# 2013 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

West Virginia





### Acknowledgments

#### **STATES**

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

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# **Executive Summary**

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

# West Virginia at a Glance



# Overall 2013 Yearbook Grade

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: D+

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

Goal Breakdown	2013
★ Best Practice	0
Fully Meets	5
Nearly Meets	4
Partially Meets	10
Meets Only a Small Part	3
O Does Not Meet	9

	Progress on Goals Since 2011	
•	Progress has increased	8
<b>(2)</b>	No change in progress	22
•	Progress has decreased	1

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

# How is **West Virginia** Faring?

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prep	ared Tea	achers	Page 5			
Admission into Teacher Preparation		Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	e			
Elementary Teacher Preparation		Special Education Teacher Preparation				
Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction		Assessing Professional Knowledge	) • • •			
Teacher Preparation in Mathematics		Student Teaching				
Middle School Teacher Preparation		Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	y			
Secondary Teacher Preparation						
Policy Strengths						
<ul> <li>Elementary teacher candidates are require content test with individually scored subtored of the core content areas, including mather</li> </ul>	ests in each	Secondary teachers must pass a cont a core subject area, although some so studies teachers are not required to p for each discipline they are licensed to	econdary social bass content tes			
■ Elementary teacher candidates must pass		■ The state does not offer a K-12 speci				
reading test to ensure knowledge of effect instruction, and teacher preparation progra required to address this critical topic.		certification.  All new teachers must pass a pedago				
Middle school teachers may not teach on generalist license, and they must appropria single-subject content test.						
Policy Weaknesses						
Although teacher candidates are required to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs, the test is not normed to the general college-going population.		The teacher preparation program approval produces not hold programs accountable for the other teachers they produce.				
Requirements for teacher preparation do r high-quality student teaching experience.	-					
Area 2. Eveneding the Deel of	of Topich	ove	Dago F1			
Area 2: Expanding the Pool o	or reacti	ers	Page 51			
Alternate Route Eligibility		Part-Time Teaching Licenses				
Alternate Route Preparation		Licensure Reciprocity				
Alternate Route Usage and Providers						
Policy Weaknesses						
Admission requirements for alternate rout certification lack flexibility for nontradition candidates and do not evaluate past acade performance.	nal	<ul> <li>The state does not offer a license wit requirements that would allow conte teach part time.</li> <li>Out-of-state teachers are not require</li> </ul>	nt experts to			
More could be done to ensure that alternated programs provide efficient preparation that toward the immediate needs of new teach	nt is geared	state's testing requirements.				
<ul> <li>Usage of alternate routes is restricted, alth is a diversity of providers.</li> </ul>	nough there					

# How is West Virginia Faring?

#### Page 71 **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers** State Data Systems Tenure **Evaluation of Effectiveness** Licensure Advancement Frequency of Evaluations **Equitable Distribution Policy Strengths** All teachers must be evaluated annually. **Policy Weaknesses** Tenure decisions are not connected to evidence of Although the state has established a data system teacher effectiveness. with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher Licensure advancement and renewal are not based on effectiveness, it has not taken other meaningful steps teacher effectiveness. to maximize the system's efficiency and potential. Little school-level data are reported that can help Objective evidence of student learning is not the support the equitable distribution of teacher talent. preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations. **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers** Page 103 Induction Compensation for Prior Work Experience Professional Development Differential Pay Pay Scales Performance Pay **Policy Strengths** Teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations are All new teachers receive mentoring. placed on structured improvement plans. Teachers receive feedback from their evaluations, and professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations. **Policy Weaknesses** The state does not support performance pay or Teacher compensation is controlled by a state salary additional compensation for relevant prior work schedule based on years of experience and advanced experience, working in high-need schools or teaching degrees. in shortage subject areas. Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers Page 127 **Extended Emergency Licenses** Reductions in Force Dismissal for Poor Performance **Policy Strengths** ■ The state has taken steps to ensure that licensure testing requirements are met by all teachers within one year. **Policy Weaknesses** Seniority, rather than a teacher's performance in Although ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal, the the classroom, is considered in determining which state allows multiple appeals for teachers who are teachers to lay off during reductions in force. dismissed.

igure A	Overall State Grade 2013	Overall State	Overall State Grade 2009
Florida	B+	B	С
Louisiana	В	C-	C-
Rhode Island	В	B-	D
Tennessee	В	В-	C-
Arkansas	B-	C	C-
Connecticut	В-	C-	D+
Georgia	В-	С	C-
Indiana	B-	C+	D
Massachusetts	B-	С	D+
Michigan	B-	C+	D-
New Jersey	В-	D+	D+
New York	В-	C	D+
Ohio	В-	C+	D+
Oklahoma	B-	B-	D+
Colorado	C+	C C	D+
Delaware	C+	С	D
Illinois	C+	С	D+
Virginia	C+	D+	D+
Kentucky	C	D+	D+
Mississippi	С	D+ D+	D+
North Carolina	С	D+	D+
Utah	С	C-	D+ D
Alabama	C-	C-	C-
Arizona	C-	C- D+	D+
Maine	C-	D+ D-	F F
Minnesota	C-	D- 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	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
		D- F	
Montana	F	F	F

### How to Read the Yearbook

#### **GOAL SCORE**

The extent to which each goal has been met:



**Best Practice** 



**Fully Meets** 



**Nearly Meets** 



**Partially Meets** 



Meets Only a Small Part



**Does Not Meet** 

#### **PROGRESS INDICATOR**

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



Goal progress has increased since 2011



Goal progress has decreased since 2011



Goal progress has remained the same since 2011

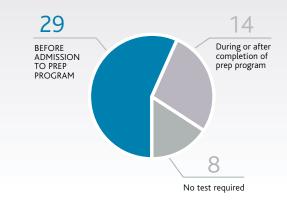
#### BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



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

#### **READING CHARTS AND TABLES:**

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

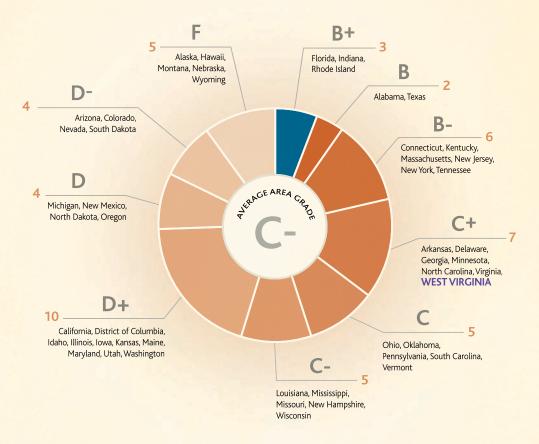


# **Area 1 Summary**



# How States are Faring on Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

State Area Grades



### Topics Included In This Area

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

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

# Goal A – Admission into Teacher Preparation

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

#### Background

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



### 1-A Analysis: West Virginia







#### **ANALYSIS**

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

West Virginia also allows teacher preparation programs to exempt candidates who have a master's degree or demonstrate equivalent performance on the SAT or ACT, at a level set by the state.

#### **Supporting Research**

West Virginia Legislative Rules 126-114-6.2.2, .3 West Virginia Board of Education 5100

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

West Virginia 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, West Virginia 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.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

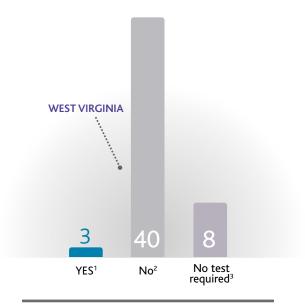
West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it utilizes the ETS test of basic skills. West Virginia is not involved with the norming process for the tests included in the Praxis Series. However, West Virginia is exploring the recommendations via multiple state department and state board stakeholder groups and partnerships with external organizations.



#### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

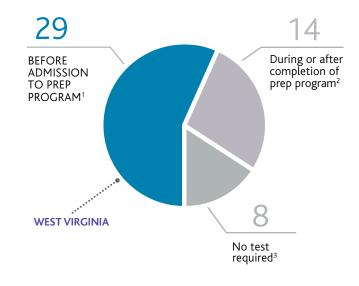
For admission to teacher preparation programs, Rhode Island and Delaware require a test of academic proficiency normed to the general collegebound population rather than a test that is normed just to prospective teachers. Delaware also requires teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or be in the top 50th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

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



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

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



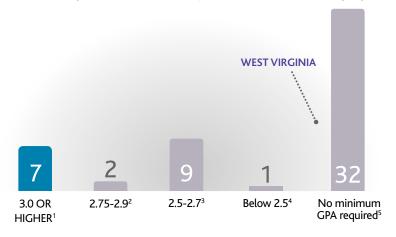
- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington,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

Figure 4		JON TO PREP PROP TO CORMY CORMY SOME SOME SOME SOME SOME SOME SOME SOME	. E/	We text textiled any duffer of the series of
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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.)

