mitigated by the teacher's having a license and experience.

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

Nevada should consider adopting a more flexible policy regarding portability and offer out-of-state teachers comparable licensure. It should also reconsider its experience requirement because if the state is willing to hire its own inexperienced teachers, it is not clear why it is unwilling to hire inexperienced teachers from other states, unless the state has too great a supply of teachers and needs to discourage applicants.

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

In addition, Nevada's policy requiring all out-of-state teachers to demonstrate knowledge via courses or tests of Nevada school law, the Nevada Constitution and the U.S. Constitution is sensible. However, the state allows teachers up to three years to meet this requirement, which would imply that it does not view this knowledge as essential to a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom.

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

  Rather than rely on transcripts to assess credentials, Nevada should instead require that evidence of teacher effectiveness be considered for all out-of-state candidates. Such evidence is especially important for candidates who come from states that make student growth at least a significant factor of a teacher evaluation (see Goal 3-B).
- Accord the same license to out-of-state alternate route teachers as would be accorded to traditionally prepared teachers.

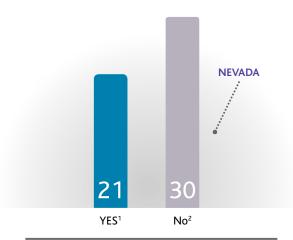
Regardless of whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route, all certified out-of-state teachers should receive equal treatment. State policies that discriminate against teachers who were prepared in an alternate route are not supported by evidence. In fact, a substantial body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

Ensure that requirements for online teachers are as rigorous as those for in-state teachers. Nevada should ensure that online teachers based in other states are at least equally as qualified as those who teach in the state. However, Nevada 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.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Figure 55

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



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

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

Figure 56

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

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

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

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

Figure 57	5	State specifies of the route to	ate / sate
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### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

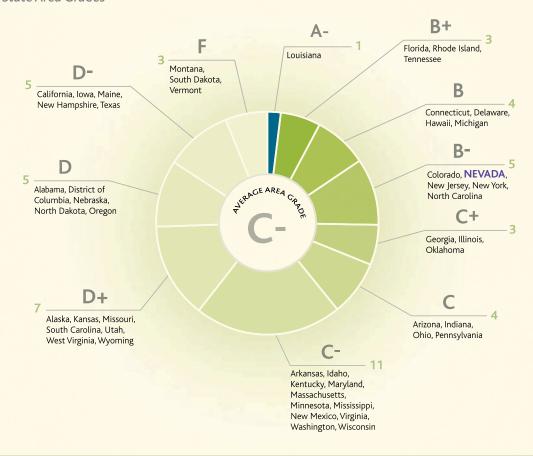
Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet Alabama's and Texas's own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate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

## **Area 3 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Identifying Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



### Topics Included In This Area

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

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

### Goal A – State Data Systems

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

### Background

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



### 3-A Analysis: **Nevada**





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



#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Nevada 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 the state 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.

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

Nevada 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, Nevada 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 Nevada should develop a process for teacher roster verification as well as an ability to link more than one educator to a particular student.

Publish data on teacher production.

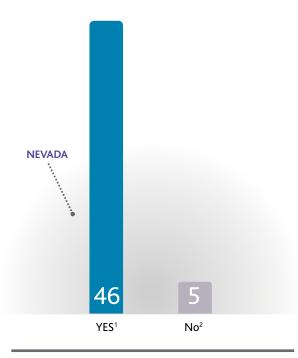
From the number of teachers who graduate from preparation programs each year, only a subset are certified, and only some of those certified are actually hired in the state. While it is certainly desirable to produce a big enough pool to give districts a choice in hiring, the substantial oversupply in some teaching areas is not good for the profession. Nevada 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, Nevada will form a rich set of data that can inform policy decisions.

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada had no comment on this goal.

