

Arkansas

**Are New Teachers Being
Prepared for College- and
Career-Readiness Standards?**

2014 State Teacher Policy Yearbook



National Council on Teacher Quality

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. Although this year's edition did not require the extensive review that comprehensive editions require, we still wanted to make sure that we captured all relevant policy changes and that states' perspectives were represented. Every state formally received a draft of the policy updates we identified in June 2014 as well as a draft of analyses and recommendations for the new indicators related to college- and career-readiness standards 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, explain their differing points of view and often acknowledge the imperfections of their teacher policies are important steps in moving forward.

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Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Arkansas

Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.
Priority for special education teacher preparation.
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.
Priority for middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.
Priority for middle and secondary teacher preparation.

Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

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

Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.






















Teacher Preparation in Arkansas

The 2014 *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* keeps the spotlight on the critical issue of teacher preparation. In addition to updating the full set of teacher preparation policies reviewed in last year's comprehensive edition, the 2014 *Yearbook* casts a critical eye on whether states have established requirements for teacher preparation and licensure that help to ensure that teachers are ready for the increased demands of states' college- and career-readiness standards for K-12 students.

Current Status of Arkansas Teacher Prep Policy

C+ 2014 Teacher Prep Grade

Prior Grades: **C+** 2013 | **C** 2012 | **C** 2011

Yearbook Goal	Topic	2014 Score	2013 Score
1-A	<i>Admission into Preparation Programs</i>		
1-B	<i>Elementary Teacher Preparation</i>		
1-C	<i>Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction</i>		
1-D	<i>Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics</i>		
1-E	<i>Middle School Teacher Preparation</i>		
1-F	<i>Secondary Teacher Preparation</i>		
1-G	<i>Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science</i>		
1-H	<i>Special Education Teacher Preparation</i>		
1-I	<i>Assessing Professional Knowledge</i>		
1-J	<i>Student Teaching</i>		
1-K	<i>Teacher Preparation Program Accountability</i>		



Does Not Meet



Meets Only a Small Part



Partially Meets



Nearly Meets



Fully Meets

2014 Teacher Prep Policy Update for Arkansas

Based on a review of state legislation, rules and regulations, NCTQ has identified the following recent teacher prep policy changes in Arkansas:

■ Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

Arkansas's website now includes a report card that allows the public to review and compare program performance, including completion numbers, exam pass rates and completer surveys of program satisfaction.

<https://adedata.arkansas.gov/epr/>

Arkansas Response to Policy Update

States were asked to review NCTQ's identified updates and also to comment on policy changes related to teacher preparation that have occurred in the last year, pending changes, or teacher preparation in the state more generally.

Arkansas was helpful in providing NCTQ with additional information about policy changes related to teacher preparation. The state also noted that pending rule changes affecting teacher preparation will be approved December 2014.

Figure A

Delivering well-prepared teachers

	2014 GRADE	2013 GRADE	2012 GRADE	2011 GRADE
Alabama	B-	B	B-	C
Alaska	F	F	F	F
Arizona	D	D-	D-	D-
ARKANSAS	C+	C+	C	C
California	D+	D+	D	D
Colorado	D-	D-	D	D-
Connecticut	B-	B-	C+	C-
Delaware	B-	C+	D-	D-
District of Columbia	C-	D+	D	D
Florida	B+	B+	B-	B-
Georgia	C+	C+	C	C
Hawaii	D-	F	D	D
Idaho	D+	D+	D	D
Illinois	D+	D+	D	D
Indiana	B+	B+	B-	C+
Iowa	D+	D+	D	D
Kansas	D+	D+	D+	D+
Kentucky	B-	B-	C+	C-
Louisiana	C	C-	C	C
Maine	D+	D+	D+	D
Maryland	D+	D+	D+	D+
Massachusetts	B-	B-	C+	C+
Michigan	D+	D	D+	D+
Minnesota	C+	C+	C+	C
Mississippi	C	C-	C	C
Missouri	B-	C-	D+	D+
Montana	F	F	F	F
Nebraska	D-	F	D-	D-
Nevada	D-	D-	D-	D-
New Hampshire	C-	C-	C-	D
New Jersey	B-	B-	C-	D+
New Mexico	D+	D	D+	D+
New York	B	B-	C-	D+
North Carolina	C+	C+	D-	D-
North Dakota	D	D	D	D
Ohio	C	C	C-	D+
Oklahoma	C	C	C	C
Oregon	D+	D	D-	D-
Pennsylvania	C	C	C	C
Rhode Island	B+	B+	C	D+
South Carolina	C+	C	C-	C-
South Dakota	D	D-	D	D
Tennessee	B-	B-	B-	B-
Texas	B	B	C+	C+
Utah	C-	D+	D	D
Vermont	C	C	C-	D+
Virginia	B-	C+	C-	C-
Washington	D+	D+	D+	D+
West Virginia	C+	C+	C-	C-
Wisconsin	C	C-	D+	D
Wyoming	D-	F	F	F
Average State Grade	C	C-	D+	D

Figure B

Delivering well-prepared teachers

	2014 GRADE
Florida	B+
Indiana	B+
Rhode Island	B+
New York	B
Texas	B
Alabama	B-
Connecticut	B-
Delaware	B-
Kentucky	B-
Massachusetts	B-
Missouri	B-
New Jersey	B-
Tennessee	B-
Virginia	B-
ARKANSAS	C+
Georgia	C+
Minnesota	C+
North Carolina	C+
South Carolina	C+
West Virginia	C+
Louisiana	C
Mississippi	C
Ohio	C
Oklahoma	C
Pennsylvania	C
Vermont	C
Wisconsin	C
District of Columbia	C-
New Hampshire	C-
Utah	C-
California	D+
Idaho	D+
Illinois	D+
Iowa	D+
Kansas	D+
Maine	D+
Maryland	D+
Michigan	D+
New Mexico	D+
Oregon	D+
Washington	D+
Arizona	D
North Dakota	D
South Dakota	D
Colorado	D-
Hawaii	D-
Nebraska	D-
Nevada	D-
Wyoming	D-
Alaska	F
Montana	F
Average State Grade	C