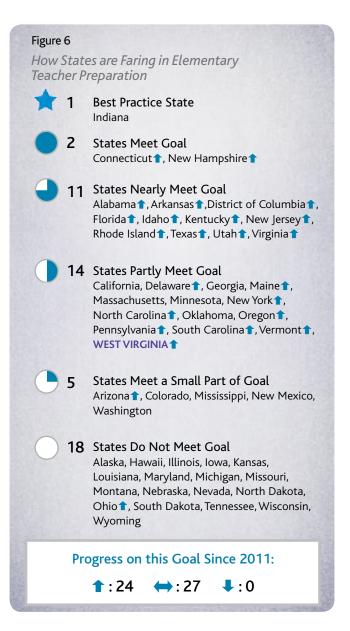
- The state should require all elementary teacher candidates, including those who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license, to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure sufficient content knowledge of all core subjects.
- 2. The state should require that its approved teacher preparation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



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





#### **ANALYSIS**

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

West Virginia now requires all elementary teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test, which is comprised of four subtests with individual scores in math, reading and language arts, science and social studies. Candidates must pass each subtest to be eligible for licensure.

Regrettably, West Virginia only requires its early childhood education teacher candidates, who are allowed to teach up through grade 4, to pass the Praxis II Early Childhood Education test, which is not a content test.

West Virginia does not require its elementary teacher candidates to earn an academic content specialization.

#### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Test Requirement www.ets.org

Title 126 Legislative Rules, Board of Education, Series 114, Policy 5100, 6.3, Appendix A-2

Title 126 Legislative Rules, Board of Education, Series 136, Policy 5202

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

West Virginia should ensure that its new subject-matter test for elementary teacher candidates is well aligned with the Common Core State Standards. To make the test meaningful, West Virginia should also ensure that the passing scores on each subtest reflect high levels of performance.

West Virginia is urged to require all early childhood education teacher candidates who teach elementary grades to pass an appropriate test, either the same test as other elementary teachers or a comparably rigorous one geared to early childhood content. It is especially worrisome that the state allows teachers up through grade 4 to teach without ever having passed a content test.

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

West Virginia should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish more comprehensive coursework requirements for elementary teacher candidates that align with the Common Core State Standards to ensure that candidates will complete coursework relevant to the common topics in elementary grades. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours in the core subject areas of English, science, social studies and fine arts. West Virginia does not specify any general education coursework, but it does require that all elementary teacher candidates complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of combined coursework in areas such as English/language arts, health, physical education, science, social studies and the arts. The state specifically requires that this coursework be "relevant to the curriculum delivered in the elementary K-6 classroom." In addition, West Virginia has adopted professional teaching standards (WVPTS) that offer broad expectations as to a teacher's requisite content knowledge. For example, teachers are expected to display "deep knowledge of the core content skills and tools and design instructional experiences that move beyond a focus on basic competency in the subject to include, as appropriate, the integration of 21st century interdisciplinary themes of global awareness, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy, civic literacy and health literacy."

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 West Virginia 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.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis. The state added that it is exploring the recommendations via multiple state department and state board stakeholder groups and partnerships with external organizations.

Figure 7	SCORE FOR ESPARTENT	Steinentay Content tees	Elementary content to	with /
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elementary teachers	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	surfe / surfe	s sc ren	, / >
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Louisiana	Ш			
Maine				
Maryland			2	
Massachusetts			3	
Michigan				
Minnesota				
Mississippi Missouri				
Montana				
Nebraska				
Nevada			2	
New Hampshire				
New Jersey				
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North Carolina	-		3	
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Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
WEST VIRGINIA				
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	19	9	19	4



#### **TOTAL STATE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.

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

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

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

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nowledge test?	CONTENT TEST WITH	Content test with	Test with little	No test required	Not applicate
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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		ENGLISH	/	CIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES	FINE ARTS
Do states expect elementary teachers to have in-depth knowledge of core content?	American Literature World	Writing/Cammar/ Composition Children's Literature	General Physics	karth Science Biology/Life Science America	American History / American History // American Covernment World History (Modern) World History (Modern)	Geography Art History Music
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						A 6 11
					Subject mentioned	Subject covered in dept

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

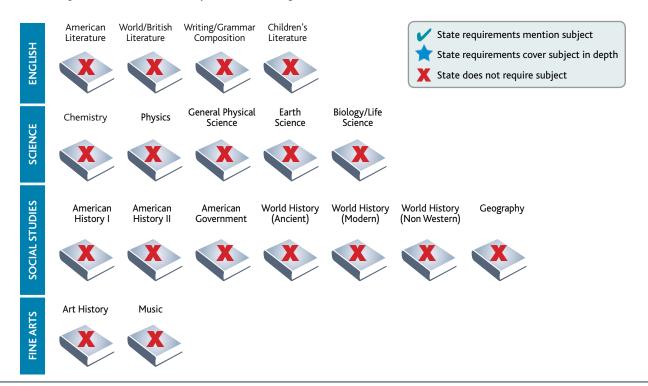
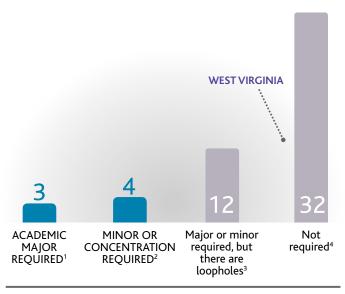


Figure 11

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: West Virginia





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



#### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia now requires all elementary and early childhood teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II Teaching Reading: Elementary Education test as a condition of initial licensure. The test's objectives include the five components of scientific reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

In its coursework requirements for elementary teacher preparation programs, West Virginia also requires programs to address the science of reading. Elementary teacher candidates must take nine credit hours of reading, which include a focus on the components of scientifically based reading, as well as how to assess students' reading ability and how to identify and correct reading difficulties.

#### **Supporting Research**

www.ets.org

Title 126 Legislative Rules, Board of Education, Series 114, Policy 5100, 6.3.d.1

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### ■ Monitor new Praxis II assessment to ensure rigor.

West Virginia should monitor its assessment to make sure it really is rigorous and an appropriate measure of teachers' knowledge of and skill in scientifically based early reading instruction, as the track record of Praxis assessments in this regard is mixed at best. To ensure that the test is meaningful, West Virginia should also evaluate its passing score to make certain it reflects a high standard of performance.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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

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

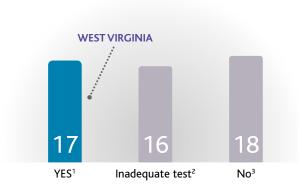
Fifteen states meet this goal by requiring that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Independent reviews 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

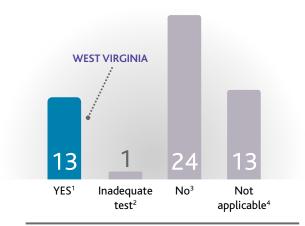
Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



- 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 reading for early childhood teachers who can teach elementary grades?



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

# Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

#### Background

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



### 1-D Analysis: West Virginia



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





#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Regrettably, West Virginia's early childhood education teachers, who are allowed to teach through grade 4, are not required to pass a content test.

#### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Test Requirement

www.ets.org

Title 126 Legislative Rules, Board of Education, Series 114, Policy 5100, 6.3.b.1, 6.3.c

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis. The state added that it now offers an elementary math specialist endorsement. It is also exploring the recommendations via multiple state department and state board stakeholder groups, as well as partnerships with external organizations.

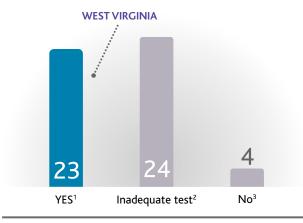


#### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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.

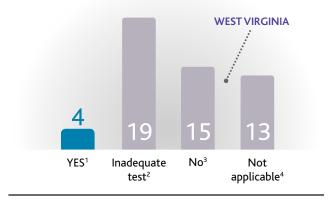
Figure 17

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.
- 2. 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: West Virginia



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia requires a middle-level endorsement for middle school teachers. Candidates completing two middle-level programs must complete the minimum of a subject-area minor (15 semester hours) in each subject, which would result in candidates earning two minors. A middle-level endorsement may also be added to another general education specialization such as K-6, an additional 5-9 or 5-adult program. Elementary teacher candidates are not required to earn the equivalent of a major or minor; therefore, this route potentially results in just one minor for the middle-level candidate.

All new middle school teachers are also required to pass a Praxis II single-subject content test to attain licensure.

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

#### **Supporting Research**

Title 126 Legislative Rules, Board of Education, Series 114, Policy 5100, 6.3.b.2

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **Ensure** meaningful content tests.

To ensure that its middle school content tests are meaningful, West Virginia 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 English Language Arts test is set just below the 7th percentile.

#### ■ Strengthen middle school teachers' subject-matter preparation.

West Virginia should encourage middle school teachers who plan to teach multiple subjects to earn two minors in two core academic areas, regardless of the route they take to middle-level licensure. Middle school candidates who intend to teach a single subject should earn a major in that area. In addition, the state is urged to rethink its five-adult general education specialization, as content and pedagogy preparation for grade 5 teachers would most certainly be different from those teaching the adult population.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is exploring the recommendations via multiple state department and state board stakeholder groups and partnerships with external organizations.

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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.

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

# Goal F – Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

#### Goal Components

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

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

#### Background

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



### 1-F Analysis: West Virginia



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

However, West Virginia offers a secondary endorsement in 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.

Further, to add an additional field to a secondary license, teachers must also pass a Praxis II content test. However, as stated above, West Virginia cannot guarantee content knowledge in each specific subject for secondary teachers who add general social studies endorsements.

#### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Testing Requirements www.ets.org

Title 126 Legislative Rules, Board of Education, Series 114, Policy 5100

Title 126 Legislative Rules, Board of Education, Series 136, Policy 5202, Appendix B

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

West Virginia wisely requires subject-matter tests for most secondary teachers but should address any loopholes that undermine this policy. This applies to the addition of endorsements as well.

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

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

By allowing a general social studies certification—and only requiring a general knowledge social studies exam—West Virginia 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.

#### WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

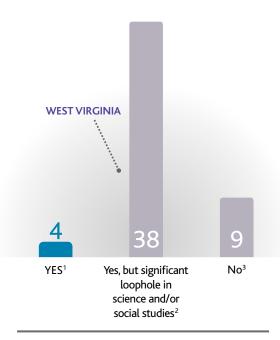
West Virginia was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.



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

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

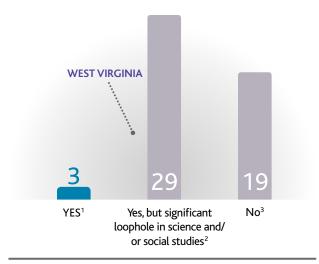
Figure 23 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



- 1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee
- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North 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

Do states ensure that secondary general social studies teachers have adequate subject-matter knowledge? **WEST VIRGINIA** 

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

social studies license without adequate testing3

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

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

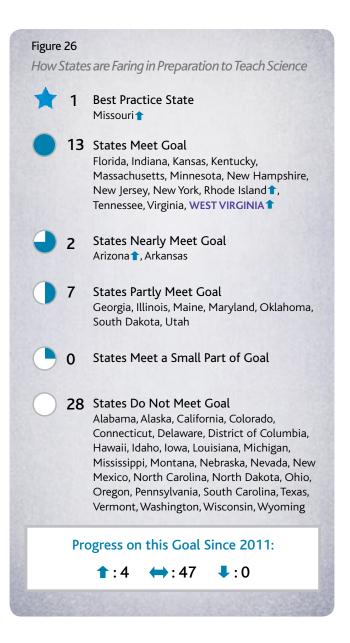
#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



## 1-G Analysis: West Virginia



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Although West Virginia offers a secondary endorsement in general science, it commendably does not allow these candidates to teach single-subject classes in biology, chemistry and/or physics. Candidates must pass the following Praxis II tests: Biology (Part 1), Physical Science, and General Science (Part 2). The state allows a passing score for either the chemistry or physics subject-specific endorsements to be submitted in substitution for the physical science test requirement outlined above.

#### **Supporting Research**

Praxis Testing Requirements www.ets.org WVEIS Course Code Manual http://wveis.k12.wv.us/wveis2004/documents/CourseCodeManual2013-2014.pdf

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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

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

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

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

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

# Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

### Goal H − Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 1-H Analysis: West Virginia



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia does not offer a K-12 special education certification.

Candidates applying for the K-6 special education certification must hold or qualify for a dual certification in either early childhood or elementary education. Only those candidates with a dual certification in elementary education would be required to pass a content test; early childhood candidates are not required to pass subject-matter tests.

Candidates applying for the 5-12 special education certification must hold or qualify for a dual certification in single subject. However, the list lists reading specialist as an appropriate single subject for dual certification. The reading specialist certificate does not require a core content test; therefore, the state could not ensure any core content knowledge for these candidates.

### **Supporting Research**

Title 126 Legislative Rules, Board of Education, Series 114, Policy 5100, 12.4.d.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require that all 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, West Virginia should require a rigorous content test that reports separate passing scores for each content area. The state 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. West Virginia should also address the fact that elementary special education teachers with dual certification in early childhood education would not be required to pass any content tests.

■ Ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.

Secondary special education teachers are frequently generalists who teach many core subject areas. While West Virginia is on the right track in requiring dual certification in a secondary content area, which would ensure content knowledge in at least one subject area, the state allows teachers who opt for dual certification in reading specialist to not pass any content tests. 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, West Virginia's current policy will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards. To provide a middle ground, West Virginia 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.

#### WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

West Virginia asserted that the reading specialist certificate requires a core content test.

The state also contended that candidates seeking to be certified in multi-categorical special education at the elementary level are required to complete the same Praxis exam as elementary education candidates. West Virginia also noted that special education candidates in a secondary setting may demonstrate subject-matter competence through the restricted content route.

### **Supporting Research**

WVBE Policy 5100, Section 10.4.4 WVBE Policy 5202, Sections 19.3.2, -.3

### **LAST WORD**

Candidates seeking the reading specialist endorsement are required to pass the Praxis II reading specialist assessment, which is not a content test. Also, the specific policy cited by the state lists early education as a possible simultaneous specialization, and would allow candidates to teach students up through the fourth grade. These candidates are also not required to pass a content test.

Figure 29		Offers K-12 and	(s) <sub>1</sub>
Do states distinguish	COENOTOFFE	<i>&gt;</i> /	'ificatio,
between elementary			8 / Su
and secondary special	NON PER	K-7;	only
education teachers?	20ES	Offers	Offers "rtific
Alabama		/ `% /	Certification  Certification  Certification
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
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District of Columbia			
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wyoning			
	16	7	28



### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 30

Which states 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, <b>WEST VIRGINIA</b> <sup>2</sup>					
Required for a K-12 special education license	None					
	s for dual certification in elementary or secondary ecialist does not have to take a content test.					

Figure 29:

similarly exempted.

education candidates. It is divided into three subtests.

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

3. New York requires a multi-subject content test specifically geared to secondary special

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: West Virginia





State Meets Goal 😝 Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia 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/wv/requirements

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

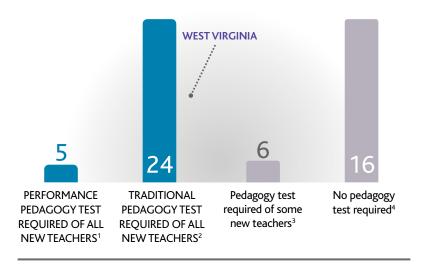
West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



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

Figure 32

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



- 1. Strong Practice: California, 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: West Virginia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia requires candidates to complete at least a 12-week clinical experience "unless s/he is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the college supervisor and the cooperating public school supervisor that s/he has achieved the proficiency level in less than the specified time." The state does not articulate any requirements for cooperating teachers.

#### **Supporting Research**

Title 126 Legislative Rules, Board of Education, Series 114, Policy 5100, 6.4.b.5

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

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

West Virginia should require an 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.

### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that although state policy stipulates an exemption to the 12-week clinical experience, all initial licensure programs have submitted programs that require a clinical experience of a minimum of 12 weeks.

Figure 34		
	A CHER	. / Net
Do states ensure a	NG 76	54 / 12 / 12 / 12 / 12 / 12 / 12 / 12 / 1
high-quality student	58471 508471	7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
teaching experience?		STUDENT TEACHING ASTS AT LEAST TO WEEK
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Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
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Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
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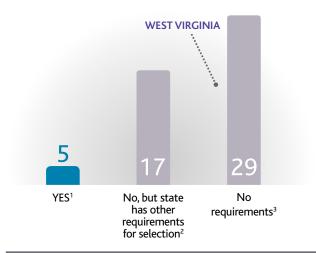


### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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.

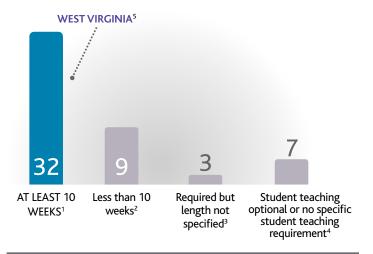
Figure 35
Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



- 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.
- 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: West Virginia



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



( Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia'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, West Virginia does not collect or report data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs. However, the state's regulations indicate that "additional data to be collected shall include initiatives underway in the unit and the unit's involvement with P-12 schools."

West Virginia does rely on other objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of its traditional teacher preparation programs. Programs must supply the following data to the state on an annual basis: the average raw score of candidates admitted to the program on the preprofessional skills test; the satisfaction rating by cooperating teachers on student teachers from the institution; and the average raw score of candidates on subject matter and pedagogy exams. However, it does not appear that the state applies any transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval and does not collect these data for its alternate route.

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 West Virginia have been identified in required federal reporting as low performing.

West Virginia publishes "The Quality of Teacher Preparation" report—which contains data regarding the performance of teacher education program completers on state assessments, institutionally designed performance assessments, field experiences and student teaching—on the state's website; the most recent report is dated 2007-2008.

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

### **Supporting Research**

Title 126 Legislative Rules, Board of Education, Series 114, Policy 5100

Title II State Reports

https://title2.ed.gov

Personnel Data Report

http://wvde.state.wv.us/certification/data/personneldata/2010\_Personnel\_Data\_Report.pdf

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, West Virginia 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. West Virginia should expand its current requirements to its alternate routes and also include such measures as:

- 1. Evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching;
- 2. Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests; and
- 3. Five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.

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

Merely collecting the types of data described above is insufficient for accountability purposes. The next and perhaps more critical step is for the state to establish precise minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category of data. Programs should then be held accountable for meeting these standards, and there should be consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.