Figure 59 Do states' data systems have the basic elements

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



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

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

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### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

### Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 3-B Analysis: Nevada





State Meets Goal (🖨) Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Commendably, Nevada requires that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations. The state requires districts to develop their own teacher evaluation process consistent with the state's framework; Nevada will also provide a model. Implementation is set for the 2014-2015 school year.

Nevada requires that student achievement data count for at least 50 percent of teacher evaluations. However, student achievement data must not be included for a probationary teacher in his or her initial year of employment.

Four rating categories must be used: highly effective, effective, minimally effective and ineffective.

Classroom observations are required.

**Supporting Research** SB 407 (2013)

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada had no comment on this goal.

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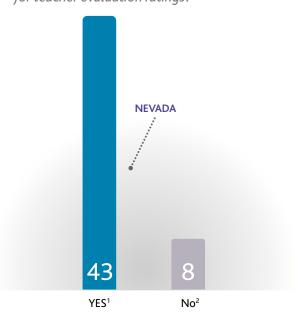
<sup>2.</sup> Explicitly defined for the 2013-2014 school year.

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

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

Figure 65

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



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

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

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

<sup>3.</sup> 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 Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming П П 9 12 30

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

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<sup>1.</sup> Maryland requires multiple observers for ineffective teachers.

 $<sup>{\</sup>it 2. Multiple evaluators are explicitly allowed but not required.}$ 

## ➤ 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: **Nevada**





State Meets Goal 🏻 (🖨 Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Commendably, all teachers in Nevada must be evaluated at least annually.

Nonprobationary teachers must be evaluated at least once a year. Each evaluation must consist of at least one observation. Nonprobationary teachers who receive a minimally effective or ineffective evaluation rating must be evaluated three times the next school year, with an observation schedule similar to that of probationary teachers outlined below. Nonprobationary teachers who receive effective ratings must be evaluated once but with two scheduled observations. Nonprobationary teachers rated highly effective must be evaluated once with one observation.

Probationary teachers in Nevada must be evaluated three times a year. Each evaluation must include at least one scheduled observation, with a postobservation conference. The first scheduled observation must occur within the first 40 days of instruction; the second must occur after 40 but within 80 days of the first day of instruction; and the third must occur after 80 but within 120 days after the first day of instruction. A conference and written evaluation for a probationary teacher must be concluded no later than December 1, February 1 and April 1 of each school year of the probationary period.

Supporting Research SB 407 (2013)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

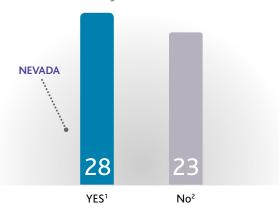
Base evaluations on multiple observations.

To guarantee that annual evaluations are based on an adequate collection of information, Nevada should require multiple observations for all teachers, even those who have nonprobationary status. Further, as evaluation instruments become more data driven, it may not be feasible to issue multiple formal evaluation ratings during a single year. Applicable student data will likely not be available to support multiple ratings.

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada had no comment on this goal.

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

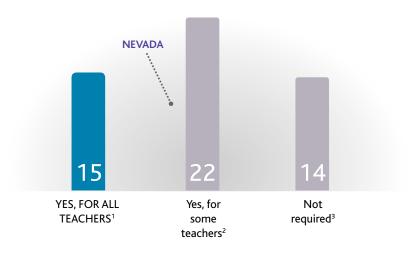


- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland<sup>3</sup>, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West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

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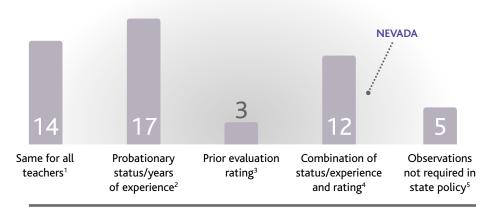
Figure 71

Do states require multiple classroom observations?