Elementary Teacher Preparation

Key Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

1. The state should ensure that all elementary teachers are sufficiently prepared for the ways that college- and career-readiness standards affect instruction of all subject areas. Specifically,
 - A. The state should require that all new elementary teachers are prepared to incorporate complex texts and academic language into instruction.
 - B. The state should ensure that all new elementary teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.
 - C. The state should ensure that all new elementary teachers of English language arts are prepared to support struggling readers.
2. 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.
3. The state should ensure that all elementary teacher candidates, including those who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license, possess sufficient content knowledge in all core subjects, including mathematics.
4. 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 45 credit hours to ensure appropriate depth in the core subject areas of English, mathematics, science, social studies and fine arts.
5. 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.



How well are states ensuring that elementary teachers are prepared for college- and career-readiness standards?

11

Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota

9

Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Oklahoma, Oregon

19

Alabama, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

12

ARKANSAS, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia


0





Elementary Teacher Prep Analysis: Arkansas



PREPARING ELEMENTARY TEACHERS FOR COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS

The new demands of college- and career-readiness standards for students heighten the need for elementary teachers to have a strong content background in all of the subject matter taught in the elementary grades. Arkansas, like most states, has adopted such standards and must ensure that its preparation and licensure requirements for new teachers address this need.

Currently, Arkansas offers an elementary license to teach grades K-6. Key licensing requirements for elementary school teachers in Arkansas include:

 **ARKANSAS
ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREP SNAPSHOT**

	State requires passing a content test in each of the four core subjects.
	State requires adequate test on the science of reading.
	State requires academic content specialization.
	State has adequate/appropriate requirements for teachers who teach elementary grades on an early childhood license.

 Yes  No

In addition to the strong content background called for by college- and career-readiness standards, teacher candidates must also be prepared for the key instructional shifts that differentiate these standards from their predecessors. Arkansas's required competencies for elementary teachers include the following standards that incorporate the instructional shifts in the use of text associated with these new standards:

- Knowledge of developmentally appropriate informational texts across genres, cultures and centuries
- Select developmentally appropriate informational texts, using all measures of text complexity: qualitative, quantitative, reader and task
- Read informational texts closely and critically to analyze the key ideas and details as well as craft and structure with the purpose of integrating knowledge and ideas both within and across texts

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Ensure that elementary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students.**

Support implementation of new state standards.

Although Arkansas's required competencies for elementary teachers are commendable, the state is encouraged to strengthen its policy by making certain there is common understanding that the new college- and career-readiness standards require challenging students with texts of increasing complexity and may require shifts in what has been traditionally considered "developmentally appropriate."

Adequately align test with state competencies.

The testing framework for Arkansas's content assessment does not appear to adequately address the instructional shifts in the use of text required under the new standards and therefore does not fully align with the state's competencies. Therefore, Arkansas should be mindful that this test may not measure up to its new standards for teachers in terms of English language arts, or in terms of connecting literacy and text to the other core subject areas.

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

Arkansas should require a rigorous reading assessment tool to ensure that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared in the science of reading instruction before entering the classroom. The assessment should clearly test knowledge and skills related to the science of reading and address all five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. If the test is combined with an assessment that also tests general pedagogy or elementary con-

- Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue; ability to trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not supported
- Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not supported
- Compare and contrast one author's presentation of events with that of another.

Elementary teachers in Arkansas are required to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5031) test. The reading and language arts subtest requires teachers to understand the "basic elements of ... informational texts," but there is no elaboration to suggest that this includes the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex informational texts and careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with the state's college- and career-readiness standards for students.

Arkansas's elementary teacher competencies require the "ability to select developmentally appropriate scientific and technical texts, using all measures of text complexity: qualitative, quantitative, and reader and task." A similar competency is required regarding "historical and other social studies texts."

The state's competencies for elementary teachers require "knowledge of intervention strategies for struggling readers."

Supporting Research

Praxis Tests

www.ets.org/praxis

Competencies for Elementary Teachers

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/HR_and_Educator_Effectiveness/Educator_Prep/Ed_Competency_Areas/Elementary_K_6_040414.pdf

State Minimum Core Curricula

<http://www.adhe.edu/SiteCollectionDocuments/AcademicAffairsDivision/State%20Minimum%20Core%20Curriculum/StateMinimumCoreCurricula.pdf>

Competency Areas

<http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/human-resources-educator-effectiveness-and-licensure/office-of-educator-effectiveness/educator-preparation/test>

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

tent, it should report a subscore for the science of reading specifically. Elementary teachers who do not possess the minimum knowledge in this area should not be eligible for licensure.

■ 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 Arkansas 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.

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

Arkansas should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish more comprehensive coursework requirements for elementary teacher candidates that align with the college- and career-readiness standards to ensure that candidates will complete coursework relevant to the common topics in elementary grades. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 45 credit hours in the core subject areas of English, mathematics, science, social studies and fine arts.

ARKANSAS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arkansas recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that to ensure that elementary teachers are prepared to support students in becoming college and career ready, it has aligned its content competencies with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and has revised the rules that govern preparation programs to also reflect the changes needed to align with these standards. Programs that prepare candidates for K-6 or 4-8 licensure must require at least six semester hours of reading pedagogy instruction, which includes theories and strategies for teaching reading, diagnosis of reading difficulties, intervention strategies for struggling readers, and disciplinary literacy as identified in the competencies for educator licensure.