### Publish an annual report card on the state's website for all teacher preparation programs.

West Virginia should produce an annual, up-to-date 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. The state should also ensure that the data presented are as current as possible. Data should be presented in a manner that clearly conveys whether programs have met performance standards.

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

West Virginia 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.

### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia asserted that it holds institutions responsible for the quality of the candidates they produce by requiring a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 for undergraduates and 3.0 for graduates, through the program approval process. The state added that programs must have an 80 percent or higher content exam pass rate and must have data from the performance assessments that reflect a minimum overall proficiency level for all candidates. Every institution is required to submit a program report for all programs leading to licensure, including alternative route programs. Processes are outlined in state protocol and are part of the accreditation process.

### **Supporting Research**

WVBE Policy 5100, Section 12

### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia's 80 percent pass-rate standard, while common among many states, sets the bar quite low and is not a meaningful measure of program performance.

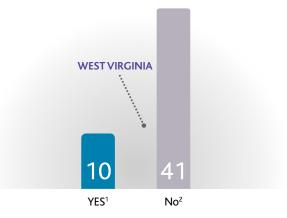
Figure 38  Do states hold teacher preparation programs accountable?  Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Illinois Indiana Iowa Maryland Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Minnesota Minnesota Minnesota Minnesota Minsissispi Mississipi Missouri Montana Nebraska New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio¹ New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio¹ North Carolina South Carolina So	Figure 38	<u> </u>		. / 4/58
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### **\*\*** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



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

- $1. \ For \ traditional \ preparation \ programs \ only.$
- 2. State does not distinguish between alternate route programs and traditional preparation programs in public reporting.
- 3. For alternate routes only.

Figure 40

### Which states collect meaningful data?

#### STUDENT LEARNING GAINS

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

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

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

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

Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, WEST VIRGINIA

#### SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, 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

П

П

П

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П

accreditation?

Alabama Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

California

Colorado

Delaware

Florida

Georgia

Hawaii

Indiana

Kansas

Iowa

Idaho Illinois

Connecticut

District of Columbia

National accreditation is required for program approval

П

П

 $\Box$ 

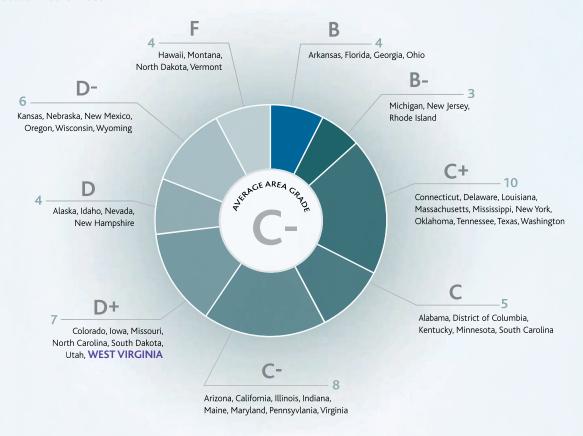
Kentucky П Louisiana Maine П Maryland П Massachusetts Michigan П Minnesota Mississippi П Missouri Montana П П Nebraska Nevada П П New Hampshire New Jersey П П New Mexico П П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П Oklahoma П Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island П South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П П Vermont Virginia 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 50: NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2013 WEST VIRGINIA

# **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: West Virginia



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2011



#### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia has two alternate routes: alternative route to certification in core subject areas and alternative route to certification in special education. The state-run Transition to Teaching program falls under the admission criteria for the core subject areas route for individuals with degrees related to the core content areas of math, science, English or a foreign language.

Alternative route core subject area applicants must demonstrate prior academic performance with a minimum 2.5 GPA. Candidates are also required to have a major in, or closely related to, the intended teaching field and pass a basic skills test and a subject-matter test. The state will accept equivalent scores on the SAT and ACT or a master's degree in lieu of the basic skills requirement. West Virginia also accepts a doctorate degree in lieu of the subject-matter exam. The state does not allow applicants to test out of coursework requirements.

### **Supporting Research**

West Virginia Code 18A-3-1

**Alternate Routes** 

http://wvde.state.wv.us/teachwv/teachprep.html

Transition to Teaching

http://wvde.state.wv.us/transitiontoteaching/

### **RECOMMENDATION**

### Increase academic requirements for admission.

While a minimum GPA requirement is a first step toward ensuring that candidates are of good academic standing, the current standard of 2.5 does not serve as a sufficient indicator of past academic performance. The standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Some accommodation in this standard may be appropriate for career changers. A rigorous test appropriate for candidates who have already completed a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be ideal.

### Extend subject-matter test requirement to all applicants.

While West Virginia is commended for requiring general education candidates to demonstrate content knowledge on a subject-matter test, it is strongly recommended that the state extend this requirement to all of its candidates. The concept behind alternate routes is that the nontraditional candidate is able to concentrate on acquiring professional knowledge and skills because he or she has strong subject-area knowledge. Teachers without sufficient subject-matter knowledge place students at risk.

### Offer flexibility in fulfilling coursework requirements.

West Virginia should allow any candidate who already has the requisite knowledge and skills to demonstrate such by passing a rigorous test. Exacting coursework requirements could dissuade talented individuals who lack precisely the right courses from pursuing a career in teaching.

### Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

West Virginia's requirement that alternate route candidates pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffectual, although the state is recognized for allowing candidates to use equivalent scores to fulfill this admission criterion. Basic skills tests measure minimum competency—essentially those skills that a person should have acquired in middle school—and are inappropriate for candidates

who have already earned a bachelor's degree. Passage of a basic skills test provides no assurance that the candidate has the appropriate subject-matter knowledge needed for the classroom. A test designed for individuals who already have a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be a much more appropriate measure of academic standing.

### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. In addition, the state noted that the Transition to Teaching program does have a track for initial licensure in special education. The special education track mentioned above does exist but only for special educator teachers to add a restricted content endorsement in a secondary subject. Special education candidates are required to pass a Praxis II exam upon completing the alternative route in order to be issued a professional teaching license.

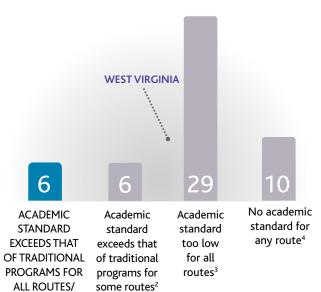
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Georgia			*
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Maine		*	*
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Minnesota	*	*	*
Mississippi		<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>
Missouri Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey	*	*	
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			*
North Dakota			
Ohio Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania		*	
Rhode Island	*		<u></u>
South Carolina		*	
South Dakota		*	
Tennessee			*
Texas			*
Utah			
Vermont Virginia		<b>□</b>	
Washington		<u> </u>	<b>△</b>
WEST VIRGINIA		<b>→</b>	
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
-			



### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 44 Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



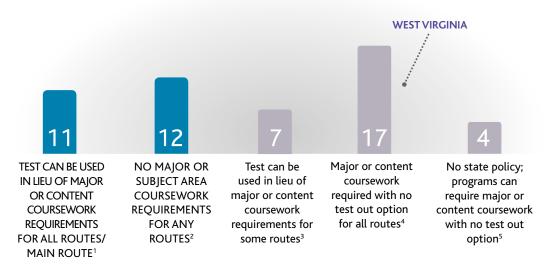
- 1. Strong Practice: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island
- 2. Alabama, Illinois<sup>5</sup>, Indiana, Kentucky<sup>6</sup>, New York, Pennsylvania

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: West Virginia



State Partly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal ( Progress Since 2011



#### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia requires alternate route candidates to complete a minimum of 18 semester hours of coursework in the areas of student assessment, development and learning, curriculum, classroom management, the use of educational computers and other technology and special education and diversity.

Candidates complete three phases of induction and support during their first year. Phase I consists of intensive mentoring support for at least the first two weeks, not to exceed the fourth week, of school during which time the new teacher is observed daily. Phase II must continue for a period of at least 10 weeks; during this time the teacher is observed a minimum of one time per week and formally evaluated twice. The third phase is an additional period of continued supervision should it be necessary.

Alternate route candidates can receive full certification in one year or less.

### **Supporting Research**

West Virginia Code 18A-3-1a Alternative Routes in Core Subject Areas http://wvde.state.wv.us/teachwv/teachprep.html

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Ensure that new teachers are not burdened by excessive requirements.
  - Setting minimum requirements, without established maximums, does not ensure that the new teacher will be able to complete the program in an appropriate amount of time without being overburdened by coursework.
- Establish coursework guidelines for alternate route preparation programs.
  - Appropriate coursework should include grade-level or subject-level seminars, methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction.

#### WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. In addition, the state noted that general education participants may complete the Transition to Teaching program within a one-year period.