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

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



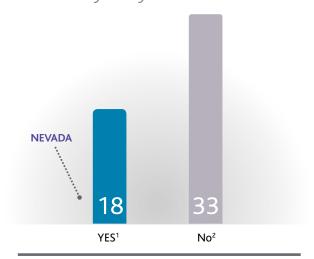
- Alabama, District of Columbia<sup>6</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas<sup>7</sup>, California<sup>7</sup>, Colorado, Florida, Kansas<sup>7</sup>, Minnesota<sup>7</sup>, Nebraska, North Carolina,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



### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



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

### Goal D - Tenure

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

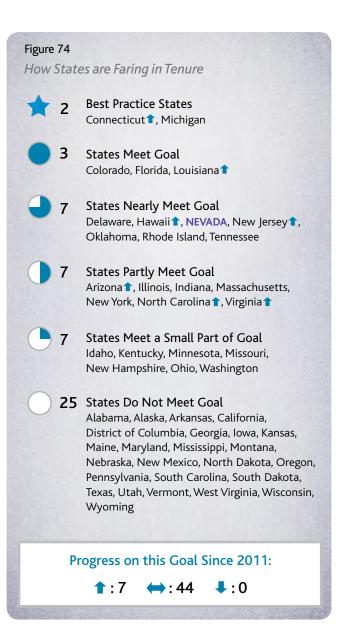
### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 3-D Analysis: Nevada



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada requires probationary teachers to show two years of satisfactory performance on each teacher evaluation within a three-year period before they earn tenure.

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

**Supporting Research** 

A.B. 225, 229

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Ensure that the probationary period is adequate.** 

To ensure that tenure decisions are based on adequate assessment and sufficient evidence of teacher effectiveness in the classroom, Nevada should consider extending the time before teachers can earn tenure, making certain that probationary teachers earn at least three consecutive effective ratings prior to the award of tenure.

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada had no comment on this goal.

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



### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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

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### Goal E – Licensure Advancement

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 3-E Analysis: **Nevada**



State Does Not Meet Goal



ۻ Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Nevada employs a single-tier certification, so new teachers apply for the appropriate certificate (generally either Elementary or Secondary), and then, rather than advance to another level, they renew. The requirement for renewal is completion of six credits.

Nevada does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Standard and Professional licenses must be renewed every five years by completing six semester hours at the graduate or undergraduate level. A teacher may also "receive 6 credits for the completion of the requirements for the National Board Certification."

### **Supporting Research**

http://teachers.nv.gov NAC 391.065; 075

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Nevada 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. The state should use evidence of effectiveness from teacher evaluations as a factor in determining whether teachers advance to the next licensure level (see Goal 3-B). However, states must consider carefully how to use this evidence, as the standard for denying licensure—the right to practice in the state—should not necessarily be the same standard that might result in termination from a particular position.

Discontinue license requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

While targeted requirements may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Nevada'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.

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada referenced its administrative code for license renewal.

#### **Supporting Research**

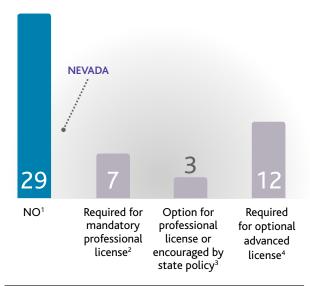
Nevada Administrative Code 391.070

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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

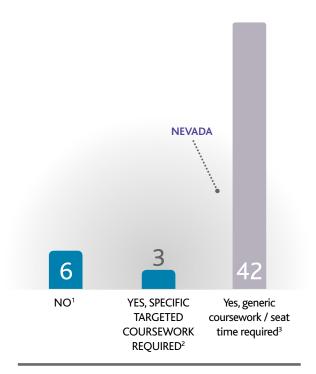
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?