Arkansas also noted that it plans to adopt the new Praxis II Multiple Subjects elementary assessment, which is aligned with the CCSS, effective September 1, 2015. In a subsequent response from the state, it added that final approval for the new assessment is slated for December 2014.

Supporting Research

[http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/Legal/Legal-Pending Rules/Rules_Governing_Programs_for_Ed_Licensure_proposed_rule_011014.pdf](http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/Legal/Legal-Pending%20Rules/Rules_Governing_Programs_for_Ed_Licensure_proposed_rule_011014.pdf)

Figure 1

Are states ensuring that new elementary teachers are prepared for the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards?

	USE OF INFORMATIONAL TEXT	INCORPORATING LITERACY SKILLS INTO ALL SUBJECTS	SUPPORTING STRUGGLING READERS
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ARKANSAS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
California	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☒ Fully addresses instructional component ☐ Partially addresses instructional component

SUMMARY OF ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREP FIGURES

Figure 1

Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards

Figure 2

Content test requirements

Figure 3

Specific subject-matter requirements

Figure 4

Science of reading requirements

Figure 5

Math requirements

Figure 6

Requirements for academic concentrations

Figure 7

Requirements for early childhood teachers

Figure 8

Teacher Prep Review findings about elementary teacher prep

Figure 2

Do states ensure that elementary teachers know core content?

	ELEMENTARY CONTENT TEST WITH SEPARATE PASSING SCORE FOR EACH SUBJECT	Elementary content test with separate passing score for some subjects	Elementary content test with composite score	No test required
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ARKANSAS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ³
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	21	9	17	4



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Both **Arkansas** and **California** ensure that elementary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students. These states specify that elementary teacher candidates must have the ability to not only build content knowledge and vocabulary through careful reading of informational and literary texts, but also to challenge students with texts of increasing complexity.

Candidates are also required to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject and are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

In addition, **Indiana** ensures that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades, including early childhood education candidates, possess the requisite knowledge of core content and of the key elements of scientifically based reading instruction before entering the classroom. Elementary and early childhood teacher candidates are required to pass a content test comprised of four independently scored subtests, including mathematics. In addition, these candidates are required to pass a comprehensive assessment that tests the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Elementary teacher candidates in Indiana must also earn either a major or minor in an academic content area.

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.

1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.

2. Massachusetts and North Carolina require a general curriculum test that does not report scores for each elementary subject. A separate score is reported for math.

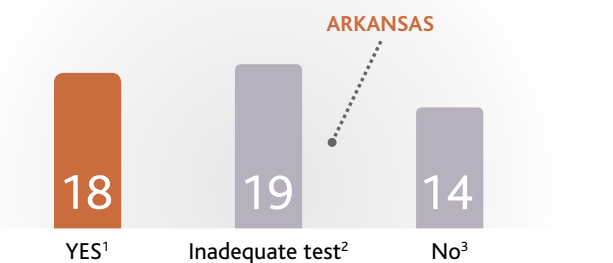
3. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass a content test in Ohio.

Do states expect elementary teachers to have in-depth knowledge of core content?

[illegible]

Figure 4

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



1. **Strong Practice:** Alabama, California⁴, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁵, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
2. Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming
3. Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota
4. California allows an exemption from the state's reading test for teachers who already have a single subject credential.
5. Teachers have until their second year to pass the reading test.

Figure 6

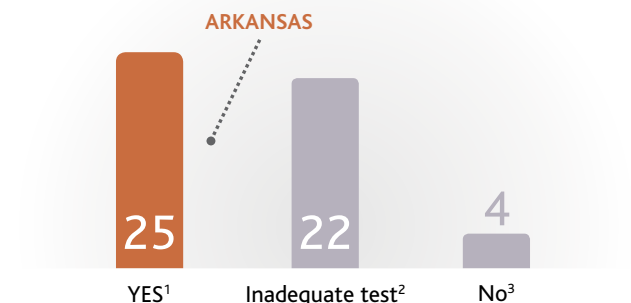
Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



1. **Strong Practice:** Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico
2. **Strong Practice:** Indiana, Mississippi, 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, New Hampshire⁵, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
5. Only K-8 teachers must complete an area of concentration in a field such as humanities, fine arts, social sciences and sciences.

Figure 5

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



1. **Strong Practice:** Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
2. Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin
3. Alaska⁴, Hawaii, Montana, Ohio⁵
4. Testing is not required for initial licensure.
5. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass an adequate content test.

Figure 7

What do states require of early childhood teachers who teach elementary grades?

	CONTENT TEST WITH SUBSCORES FOR EACH SUBJECT	ADEQUATE SCIENCE OF READING TEST
Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alaska ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ARKANSAS ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Georgia ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michigan ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

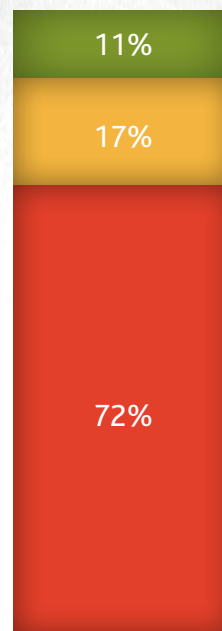
6

13

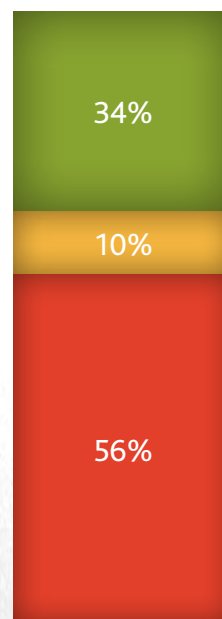
Figure 8

TEACHER PREP REVIEW FINDINGS

Only 11 percent of preparation programs ensure that elementary teachers are well prepared in the subjects they will teach.