Figure 47		/	X /	/	/
Do states' alternate routes		/ ¿		F / F	
provide efficient preparation	*	· / %	SILE /		
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needs of new teachers?	EFFICIENT COURSEWORK	RELEVANT COURCE.	REASONABLE PROCRAMIE	PRACTICE TEACHING	INTENSIVE SUPPORT
Alabama					
Alaska		<u></u>	*	*	
Arizona			*	*	
Arkansas	*	*	*		*
California			*		
Colorado	*				
Connecticut					
Delaware District of Columbia				<b>X</b>	
Florida				<b>X</b>	
Georgia	*	•			<u> </u>
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Nebraska	*			*	
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New Hampshire					
New Jersey New Mexico	<b>X</b>			<u> </u>	
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North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio			Ē	*	
Oklahoma					
Oregon					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island	*	*		*	
South Carolina	*	*			*
South Dakota			*		
Tennessee					
Texas			*		
Utah					
Vermont				*	
Virginia	*				
Washington			*		*
WEST VIRGINIA		*	*		*
Wisconsin					
Wyoming			×		



### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

# Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

### ➤ Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

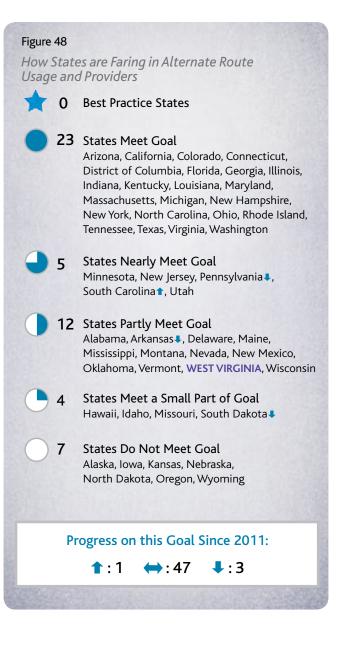
### Goal Components

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

- 1. The state should not treat the alternate route as a program of last resort or restrict the availability of alternate routes to certain subjects, grades or geographic areas.
- 2. 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: West Virginia



State Partly Meets Goal ( Progress Since 2011



#### **ANALYSIS**

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

West Virginia's alternate routes can only be used for certification to teach in critical-shortage districts and subject areas.

West Virginia authorizes local universities, colleges, schools, school districts, consortia of schools or regional educational service agencies to offer alternate route programs. The state is commended for allowing a diversity of providers. A good diversity of providers helps all programs, both university- and nonuniversity based, to improve.

### **Supporting Research**

West Virginia Code 18A-3-1

Alternative Routes

http://wvde.state.wv.us/teachwv/teachprep.html

Approved Alternative Routes to Certification

http://wvde.state.wv.us/teachwv/altroute\_certpgm.html

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

### Broaden alternate route usage.

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

### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. In addition, West Virginia noted that the state's Virtual School Program provides districts flexibility in scheduling "hard to staff subjects, grade levels or geographic areas." However, the state is exploring the recommendations via multiple state department and state board stakeholder groups and partnerships with external organizations.

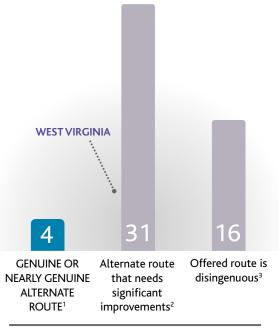
Figure 49	CROSS	S. / Sold
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Alabama		
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Connecticut	*	*
Delaware		*
District of Columbia		
Florida	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Georgia Hawaii	×	<b>X</b>
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Vermont	* *	
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WEST VIRGINIA		*
Wisconsin		*
Wyoming		
For some alternate routes For most	or most widely 🌟 F	or all alternate re



### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 50 Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification?



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

<sup>2.</sup> Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia

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

gure 51	PREREQUISITE OF STRONG	VERIFICATION OF SUBJECT	; / ;	FFICEW COURSEWOO	RELEVANT COURSEUL	*** /		INTENSIVE MENT	J <sub>W</sub> C	DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS
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Nebraska				*			*			
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Oklahoma		*	*				*		*	*
Oregon		<b>*</b>	<b>★</b>							*
Pennsylvania		*								*
Rhode Island	*			*	<b>★</b>		*		*	*
South Carolina		*		*	*			*		*
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Wyoming						*				

# Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

### ➤ Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 2-D Analysis: West Virginia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia 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.

West Virginia 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.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. In addition, West Virginia noted that the state is exploring the recommendations via multiple state department and state board stakeholder groups and partnerships with external organizations.

Do states offer a license		Restricted or vague	
Do states offer a license with minimal requirements		7 2 2	, /
		, ted 0	
that allows content experts	6	strica Se o	/
to teach part-time?	PES 1	/ <sup>R</sup> e, /	8
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Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
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Louisiana	$\overline{}$		
Maine			
Maryland	П		
Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Mississippi	H		
Missouri			
Montana	H		
Nebraska			
Nevada	Н		
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
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### **EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

# Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

### ➤ Goal E — Licensure Reciprocity

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



### 2-E Analysis: West Virginia



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Regrettably, West Virginia waives its licensing tests for out-of-state teachers who have three years of teaching experience within the last seven years.

However, West Virginia offers its standard license to out-of-state certified teachers, without specifying any additional coursework requirements or relying on transcript analysis or recency requirements to determine eligibility.

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

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

### **Supporting Research**

Legislative Rule Board of Education Series 136, Policy 5202, 126-136-16

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

West Virginia takes considerable risk by waiving its licensing tests for any out-of-state teacher with three years of teaching 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 recent experience.

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

West Virginia should require that evidence of teacher effectiveness be considered for all out-of-state candidates. Such evidence is especially important for candidates who come from states that make student growth at least a significant factor of a teacher evaluation (see Goal 3-B).

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

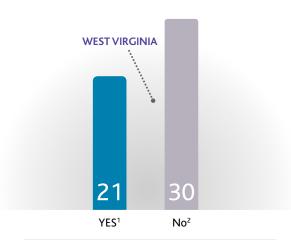
West Virginia should ensure that online teachers based in other states are at least equally as qualified as those who teach in the state. However, West Virginia should balance the interests of its students in having qualified online instructors with making certain that these requirements do not create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

### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is exploring the recommendations via multiple state department and state board stakeholder groups and partnerships with external organizations. As a result of stakeholder recommendations, the state may propose legislative changes.

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.
- 5. Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification; all others given two years to meet testing requirements.
- 6. Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification.
- 7. No subject-matter testing for any teacher certification.

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 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.

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### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

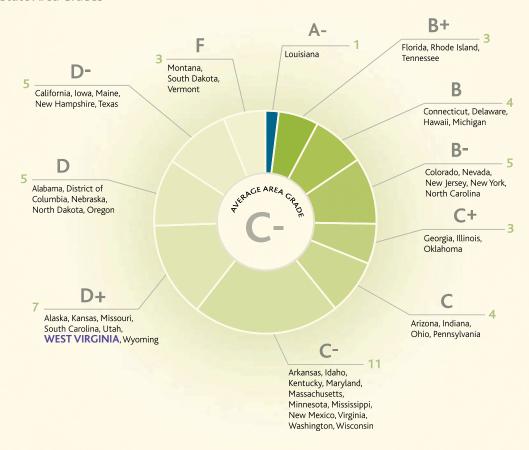
Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet Alabama's and Texas's own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate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

## **Area 3 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Identifying Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



## Topics Included In This Area

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

## Goal A – State Data Systems

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

#### Background

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



## 3-A Analysis: West Virginia



State Partly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



**Progress Since 2011** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

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

West Virginia defines teacher of record as the teacher who is responsible for the classroom, and makes the final decisions about the delivered instruction and the final outcomes for the students assigned to the class. The state's teacher-student data link cannot connect more than one educator to a particular student in a given course, but it does have in place a process for teacher roster verification.

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

Publish data on teacher production.

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

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia asserted that it has a definition of teacher of record, but it is not transparent. The state plans to revise its policy to reflect the current definition, which defines teacher of record as the specific teacher to whom students are assigned according to the WVEIS master schedule for the school. This definition is used for highly qualified teacher data collection.

West Virginia also contended that its teacher-student data link can connect more than one educator to a particular student in a given course, but it does not have in place a process for teacher roster verification. The state received a State Longitudinal Data Systems grant and is currently working to address this recommendation via its Data Governance Structure.

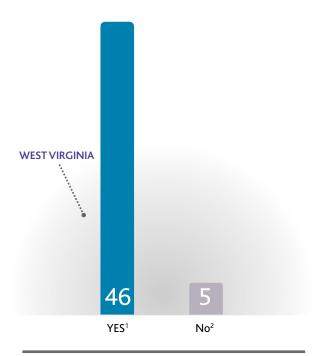
#### **LAST WORD**

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

Figure 59

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

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



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

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

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

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

## Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

- The state should either require a common evaluation instrument in which evidence of student learning is the most significant criterion or should specifically require that student learning be the preponderant criterion in local evaluation processes. Evaluation instruments, whether state or locally developed, should be structured so as to preclude a teacher from receiving a satisfactory rating if found ineffective in the classroom.
- 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: West Virginia



State Partly Meets Goal Progress Since 2011



#### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia does not require that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations. The state is in the process of implementing a statewide teacher evaluation system. Implementation is slated for school year 2013-2014.

West Virginia now requires that 15 percent of a teacher's summative evaluation score be based on student growth as measured by student learning goals and 5 percent on student learning growth measured by the schoolwide score on the state summative assessment. The process adopted by the state board will incorporate the use of two pieces of evidence at two points in time to demonstrate student learning as an indicator of educator performance, as well as the use of schools' schoolwide student learning growth as measured by the statewide summative assessment.