- 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

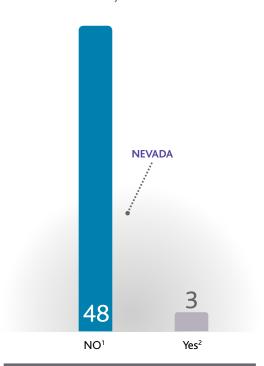
Do states require teachers to take additional coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



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

Figure 81

Do states award lifetime licenses?



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



### **TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

### → Goal F — Equitable Distribution

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 3-F Analysis: Nevada



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. Nevada reports little school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent. Nevada does not require districts to publicly report aggregate school-level data about teacher performance, nor does the state collect and publicly report most of the other data recommended by NCTQ. Nevada 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 turnover rates.

Nevada does report on the percentage of highly qualified teachers teaching core subjects. Commendably, this date is reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. Nevada's 2013 School Improvement Plan includes data comparing the percentage of highly qualified teachers at high- and low-poverty schools and the average teacher attendance rate. However, these data are only reported at the state level.

### **Supporting Research**

2011-2012 School Report Card

http://www.nevadareportcard.com/

2013 Nevada State Improvement Plan

http://www.doe.nv.gov/NDE/Resources/State\_Improvement\_Plan/

#### RECOMMENDATION

### Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

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

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

### Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada noted that Equitable Distribution of Teachers data are reported by the state and by the two largest districts with the most inequity— and by the rest of the districts as a whole.

### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Plan for Equitable Distribution of Teachers http://www.doe.nv.gov/Nevada\_Plan\_Resources/

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

NCTQ encourages the state to report distribution data at the school level for all districts.

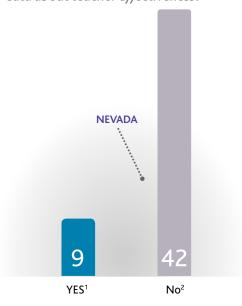
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### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

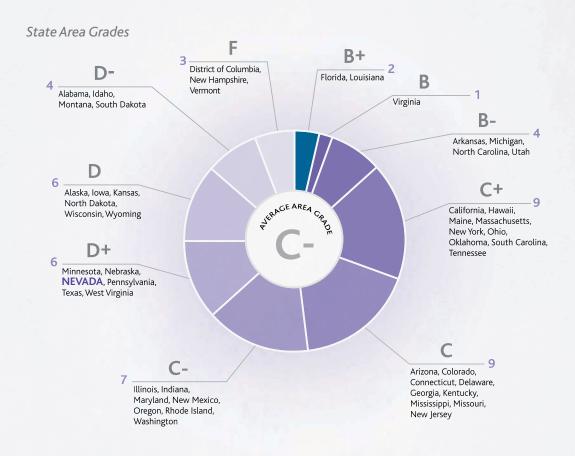


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas³, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts<sup>4</sup>, Missouri, New York, North Carolina,
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida<sup>5</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland,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

## **Area 4 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Retaining Effective Teachers





## 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: Nevada



State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada does not require a mentoring program or any other induction support for its new teachers.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

Set specific parameters.

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

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

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

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada had no comment on this goal.

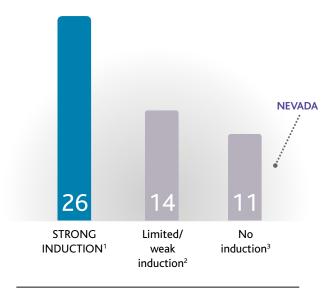
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#### **T** EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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: Nevada



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada requires that the evaluated teacher receive a copy of each evaluation not later than 15 days after the evaluation. The state does not specify that professional development activities must be aligned with findings from teacher evaluations, nor does the state indicate that teachers with less than effective ratings should be placed on improvement plans.