Just 34 percent of preparation programs provide adequate training to elementary teachers in the science of reading instruction.



From NCTQ's 2014 *Teacher Prep Review* Standard 6: Elementary Content (n=1,166 elementary programs) and Standard 2: Early Reading (n=959 elementary and special education programs)

Figure 7

1. 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.
2. Early childhood candidates may pass either multiple subjects (subscores) or content knowledge (no subscores) test.

Middle School Teacher Preparation

Key Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

1. The state should ensure that all middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared for the ways that college- and career-readiness English language arts standards affect instruction of all subject areas. Specifically,
 - A. The state should require that all new middle school teachers are prepared to incorporate complex texts and academic language into instruction.
 - B. The state should ensure that all new middle school teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.
 - C. The state should ensure that all new middle school teachers of English language arts are prepared to support struggling readers.
2. The state should require that new middle school teachers pass a licensing test in every core academic area they are licensed to teach.
3. 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.



How well are states ensuring that middle school teachers are prepared for college- and career-readiness standards?

16

Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

5

Colorado, Massachusetts, Nevada, North Dakota, Wisconsin

22

Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

6

Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas

2


ARKANSAS, Indiana


Middle School Teacher Prep Analysis: Arkansas


PREPARING MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS



The middle school years are critical to students' education, but, too often, states fail to distinguish the knowledge and skills needed by middle school teachers from those needed by an elementary teacher. Middle school teachers should not only be prepared to teach grade-level content, but should also be prepared to meet the increased instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

Currently, Arkansas offers a middle school license to teach grades 5-8. Key licensing requirements for middle school teachers in Arkansas include:

 **ARKANSAS**
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREP SNAPSHOT

 **State requires teachers to pass a content test for each subject they teach.**

 **State requires middle school teachers to hold a middle grade or secondary license.**

 Yes  No

Preparation and licensure requirements for middle school teachers must address more than just content knowledge; the key instructional shifts articulated in college- and career-readiness standards for students must also be incorporated. Arkansas's teacher competencies for middle school English teachers include the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex informational texts and careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these new standards. The state's assessment for middle school English teachers, the Praxis II Middle School English Language Arts (5047), also addresses some of these instructional shifts.

In addition, Arkansas's competencies for middle school teachers address literacy in other content areas. Reading competencies specifically articulated for history/social studies teachers require "the ability to read informational texts in history and social studies closely and critically to analyze the key ideas and details as well as craft and structure with the purpose of integrating knowledge and ideas both within and across texts." Similar literacy skills are incorporated into the competencies for middle grades science and technical subjects.

Regarding struggling readers, Arkansas's middle school English content test requires that a teacher "knows commonly used research-based approaches to grouping and differentiated instruction to meet specific instructional objectives in English Language Arts" and

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Ensure that middle school teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students.**

Support struggling readers.

Arkansas should articulate more specific requirements ensuring that middle school teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling. While college- and career-readiness standards will increase the need for all middle school teachers to be able to help struggling readers to comprehend grade-level material, training for English language arts teachers in particular must emphasize identification and remediation of reading deficiencies.

- **Ensure meaningful content tests.**

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

"understands commonly used research-based strategies for teaching adolescent reading." Competencies for middle grades English teachers also require "knowledge of the differentiated needs of middle level readers and how to strategically address them."

Supporting Research

Praxis Tests

www.ets.org/praxis

Educator Competencies

<http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/human-resources-educator-effectiveness-and-licensure/educator-licensure-unit/educator-preparation/educator-competencies>

New Areas of Licensure

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/HR_and_Educator_Effectiveness/HR_Educator_Licensure/NEW_AREAS_AND_LEVELS_BY_CODES_2-11-2013.pdf

Rules, Appendix A

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/rules/Current/ade317_-_Licensure_-_March_2013.pdf

ARKANSAS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arkansas recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that to ensure that middle school teachers are prepared to support students in becoming college and career ready, it has aligned its content competencies with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and has revised the rules that govern preparation programs to also reflect the changes needed to align with these standards. Programs that prepare candidates for K-6 or 4-8 licensure must require at least six semester hours of reading pedagogy instruction, which includes theories and strategies for teaching reading, diagnosis of reading difficulties, intervention strategies for struggling readers and disciplinary literacy as identified in the competencies for educator licensure.

Arkansas noted that to support struggling readers, it has implemented a plan to address additional needs as identified by rule 12.00, which requires the state to collaborate with the Department of Higher Education to ensure that all teacher education programs offered at state-supported institutions of higher education include information on the identification of students at risk for dyslexia and related disorders.

Supporting Research

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/Legal/Legal-Pending_Rules/Rules_Governing_Programs_for_Ed_Licensure_proposed_rule_011014.pdf

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/rules/Pending/Children_With_Dyslexia.pdf

Figure 9

Are states ensuring that new middle school teachers are prepared for the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards?