The remaining 80 percent is based on an appraisal of the teacher's ability to perform to the established professional standards.

The four performance ratings that must be used are: distinguished, accomplished, emerging and unsatisfactory.

Classroom observations are required. However, once a teacher has six-plus years of experience, observations are only conducted if requested by a principal.

#### **Supporting Research**

HB 4236 (2012)

West Virginia BOE Policy 5310

http://apps.sos.wv.gov/adlaw/csr/readfile.aspx?DocId=24716&Format=PDF

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

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

Although West Virginia requires classroom observations as part of teacher evaluations, the state should articulate guidelines that focus classroom observations on the quality of instruction, as measured by student time on task, student grasp or mastery of the lesson objective and efficient use of class time.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia asserted that its new educator evaluation system went into effect for the 2013-2014 school year and provides for changes in teacher evaluation procedures. Observations focus on what the teacher demonstrates as it relates to the state's Professional Teaching Standards, which are the foundation of the evaluation. Criteria such as "quality of instruction, student time on task and efficient use of class time" can all be evaluated during the observation within the first three standards. The "student grasp or mastery of a lesson" may not be best measured during a 30-minute observation but rather through the student learning components of the evaluation system.

West Virginia added that the percentage weight given to student learning (20 percent) within the evaluation system was agreed on by the multiple stakeholder groups responsible for its construction as well as for the state's approved ESEA waiver.

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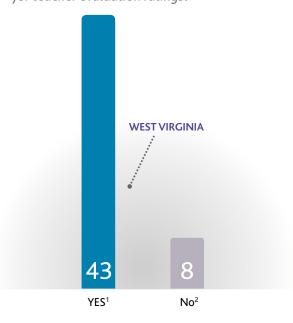
The state has an ESEA waiver requiring an evaluation system that includes student achievement as a significant factor. However, no specific guidelines or policies have been articulated.

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

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

Figure 65

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



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

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

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

<sup>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 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>2.</sup> Multiple evaluators are explicitly allowed but not required.

## ➤ Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

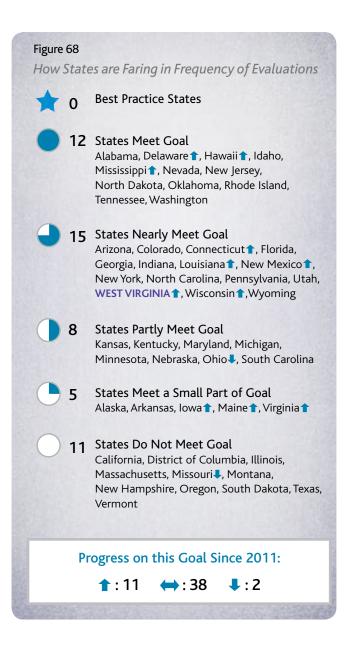
#### Goal Components

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

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

#### Background

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



## 3-C Analysis: West Virginia



State Nearly Meets Goal (1) Progress Since 2011



#### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia now requires that all teachers are evaluated annually.

All teachers in their first five years of teaching receive annual summative evaluations. Nonprobationary teachers with six-plus years of experience are evaluated annually; however, 80 percent of their evaluations are self-reflection.

Nonprobationary teachers in their fourth and fifth years of teaching must be observed at least two times, with the first observation occurring before November 1 and the second taking place before May 1. For teachers with six-plus years of experience, observations are not required unless requested by a principal.

New teachers in their first three years of teaching must be observed at least four times; two observations must be conducted during an instructional activity. The first instructional observation must take place by November 1, the second between November 1 and January 1, the third between January 1 and March 1 and the final one between March 1 and May 1. Postobservation conferences are scheduled after each observation to discuss teacher performance.

#### **Supporting Research**

West Virginia BOE Policy 5310 http://apps.sos.wv.gov/adlaw/csr/readfile.aspx?DocId=24716&Format=PDF HB 4236 (2012)

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Strengthen formal evaluation requirements for nonprobationary teachers.

Although West Virginia has taken a step in the right direction by requiring annual evaluations for all teachers, it should strengthen its policy regarding nonprobationary teachers with six-plus years of experience. Observation of professional practice is important for all teachers, even for those with experience; therefore, teacher evaluation instruments should include factors that combine both professional judgment and objective measures of student learning. While teachers may find self-reflection useful, making it the basis for the majority of the evaluation score is unlikely to result in the kind of meaningful and actionable feedback that will be helpful to either effective or ineffective teachers.

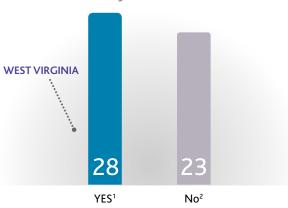
#### Base evaluations on multiple observations.

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

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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

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

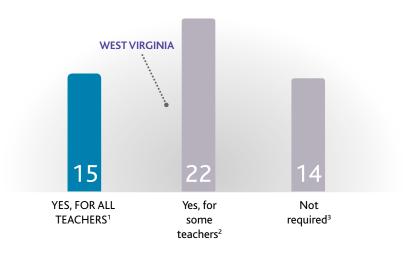


- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland<sup>3</sup>, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West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

Figure 70	ANNUM EVALUATION	ANNUAL EVALUATION OF  ALL PROBATIONARY TEACHERS
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to evaluate all teachers	3,5	
each year?	75/2	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
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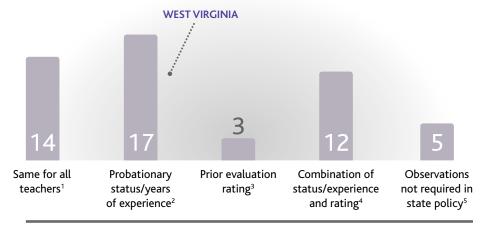
Figure 71

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?



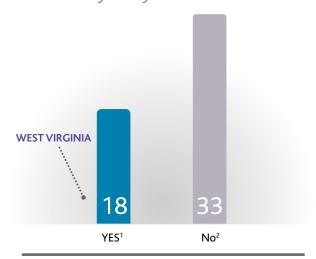
- Alabama, District of Columbia<sup>6</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas<sup>7</sup>, California<sup>7</sup>, Colorado, Florida, Kansas<sup>7</sup>, Minnesota<sup>7</sup>, Nebraska, North Carolina, 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: West Virginia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia does not connect tenure decisions to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Teachers in West Virginia are awarded tenure automatically after a three-year probationary period, absent an additional process that evaluates cumulative evidence of teacher effectiveness.

#### **Supporting Research**

West Virginia Code 18A-2-6

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**End the automatic awarding of tenure.** 

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

- Ensure evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.
  - West Virginia should make evidence of effectiveness, rather than the number of years in the class-room, the most significant factor when determining this leap in professional standing.
- Articulate a process that local districts must administer when deciding which teachers get tenure.
  - West Virginia should require a clear process, such as a hearing, to ensure that the local district reviews a teacher's performance before making a determination regarding tenure.
- Require a longer probationary period.

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

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is exploring the recommendations via multiple state department and state board stakeholder groups and partnerships with external organizations.

How long before a teacher earns tenure?							4 WARDS
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Washington				7			
WEST VIRGINIA							
Wisconsin							
Wyoming							

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



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

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

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

Figure 76	EVDENCE OF STUDENT	* /	_ /
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decisions made?	5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5. 5		
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New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina		2	
North Dakota Ohio			
Onio Oklahoma	3		
Oregon	3		
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
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Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
WEST VIRGINIA			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	11	9	31

## → Goal E – Licensure Advancement

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



## 3-E Analysis: West Virginia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

After teachers have received the three-year Initial Professional Teaching certificate, they may convert it to a five-year license by completing six semester hours of college coursework. Teachers may advance to a Permanent Teaching Certificate by completing two five-year renewal processes or one five-year renewal process and obtain a master's degree.

West Virginia does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Teachers must renew their licenses every five years by one of the following means: three semester hours of coursework "related to the public school program, or courses related to the teachers endorsement area, or "credit prescribed by the county as a result of an applicant's evaluation AND three semester hours of coursework related to the improvement of instruction through the use of technology; OR verification of a salary classification of a Master's Degree plus 30 additional hours (MA+30); OR documentation that you have reached age 60."

#### **Supporting Research**

http://wvde.state.wv.us/teachwv/certification.html

West Virginia State Board Policy 5202 Section 10.1.c

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

West Virginia 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's current policy is further compromised by the issuance of lifetime Permanent Teaching Certificates, with no requirements for renewal.

Discontinue licensure requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

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

■ End requirement tying teacher advancement to master's degrees.

West Virginia should remove its mandate that teachers obtain a master's or doctorate degree for any level of license advancement. Research is conclusive and emphatic that master's degrees do not have any significant correlation to classroom performance. Rather, advancement should be based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

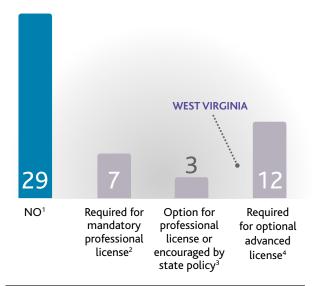
West Virginia was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.