**Supporting Research** 

NRS 391.298; NRS 391.3125

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance.
  - Although Nevada requires teachers to receive copies of their evaluations, this only ensures that teachers will receive their ratings, not necessarily feedback on their performance. Nevada should specify that teachers should receive specific feedback on identified strengths and areas that need improvement.
- Ensure that professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.
  - Professional development that is not informed by evaluation results may be of little value to teachers' professional growth and aim of increasing their effectiveness in the classroom. Nevada should ensure that districts utilize teacher evaluation results in determining professional development needs and activities.
- Ensure that teachers receiving less than effective ratings are placed on a professional improvement plan.

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**



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

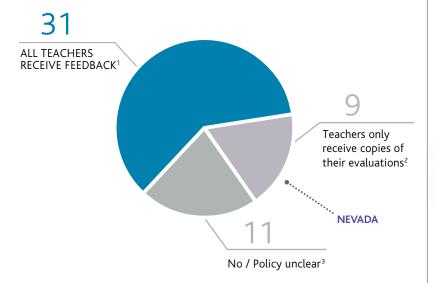
Louisiana and North Carolina require that teachers receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations and direct districts to connect professional development to teachers' identified needs. Both states also require that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement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

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

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Figure 90

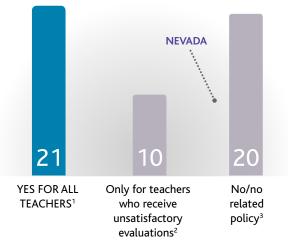
Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?



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

Figure 91

Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



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

# Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

# > Goal C − Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



### 4-C Analysis: Nevada



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada gives local districts the authority for pay scales, eliminating barriers such as state salary schedules and other regulations that control how districts pay teachers. Salaries are determined by local districts based on "the character of the service required."

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Revised Statutes 391.160

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.

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

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

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**



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

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

on years of service, experience and training.

2. Rhode Island requires that local district salary schedules are based

Figure 93  What role does the state	á	KY SCHEDULE	salary schedule
play in deciding teacher pay rates?	DISTRICTS SET SALLE.	State sets minimum.	State sets minimum salary schedule
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NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2013 NEVADA

<sup>1.</sup> Colorado gives districts the option of a salary schedule, a performance pay policy or a combination of both.

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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.)

 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: Nevada



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada 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, Nevada 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.

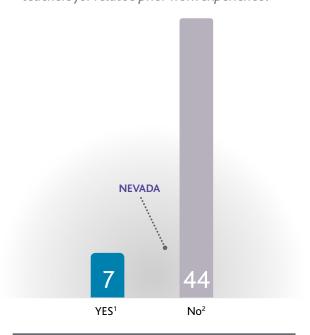
#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**



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.

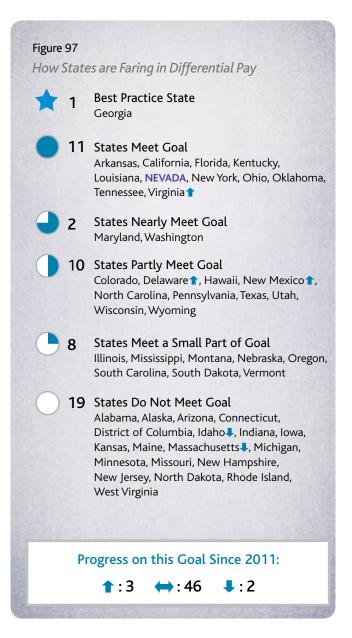
#### **Goal Components**

(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: Nevada



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. The state provides that those teaching mathematics, science, special education, English as a second language or "other areas of need" may be compensated up to an additional \$3,500 annually if the state superintendent has deemed the subject to be an area of need in the school district.

Nevada also supports differential pay for those teaching in high-need schools. Teachers in "at-risk" schools, as determined by the department, are eligible for an additional \$3,500 per year.

In addition, teachers who are National Board Certified are eligible to receive an annual 5 percent salary increase. However, this differential pay is not tied to high-need schools or subject-area shortages.

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Revised Statutes 391.160; 391.166

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Figure 98		HIGH NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT	
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Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in subject shortage areas.