	USE OF INFORMATIONAL TEXT	INCORPORATING LITERACY SKILLS INTO ALL SUBJECTS	SUPPORTING STRUGGLING READERS
Alabama	■	□	■
Alaska	□	□	□
Arizona	■	□	□
ARKANSAS	■	■	■
California	□	□	□
Colorado	■	■	■
Connecticut	■	□	□
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 Jersey	■	□	□
New Mexico	□	□	□
New York	■	□	■
North Carolina	■	■	□
North Dakota	■	□	□
Ohio	■	□	□
Oklahoma	□	□	□
Oregon	■	□	□
Pennsylvania	■	■	■
Rhode Island	■	□	■
South Carolina	■	□	□
South Dakota	■	□	□
Tennessee	■	□	■
Texas	■	■	■
Utah	□	□	□
Vermont	■	□	■
Virginia	■	□	□
Washington	□	■	□
West Virginia	■	□	□
Wisconsin	□	□	□
Wyoming	□	□	□

■ Fully addresses instructional component ■ Partially addresses instructional component

SUMMARY OF MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREP FIGURES

Figure 9

Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards

Figure 10

Distinctions in licenses between middle and elementary teachers

Figure 11

Content test requirements

Figure 12

Teacher Prep Review findings about middle school teacher prep

Figure 10

Do states distinguish middle grade preparation from elementary preparation?

	K-8 LICENSE NOT OFFERED	K-8 license offered for self-contained classrooms	K-8 license offered
Alabama	■	□	□
Alaska	□	□	■
Arizona	□	□	■ ¹
ARKANSAS	■	□	□
California	□	■ ²	□
Colorado	■	□	□
Connecticut	■	□	□
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 Jersey	■	□	□
New Mexico	□	□	■
New York	■	□	□
North Carolina	■	□	□
North Dakota	□	□	■ ¹
Ohio	■	□	□
Oklahoma	□	□	■ ³
Oregon	□	□	■ ⁴
Pennsylvania	■	□	□
Rhode Island	■	□	□
South Carolina	■	□	□
South Dakota	□	□	■
Tennessee	■	□	□
Texas	■	□	□
Utah	□	■	□
Vermont	■	□	□
Virginia	■	□	□
Washington	□	□	■
West Virginia	■	□	□
Wisconsin	□	□	■ ¹
Wyoming	■	□	□
	32	5	14



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Illinois ensures that middle school teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students. The state's new standards for the middle grades include the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex texts and careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these standards. The standards also address the needs of struggling readers.

Illinois's requirements connecting literacy to all subject areas are particularly noteworthy. All middle school teachers must understand "the role, perspective and purpose of text in specific disciplines" and be able to perform tasks such as scaffolding reading to allow students to understand and learn from challenging text; guiding reading discussions that require students to identify key ideas and details of a text; analyze craft and structure and critically evaluate the text; and model reading strategies to improve comprehension.

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

1. Offers 1-8 license.

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

3. With the exception of mathematics.

4. Oregon offers 3-8 license.

Figure 11

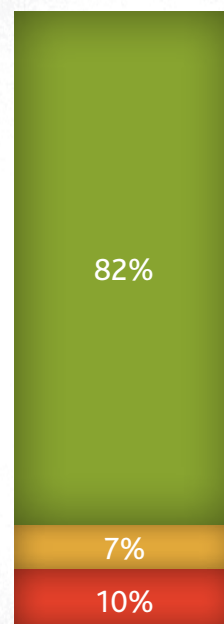
Do middle school teachers have to pass an appropriate content test in every core subject they are licensed to teach?

	YES	No, test does not report subscores for all core subjects	No, K-8 license requires only elementary test	No, testing of all subjects not required
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ARKANSAS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁴
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁶	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁷	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁸	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	27	2	15	7

Figure 12

TEACHER PREP REVIEW FINDINGS

82 percent of programs ensure that middle school teachers are well prepared in the subjects they will teach.



From NCTQ's 2014 *Teacher Prep Review* Standard 7: Middle School Content (n=375 middle school programs). State licensing test requirements are also included in evaluating this standard.

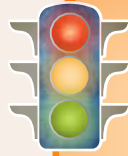
1. Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.
2. Candidates teaching multiple subjects only have to pass the elementary test. Single-subject credential does not require content test.
3. For K-8 license, Idaho also requires one single-subject test.
4. Illinois requires candidates to take a middle level core content test if a test is available. It is not clear that this will result in teachers passing a test in each subject and draft test frameworks are not yet available for review.
5. Maryland allows elementary teachers to teach in departmentalized middle schools if not less than 50 percent of the teaching assignment is within the elementary grades.
6. New Hampshire requires K-8 candidates to pass a middle school content test in one core area.
7. For nondepartmentalized classrooms, generalist in middle childhood education candidates must pass the new assessment with three subtests.
8. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.

Secondary Teacher Preparation

Key Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

1. The state should ensure that all secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared for the ways that college- and career-readiness English language arts standards affect instruction of all subject areas. Specifically,
 - A. The state should require that all new secondary teachers are prepared to incorporate complex texts and academic language into instruction.
 - B. The state should ensure that all new secondary teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.
 - C. The state should ensure that all new secondary teachers of English language arts are prepared to support struggling readers.
2. The state should require that secondary teachers pass a licensing test in every subject they are licensed to teach.
3. The state should require secondary general science and general social studies teachers to pass a subject-matter test of each discipline they are licensed to teach.
4. The state should require that secondary teachers pass a content test when adding subject-area endorsements to an existing license.



How well are states ensuring that secondary teachers are prepared for college- and career-readiness standards?







Secondary Teacher Prep Analysis: Arkansas

PREPARING SECONDARY TEACHERS FOR COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS

To be prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for their students, secondary teachers must be experts in the subject matter they teach. States should ensure that secondary teachers have sufficient content knowledge in all the subjects they are licensed to teach.

Currently, Arkansas offers single-subject secondary licenses to teach grades 7-12. Key licensing requirements for secondary school teachers in Arkansas include:

ARKANSAS SECONDARY TEACHER PREP SNAPSHOT

-  **State requires a content test to teach any single core subject.**
-  **State offers only single-subject science certifications or has appropriate requirements for teachers with general science license.**
-  **State offers only single-subject social studies certifications or has appropriate requirements for teachers with general social studies license.**
-  **State requires a content test in order to add an endorsement to a license.**

 Yes  No

Not only must secondary teachers possess strong backgrounds in content knowledge as required by college- and career-readiness standards, they must also be able to address the key instructional shifts associated with the standards. Arkansas includes the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex informational texts and careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these new standards in its educator competencies for secondary English language arts teachers.