Figure 78	OBJECTIVE VIDENCE OF	a /		
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- 1. Evidence of effectiveness is required for license renewal but not for conferring of professional license.
- 2. Illinois allows revocation of licenses based on ineffectiveness.
- Maryland uses some objective evidence through their evaluation systems for renewal, but advancement to professional license is still based on earning an advanced degree.

Figure 79

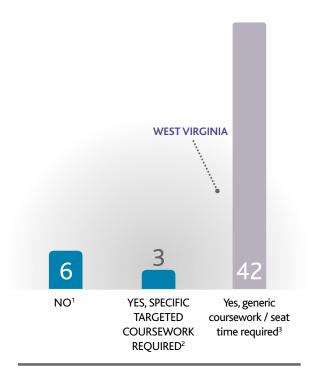
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?



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

Figure 80

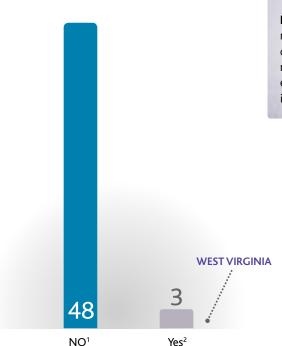
Do states require teachers to take additional coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



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

Figure 81

Do states award lifetime licenses?



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

## **\*** EXAMPLE 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: West Virginia



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. West Virginia reports little school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent. West Virginia 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. West Virginia does not provide a school-level teacher-quality index that demonstrates the academic backgrounds of a school's teachers and the ratio of new to veteran teachers. The state also does not report on teacher absenteeism or turnover rates.

West Virginia does report on the percentage of highly qualified teachers, the educational attainment of teachers and the average years of teaching experience. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. West Virginia's Highly Qualified Teacher Plan, published in 2006, compares the distribution of teachers according to experience by poverty levels. While the state continues to report annually on highly qualified teachers, there have been no further updates according to poverty levels for each school.

#### **Supporting Research**

2011-2012 NCLB School Report Card

http://wveis.k12.wv.us/nclb/pub/rpt1112/pickreportcard.cfm?rptnum=99

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### ■ Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

West Virginia should make aggregate school-level data about teacher performance—from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness—publicly available. Data about the effectiveness of a school's teachers would shine a light on how equitably teachers are distributed across and within school districts.

In the absence of data from such an evaluation system, the state should use a teacher-quality index to report publicly about each school. A teacher-quality index, such as the one developed by the Illinois Education Research Council with data including teachers' average SAT or ACT scores, the percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once, the selectivity of teachers' undergraduate colleges and the percentage of new teachers, can show how equitably teachers are distributed both across and within districts. West Virginia should ensure that individual school report cards include such data in a manner that translates these factors into something easily understood by the public, such as a color-coded matrix indicating a school's high or low score.

#### Publish other data that facilitate comparisons across schools.

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

#### Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

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

Ensure that data are current. It is important to keep data updated and current in order to provide the public with an accurate picture of teacher distribution across schools in districts.								
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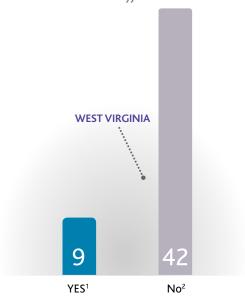
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#### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

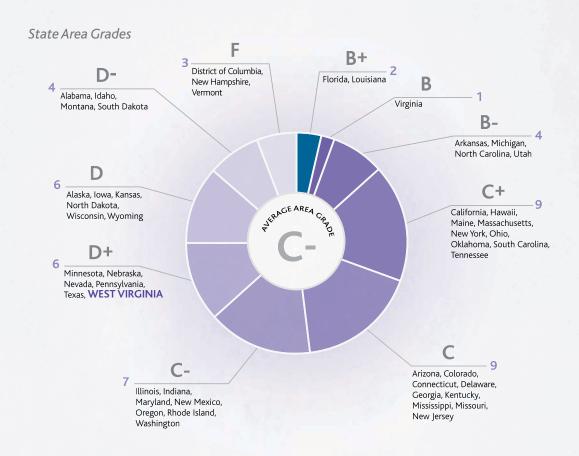


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas³, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts<sup>4</sup>, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida<sup>5</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky,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

## **Area 4 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Retaining Effective Teachers



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

## Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

## Goal A - Induction

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

- The state should ensure that new teachers receive mentoring of sufficient frequency and duration, especially in the first critical weeks of school.
- Mentors should be carefully selected based on evidence of their own classroom effectiveness and subject-matter expertise. Mentors should be trained, and their performance as mentors should be evaluated.
- 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: West Virginia



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Recent legislation in West Virginia has removed many of the mandatory requirements for the state's strong induction program. New legislation allows districts more flexibility in implementing "a comprehensive system of support for improving professional practice." Induction support is required for all new teachers.

The new statute states that counties must have a plan for selecting mentors "based on demonstrated superior performance and competence." Required plan components and the state's induction framework both require documentation demonstrating how the county "allocates time and resources for meaningful interaction, e.g., conferences, observations, co-teaching, substitutes." County plans must include details on how a county will provide a "strong school-based support and supervision that will assist beginning teachers to develop instructional and management strategies, procedural and policy expertise, and other professional practices they need to be successful in the classroom...". Unfortunately, there is little detail as to what counties must provide to new teachers in order to meet that goal.

#### **Supporting Research**

West Virginia Code 18A-3C-1 and 3

HB 3157 (2013)

HB 4236 (2012)

West Virginia State Board of Education Comprehensive System of Support for Improving Professional Practice Implementation Guidelines June 2012

Framework for Induction http://wvde.state.wv.us/coachingforlearning/framework.html

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

As it did before the repeal of a key statute, West Virginia should ensure that all new teachers—especially any teacher in a low-performing school—receive mentoring support, especially in the first critical weeks of school.

Set more specific parameters.

As it did with the beginning internship requirements, West Virginia should ensure that all teachers receive high-quality mentoring by specifying 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.

Prior regulations required beginning teachers and mentors to schedule joint planning periods and have weekly meetings to discuss performance. Also, mentors were required to participate in professional development training and were entitled to release time. West Virginia should ensure that the experience is meaningful and revisit these provisions in future legislation.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. However, the analysis was changed subsequent to the state's review.

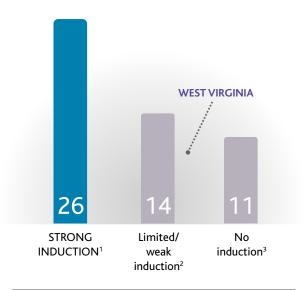
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#### **T** EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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: West Virginia





State Meets Goal Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia requires that teachers receive a signed copy of their observation form after each 30-minute classroom observation as well as have a postobservation conference with the supervisor. In addition, evaluations must provide written recommendations for meeting performance criteria and characteristics. The state specifies that evaluations "serve as the basis for providing professional development specifically targeted on the area or areas identified through the evaluation process as needing improvement."

Teachers rated unsatisfactory are placed on improvement plans. Improvement plans contain noted deficiencies, a description of resources and assistance and a timeline to address deficiencies. Professional growth plans and development plans can be requested for teachers with five or more years of experience who have not received an unsatisfactory rating when the supervisor determines it to be necessary.

#### **Supporting Research**

West Virginia Code 126-142-10 and 11 and 18A-3C-1

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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



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

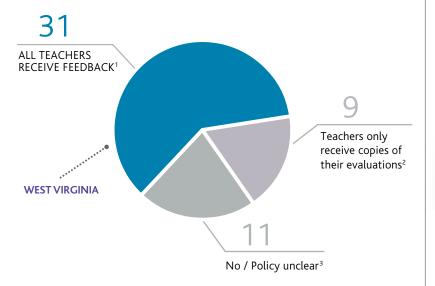
Louisiana and North Carolina require that teachers receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations and direct districts to connect professional development to teachers' identified needs. Both states also require that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement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

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

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Figure 90

Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?

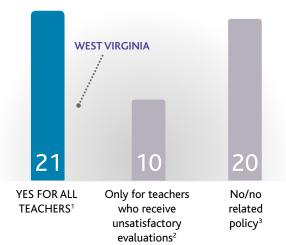


- Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia,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

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

#### Background

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



### 4-C Analysis: West Virginia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

#### **Supporting Research**

West Virginia Code 18A-4-2

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

#### WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. West Virginia added that legislative code changes are introduced annually. The state is exploring the recommendations via multiple state department and state board stakeholder groups and partnerships with external organizations.



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

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

on years of service, experience and training.

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

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

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

# Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

# ▶ Goal D – Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

#### Goal Component

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

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

#### Background

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



### 4-D Analysis: West Virginia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia 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, West Virginia 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.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

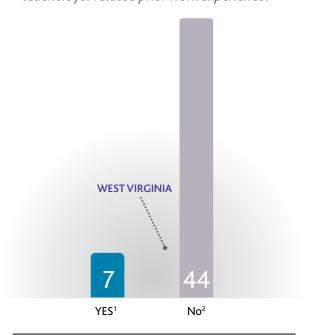
West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. In addition, West Virginia noted that the state is exploring the recommendations via multiple state department and state board stakeholder groups and partnerships with external organizations.