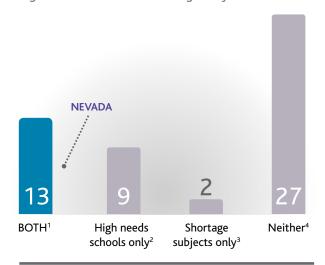
<sup>2.</sup> South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in high-need schools.



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

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

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



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

# **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers**

# Goal F − Performance Pay

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

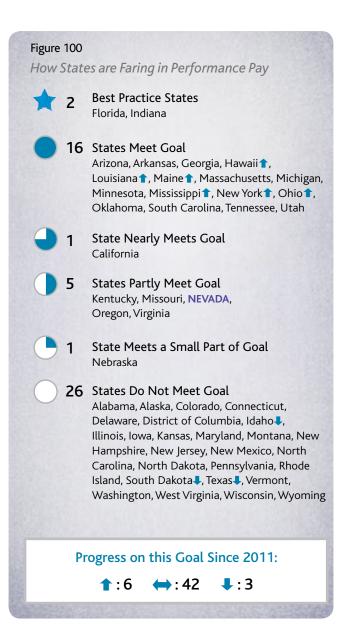
#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



### 4-F Analysis: Nevada



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Starting with the 2015-2016 school year, Nevada will implement a performance pay program with "its primary focus the improvement in the academic achievement of pupils." The program may also include the following components: career leadership advancement; professional development; group incentives and multiple assessments of teachers, including portfolios of instruction, leadership and professional growth; and other measures of teacher performance.

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Revised Statutes 391.168 Senate Bill 407

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ Ensure that the performance pay plan recognizes teachers for their effectiveness.

As Nevada moves forward with performance-based compensation, the state must ensure that its performance pay structures thoughtfully measure classroom performance and connect student achievement to teacher effectiveness. The plan must be developed with careful consideration of available data and subsequent issues of fairness.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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

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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.

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

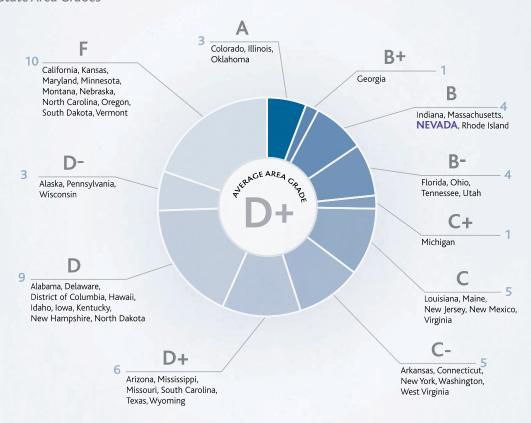
<sup>2.</sup> Nevada's initiative does not go into effect until 2015-2016.

# **Area 5 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Exiting Ineffective Teachers

State Area Grades



### Topics Included In This Area

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

# Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

### Goal A − Extended Emergency Licenses

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

- Under no circumstances should a state award a standard license to a teacher who has not passed all required subject-matter licensing tests.
- 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: **Nevada**



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada does not permit provisional licenses to be issued to teachers who apply for the following certificates: elementary license; special teaching license in music, art or special education; or secondary license in art, biological science, chemistry, English, French, general science, history, mathematics, music, physical science, reading, social studies, Spanish, speech and drama.

**Supporting Research** 

NAC 391.056

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

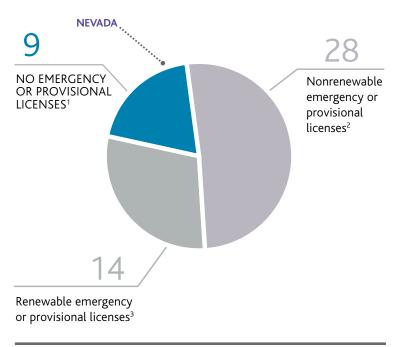
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**Colorado**, **Illinois**, **Mississippi**, and **New Jersey** require all new teachers to pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure.