Arkansas's competencies for other secondary content areas also address incorporating literacy skills. For example, the secondary social studies competency to "incorporate disciplinary literacy" states that "reading competencies for literacy in history/social studies for grades 7-12 include the ability to read informational texts in history and social studies closely and critically to analyze the key ideas and details as well as craft and structure with the purpose of integrating knowledge and ideas both within and across texts...." A similar competency exists for both the life science and physical science secondary certifications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Ensure that secondary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students.**

Support implementation of new state standards.

Although Arkansas's required competencies for secondary teachers are commendable, the state is encouraged to strengthen its policy by making certain there is common understanding that the new college- and career-readiness standards require challenging students with texts of increasing complexity and may require shifts in what has been traditionally considered "developmentally appropriate."

Adequately align test with state competencies.

Although Arkansas's secondary teacher competencies are extensive, the testing framework for the state's content assessment does not appear to adequately address the instructional shifts in the use of text required under the new standards. Therefore, Arkansas should be mindful that this test may not measure up to its new standards for teachers in terms of English language arts, or in terms of connecting literacy and text to the other core subject areas.

Support struggling readers.

Arkansas should articulate more specific requirements ensuring that secondary teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling. While college- and career-readiness standards will increase the need for all secondary teachers to be able to help struggling readers to comprehend grade-level material, training for English language arts teachers in particular must emphasize identification and remediation of reading deficiencies.

Regarding struggling readers, Arkansas's competencies for English language arts teachers require the "ability to identify the differentiated needs of secondary level readers and strategically address them."

Supporting Research

Praxis Tests

www.ets.org/praxis

Educator Competencies

<http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/human-resources-educator-effectiveness-and-licensure/educator-licensure-unit/educator-preparation/educator-competencies>

Adding an Area of Licensure to an Existing Arkansas License

<http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/human-resources-educator-effectiveness-and-licensure/educator-licensure-unit/add-licensure-area-to-license>

ARKANSAS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arkansas recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that to ensure that secondary teachers are prepared to support students in becoming college and career ready, it has aligned its content competencies to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The state also noted that the required Praxis II test for English language arts teachers is aligned with these standards and measures candidates' skills and knowledge of concepts relevant to three categories: reading, including the study of literature and informational texts; use of the English language, including conventions of standard English and vocabulary development; and writing, speaking and listening.

Arkansas also noted that to support struggling readers, it has implemented a plan to address additional needs as identified by rule 12.00, which requires the state to collaborate with the Department of Higher Education to ensure that all teacher education programs offered at state-supported institutions of higher education include information on the identification of students at risk for dyslexia and related disorders.

Supporting Research

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/rules/Pending/Children_With_Dyslexia.pdf

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

- **Require secondary teachers with umbrella certifications to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.**

By allowing general social studies and combination science certifications—and only requiring general knowledge exams for each—Arkansas is not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. The state's required general social studies assessment combines all subject areas (e.g., history, geography, economics), and its required assessment for a physical science endorsement combines both physics and chemistry and does not report separate scores for each subject. A candidate could answer many physics questions, for example, incorrectly on the combination content test, yet still be licensed to teach physics to high school students.

Figure 13

Are states ensuring that new secondary teachers are prepared for the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards?

	USE OF INFORMATIONAL TEXT	INCORPORATING LITERACY SKILLS INTO ALL SUBJECTS	SUPPORTING STRUGGLING READERS
Alabama			
Alaska			
Arizona			
ARKANSAS			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
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 Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			

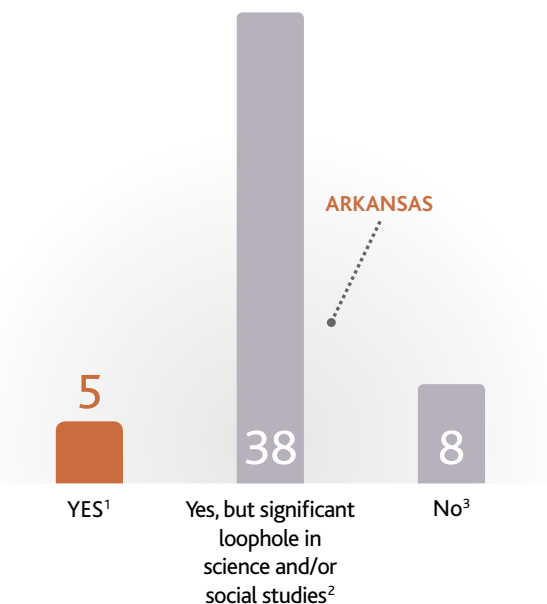
Fully addresses instructional component Partially addresses instructional component

SUMMARY OF SECONDARY TEACHER PREP FIGURES

- **Figure 13**
Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards
- **Figure 14**
Content test requirements
- **Figure 15**
Requirements for general science teachers
- **Figure 16**
Requirements for general social studies teachers
- **Figure 17**
Teacher Prep Review findings about secondary teacher prep

Figure 14

Do secondary teachers have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



1. **Strong Practice:** Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, 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 Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁴, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin [For more on loopholes, see Figure 15 (science) and Figure 16 (social studies).]

3. Alaska⁵, Arizona⁶, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, Washington, Wyoming

4. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.

5. Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.

6. Candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

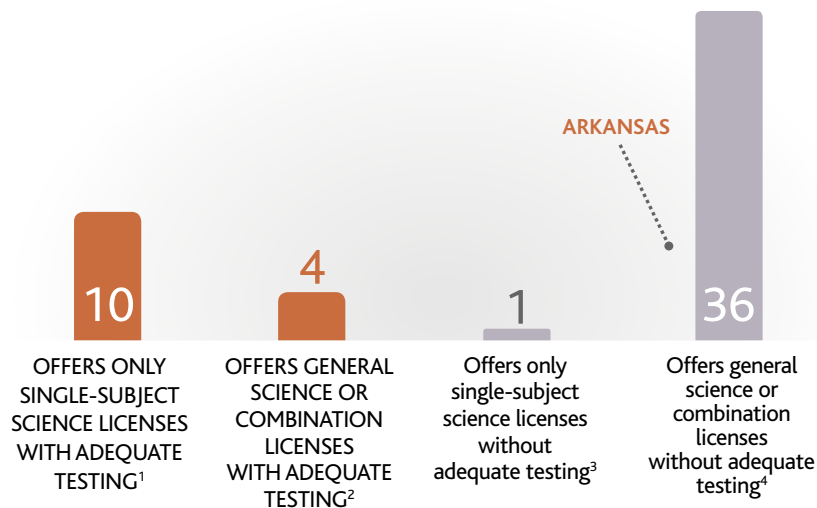
Arkansas has done more than other states to ensure that secondary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students. Not only does the state address the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex informational texts and careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these new standards in its educator competencies for secondary English language arts teachers, it also requires teachers to incorporate literacy skills into all content areas. For example, the secondary social studies competency to "incorporate disciplinary literacy" states that "reading competencies for literacy in history/social studies for grades 7-12 include the ability to read informational texts in history and social studies closely and critically to analyze the key ideas and details as well as craft and structure with the purpose of integrating knowledge and ideas both within and across texts." A similar competency exists for both the life science and physical science secondary certifications.

Indiana, Minnesota and Tennessee require that all secondary teacher candidates pass a content test to teach any core subject—both as a condition of licensure and to add an additional field to a secondary license. Further, neither of these states offers secondary certification in general social studies or science; all teachers must be certified in a specific discipline.

Also worthy of mention is **Missouri**, which requires general social studies teachers to pass a multi-content test with six independently scored subtests. Missouri also offers a general science license that can only be used to teach general science courses. All other science teachers must be certified in a specific discipline.

Figure 15

Do states ensure that secondary general science teachers have adequate subject-matter knowledge?



1. **Strong Practice:** Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia

2. **Strong Practice:** Missouri, New Jersey, Rhode Island⁵, West Virginia⁵

3. California

4. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona⁶, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia⁷, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

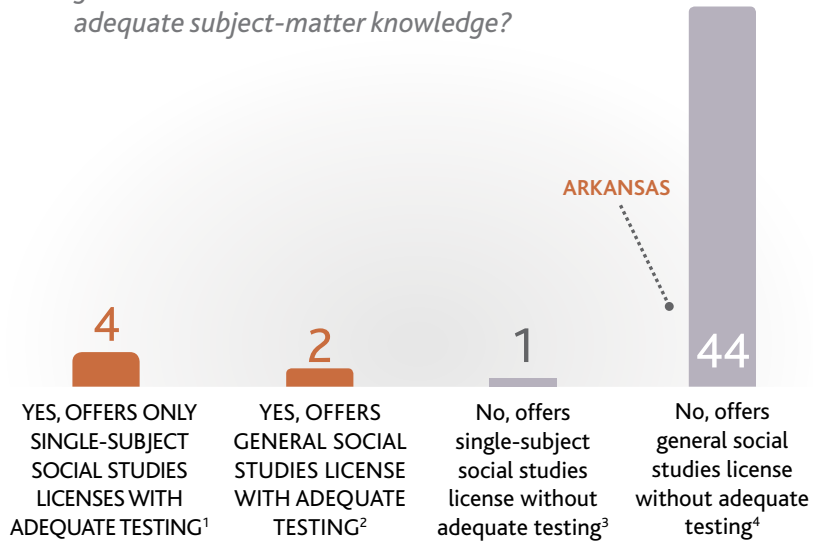
5. Teachers with the general science license may only teach general science courses.

6. Arizona limits teachers with the general science license to teaching only general science courses. However, candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.

7. Georgia's science test consists of two subtests.

Figure 16

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



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

2. **Strong Practice:** Minnesota⁵, Missouri

3. Arizona⁶

4. Alabama, Alaska, 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, Oklahoma⁷, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

5. Minnesota's test for general social studies is divided into two individually scored subtests.

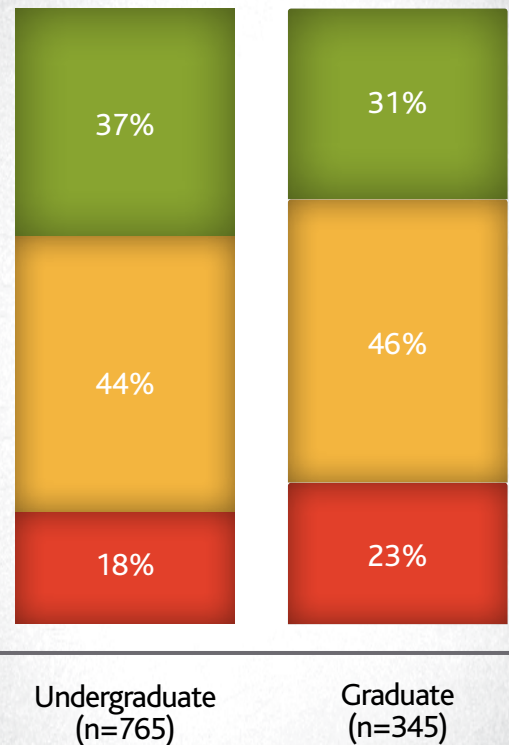
6. Candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.