### **EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 96

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



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

# **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers**

# Goal E − Differential Pay

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



### 4-E Analysis: West Virginia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia neither supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects nor offers incentives to teach in high-need schools. However, the state has no regulatory language that would directly block districts from providing differential pay.

Teachers who are National Board Certified are eligible to receive a \$3,500 annual stipend. However, this differential pay is not tied to high-need schools or subject-area shortages.

#### **Supporting Research**

West Virginia Code 18A-4-2 (10)(a)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

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

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

#### WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is exploring the recommendations via multiple state department and state board stakeholder groups and partnerships with external organizations.

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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.

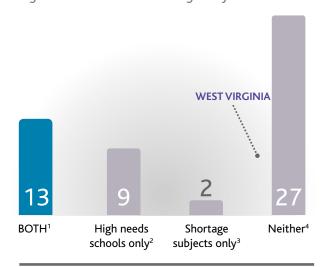
<sup>2.</sup> South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in high-need schools.



#### **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: West Virginia



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Support a performance pay plan that recognizes teachers for their effectiveness.
  - Whether it implements the plan at the state or local level, West Virginia should ensure that performance pay structures thoughtfully measure classroom performance and connect student achievement to teacher effectiveness. The plan must be developed with careful consideration of available data and subsequent issues of fairness.
- Consider piloting performance pay in a select number of school districts.

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

#### WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is exploring the recommendations via multiple state department and state board stakeholder groups and partnerships with external organizations.

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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.

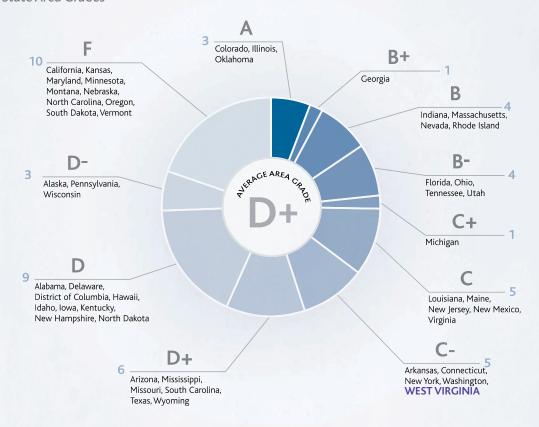
<sup>2.</sup> Nevada's initiative does not go into effect until 2015-2016.

# **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.
- 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: West Virginia



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

West Virginia allows individuals from out of state who have completed an approved teacher education program but have not passed West Virginia licensing tests to teach under a temporary certificate. The state may issue a nonrenewable, one-year temporary certificate to individuals who otherwise meet all of the requirements for a professional certificate but who have not passed licensing tests.

#### **Supporting Research**

West Virginia Legislative Rules 126-136-10.1.1

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is exploring the recommendations via multiple state department and state board stakeholder groups and partnerships with external organizations.

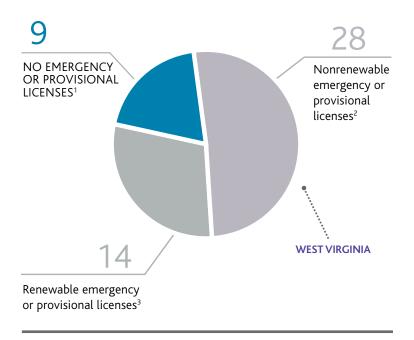
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**Colorado**, **Illinois**, **Mississippi**, and **New Jersey** require all new teachers to pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure.

Figure 104

Do states still award emergency licenses?



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

# **Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers**

### Goal B − Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

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

## 5-B Analysis: West Virginia



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

In West Virginia, if after remediation for an unsatisfactory evaluation a teacher's rating remains unsatisfactory, the evaluator "may recommend the dismissal of the professional."

West Virginia 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: "immorality, incompetency, cruelty, insubordination, intemperance, willful neglect of duty, unsatisfactory performance, the conviction of a felony or a guilty plea or a plea of nolo contendere to a felony charge."

Tenured teachers who are terminated have multiple opportunities to appeal. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher may, within five days, request a level three hearing. The state does not specify a time frame for the hearing, just that the administrative law judge must issue a decision within 30 days of the hearing's conclusion. The decision may be appealed to the circuit court.

#### **Supporting Research**

West Virginia Code 6C-2-4; 2-5 and 18A-2-8; 12

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

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

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

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia cited references for state policy for hearings and appeals and indicated that hearings are conducted quarterly.

#### **Supporting Research**

W.Va. 126CSR4, State Board Policy 1340, Rules of Procedure for Administrative Hearings and Appeals

WVBE Policy 5050: West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching Standards

#### **LAST WORD**

The hearing process referenced by the state in its response is related to license revocation. This analysis concerns the appeals process for dismissal. West Virginia's response underscores the issue that states too often fail to differentiate the process for termination for reasons such as poor classroom performance with the process that would result in license revocation and the permanent end to a teacher's right to practice.



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

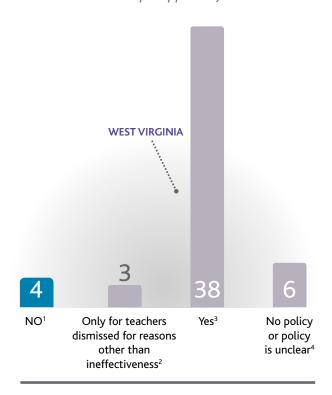
Florida and Oklahoma clearly articulate that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal. In both states, teachers are eligible for dismissal after two annual ratings of unsatisfactory performance. Each state has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed 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
- 5. Though a teacher returns to probationary status after two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations, Nevada does not articulate clear policy about its appeals process.

# Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

### Goal C − Reductions in Force

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

#### Goal Component

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

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

#### Background

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



### 5-C Analysis: West Virginia



State Does Not Meet Goal



(🔁) Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

In West Virginia, seniority is the sole factor used to determine which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force. Following the release of teachers on temporary permits, "the employee with the least amount of seniority shall be properly notified and released from employment."

#### **Supporting Research**

West Virginia Code 18-A-4-7a

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

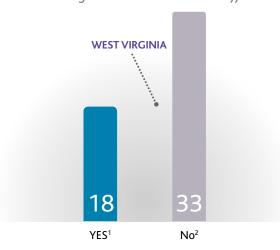
- Require that districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.
  - West Virginia should give districts the flexibility to determine their own layoff policies, but it should do so within a framework that ensures that classroom performance is considered.
- Ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off. Although it may be useful to consider seniority among other criteria, West Virginia's current policy puts adult interests before student needs.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

West Virginia recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 109

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



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

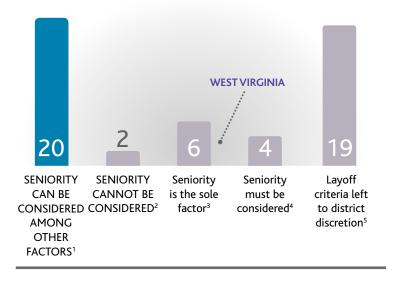




**Colorado**, **Florida**, and **Indiana** all specify that in determining which teachers to lay off during a reduction in force, classroom performance is the top criterion. These states also articulate that seniority can only be considered after a teacher's performance is taken into account.

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

# Goals and Keywords

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

# Teacher Policy Priorities for West Virginia

AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
Require that the test used by teacher preparation programs to screen candidates prior to a is normed to the general college-bound population, and limit acceptance to those candidatemonstrating academic ability in the top 50th percentile.	
Specifically require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each disciplicensed to teach.	line they are Goal 1-I
Ensure that both elementary and secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.	and appropriate Goal 1-I
Ensure that cooperating teachers for student teaching placements have demonstrated evident effectiveness as measured by student learning.	dence of Goal 1-
Hold teacher preparation programs accountable by collecting data that connect student a gains to programs, as well as other meaningful data that reflect program performance, and establishing the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.	
AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool	
Increase admission requirements to alternate route programs, including a high bar for acade proficiency.	lemic Goal 2-1
Establish guidelines for alternate route programs ensuring efficient preparation that meets needs of new teachers.	the immediate  Goal 2-I
Broaden alternate route usage.	Goal 2-0
Require out-of-state teachers to meet the state's own testing requirements.	Goal 2-
AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	
Require evidence of student learning to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evalu	ation. Goal 3-
Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.	Goal 3-I
Base licensure advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license and licensu evidence of effectiveness.	re renewal on Goal 3-
Publish aggregate school-level teacher evaluation ratings from an evaluation system based instructional effectiveness.	on Goal 3-

AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers		
•	Require effective induction for all new teachers, including reduced teaching load, frequent release time to observe effective teachers and seminars appropriate to grade level or subject area.	Goal 4-A
-	Give districts flexibility to determine pay structure and scales. Discourage districts from tying compensation to advance degrees and from determining the highest steps on the pay scale solely by seniority.	Goal 4-C
-	Support differential pay initiatives for effective teachers in both shortage subject areas and high-need schools.	Goal 4-E
•	Support performance pay to recognize teachers for their effectiveness.	Goal 4-F

### AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

■ Eliminate seniority as the sole factor used to determine which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force, and make ineffective classroom performance grounds for dismissal. (Goal 5-C)

Goal 5-C