Figure 104

Do states still award emergency licenses?



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

# Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

### ➤ Goal B — Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

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

### 5-B Analysis: Nevada



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada ensures that all post-probationary teachers will return to probationary status if they receive two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations (see Goal 3-D).

Although Nevada has attempted to address issues of due process and dismissal by reverting ineffective teachers to nonprobationary status, the state also retains other policy that does not 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 inefficiency; immorality, unprofessional conduct; insubordination; neglect of duty; physical or mental incapacity; conviction of a felony or of a crime involving moral turpitude; inadequate performance; failure to show normal improvement and evidence of professional training and growth; advocating overthrow of the Government of the United States or of the State of Nevada by force, violence or other unlawful means, or the advocating or teaching of communism with the intent to indoctrinate pupils to subscribe to communistic philosophy; any cause which constitutes grounds for the revocation of a teacher's license; and dishonesty.

In addition, a postprobationary teacher deemed to be probationary due to unsatisfactory performance who faces dismissal may request an expedited hearing according to the procedures established by the American Arbitration Association.

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Revised Statutes 391.3125; 3129; 317

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Align dismissal law to support evaluation law.

In order to clearly articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal in Nevada, the state should reconcile its new legislation—which suggests that unsatisfactory evaluations would be grounds for dismissal—with the state's older dismissal policy—which alludes to "inadequate performance" as grounds for dismissal. In doing so, the state should make it clear that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal for any teacher, regardless of tenure status.

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

Nevada has taken commendable steps to expedite the dismissal process for teachers deemed to be ineffective. However, it remains unclear how the appeals process will work for teachers involved in expedited hearings, and whether the state has set a reasonable time frame for this process. In addition, the state could do more to distinguish due process rights for teachers dismissed for ineffective performance from those facing license revocation for dereliction of duty or felony and/or morality violations.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**



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

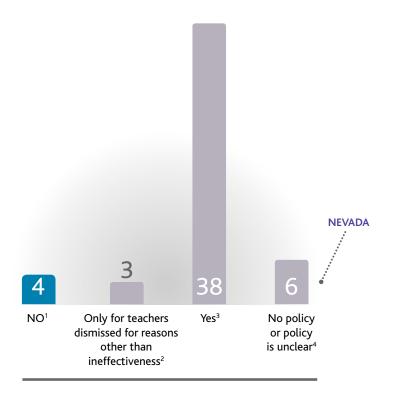
Florida and Oklahoma clearly articulate that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal. In both states, teachers are eligible for dismissal after two annual ratings of unsatisfactory performance. Each state has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed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

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

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

Figure 107

Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



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

# Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

### Goal C − Reductions in Force

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

#### Goal Component

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

 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: Nevada



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada requires that seniority is not the sole factor in determining which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force, and the following factors may also be considered: 1) whether the teacher is employed in a "hard to fill" position, 2) whether a teacher has earned national board certification, 3) the teacher's performance evaluations, 4) the teacher's disciplinary and criminal record, 5) which type of license the teacher has earned and 6) the degree earned by the teacher (including whether it relates to the subject area in which he or she teaches).

**Supporting Research** 

NRS 288.151

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

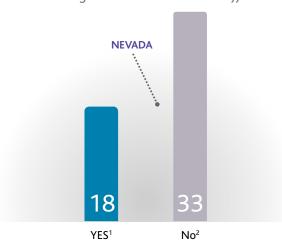
Require that districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.

Nevada is commended for taking steps to ensure that seniority is no longer the sole factor in determining which teachers are laid off and for making it possible for teachers' performance evaluations to be considered during reductions in force. The state could strengthen this policy by making the consideration of classroom performance a requirement rather than an option.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Figure 109

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



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

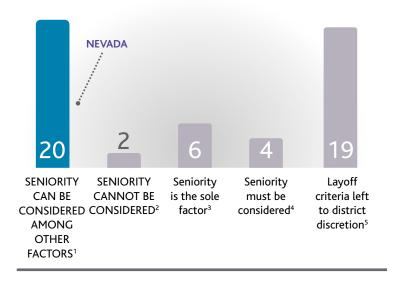




Colorado, Florida, and Indiana all specify that in determining which teachers to lay off during a reduction in force, classroom performance is the top criterion. These states also articulate that seniority can only be considered after a teacher's performance is taken into account.

Figure 111

Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?



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

# Goals and Keywords

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

# Goals and Keywords

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

# Goals and Keywords

GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teacl	hers
<b>1-A:</b> Induction	The state should require effective induction for all new teachers, with special emphasis on teachers in high-need schools.	mentoring, induction, mentor selection, reduced teaching load, release time
<b>1-B:</b> Professional Development	The state should ensure that teachers receive feedback about their performance and should require professional development to be based on needs identified through teacher evaluations.	feedback from observations/evaluations, professional development linked to evaluations results, improvement plans
<b>I-C</b> : Pay Scales	The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.	teacher compensation, salary schedules, pay scales, steps and lanes, advanced degrees, years of experience, teacher performance
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
<b>1-F:</b> Performance Pay	The state should support performance pay, but in a manner that recognizes its appropriate uses and limitations.	teacher compensation, performance pay, teacher performance, student achievement
	AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teach	ners
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
<b>5-B:</b> Dismissal for Poor Performance	The state should articulate that ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal and ensure that the process for terminating ineffective teachers is expedient and fair to all parties.	dismissal, ineffectiveness, poor performance, appeals, due process
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 Nevada

AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
Require that teacher preparation programs screen candidates prior to admission by using a common test normed to the general college-bound population, and limit acceptance to those candidates demonstrating academic ability in the top 50th percentile.	Goal 1-A
Adopt 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
■ Eliminate the generalist K-8 license, and require all middle school teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.	Goal 1-E
Specifically require secondary science and social studies teacher candidates to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.	Goal 1-F Goal 1-G
■ Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and ensure that both elementary and secondary special education teachers possess adequate and appropriate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.	Goal 1-H
■ Ensure that cooperating teachers for student teaching placements have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning, and require teacher candidates to spend at least 10 weeks student teaching.	Goal 1-J
■ Hold teacher preparation programs accountable by collecting data that connect student achievement gains to programs, as well as other meaningful data that reflect program performance.	Goal 1-K

	AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool			
•	Increase admission requirements to alternate route programs, including a high bar for academic proficiency and passage of a subject-matter test.	Goal 2-A		
•	Establish guidelines for alternate route programs that require preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. Ensure programs provide intensive induction support to alternate route teachers.	Goal 2-B		
•	Broaden alternate route usage, and allow a diversity of providers for alternate route programs.	Goal 2-C		
•	Require out-of-state teachers to meet the state's own testing requirements.	Goal 2-E		

AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers			
Base licensure advancement from a probationary to a nonpevidence of effectiveness.	probationary license and licensure renewal on	Goal 3-E	
<ul> <li>Publish aggregate school-level teacher evaluation ratings fr instructional effectiveness.</li> </ul>	rom an evaluation system based on	Goal 3-F	

AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers				
■ Require effective induction for all new teachers, including mentoring of sufficient frequency and duration.	Goal 4-B			
Link professional development activities to findings in individual teacher evaluations, and place teachers with ineffective or needs improvement ratings on structured improvement plans.	Goal 4-C			
■ Discourage districts from basing teacher pay scales primarily on advanced degrees and seniority.	Goal 4-E			
■ Ensure that performance pay recognizes teachers for their effectiveness.	Goal 4-C			

AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers	
Make ineffective classroom performance grounds for dismissal.	Goal 5-A