7. Oklahoma offers combination licenses without adequate testing.

Figure 17

TEACHER PREP REVIEW FINDINGS

Less than 40 percent of preparation programs ensure that secondary teachers are well prepared in the subjects they will teach.



From NCTQ's 2014 *Teacher Prep Review* Standard 8: High School Content (n=1,110 high school programs). State licensing test requirements are also considered in evaluating this standard.

Special Education Teacher Preparation

Key Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

1. The state should ensure that all special education teachers are sufficiently prepared for the ways that college- and career-readiness English language arts standards affect instruction of all subject areas. Specifically,
 - A. The state should ensure that all new secondary special education teachers are prepared to support struggling readers.
 - B. The state should require that all new secondary special education teachers are prepared to incorporate complex texts and academic language into instruction.
 - C. The state should ensure that all new secondary special education teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.
2. The state should require that new elementary special education teachers pass a rigorous test of reading instruction in order to attain licensure.
3. 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.
4. All elementary special education candidates should be required to pass a subject-matter test for licensure that is no less rigorous than what is required of general education candidates.
5. The state should ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.



How well are states ensuring that special education teachers are prepared for college- and career-readiness standards?

30

Alaska, Arizona, **ARKANSAS**, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming

9

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, Tennessee, Virginia

11

Alabama, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin

1

New York

0

Special Education Teacher Prep Analysis: Arkansas

PREPARING SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS FOR COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS

Although most special education students are expected to meet the same high college- and career-readiness standards as typical students, too many states set an even lower bar for the preparation and licensure requirements of special education teachers. States must ensure that special education teachers are well grounded in all of the subject matter they will be licensed to teach.

Currently, Arkansas offers a K-12 license in special education. Key licensing requirements for special education teachers in Arkansas include:



ARKANSAS SPECIAL ED TEACHER PREP SNAPSHOT



State only offers discrete elementary and secondary special education licenses.



Elementary subject-matter test required for special education license.



Secondary test in at least one subject area required for secondary special education license.



Yes



No

Special education teachers must also be prepared for the key instructional shifts that differentiate college- and career-readiness standards from previous student standards.

Arkansas does not require its special education teachers who teach the elementary grades to pass a rigorous test of reading instruction.

The state's required competencies for special education teachers include the "knowledge of English/Language Arts/Literacy for learners with exceptionalities including ... teaching child and adolescent literature," which includes:

- Surveying of children's/adolescent literature, both literary and informational, from classics to current title
- Applying measures of text complexity to determine grade-band level of the text.
- Arkansas's competencies also require the "integration of literacy instruction into all content areas."
- Special education teachers must also have knowledge of "literary assessment and intervention," which including:
- Diagnosing and treating of reading problems: determining patterns of weakness

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Ensure that special education teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students.**

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

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

Incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

Arkansas should expand its competencies to guarantee that all special education teachers possess knowledge of the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex informational texts and careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with the state's college- and career-readiness standards for students. Arkansas already has in place commendable standards for its general education elementary teachers. The state is encouraged to require similar standards for its special education teachers, thereby ensuring knowledge of these instructional shifts.

- Determining appropriate types of intervention
- Scaffolding students in use of reading strategies as they move toward independence and self-regulation.

Supporting Research

Competencies for Special Education Teachers

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/HR_and_Educator_Effectiveness/Educator_Prep/Ed_Competency_Areas/SpEd_K_12_012914.pdf

Rules Governing Educator Licensure

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/HR_and_Educator_Effectiveness/HR_Educator_Licensure/Rules_for_Ed_Licensure_with_Emergency_Licensure_Rules.pdf

ARKANSAS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arkansas recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that pending rules governing preparation programs reflect the changes needed to align to the Common Core State Standards. Programs that prepare candidates for K-6 or 4-8 licensure must require at least six semester hours of reading pedagogy instruction, which includes theories and strategies for how to teach reading, diagnosis of reading difficulties, intervention strategies for struggling readers and disciplinary literacy as identified in the competencies for educator licensure.

Arkansas also noted that to support struggling readers, it has implemented a plan to address additional needs as identified by rule 12.00, which requires the state to collaborate with the Department of Higher Education to ensure that all teacher education programs offered at state-supported institutions of higher education include information on the identification of students at risk for dyslexia and related disorders.

Supporting Research

Rules Governing Educator Licensure

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/rules/Current/ade317_Licensure_FINAL_11172013.pdf

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/rules/Pending/Children_With_Dyslexia.pdf

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

Incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.

To ensure that special education students are capable of accessing varied information about the world around them, Arkansas should more specifically include literacy skills and using text as a means to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.

- **End licensure practices that fail to distinguish between the skills and knowledge needed to teach elementary grades and secondary grades.**

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

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

To ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess sufficient knowledge of the subject matter at hand, Arkansas should require a rigorous content test that reports separate passing scores for each content area. Arkansas 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

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

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

Figure 18

Are states ensuring that new special education teachers are prepared for the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards?

	USE OF INFORMATIONAL TEXT	INCORPORATING LITERACY SKILLS INTO ALL SUBJECTS	SUPPORTING STRUGGLING READERS
Alabama	■	□	■
Alaska	□	□	□
Arizona	□	□	□
ARKANSAS	□	□	■
California	■	□	■
Colorado	■	■	■
Connecticut	■	□	■
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 Jersey	■	□	□
New Mexico	□	□	□
New York	■	□	■
North Carolina	■	■	■
North Dakota	□	□	□
Ohio	□	□	□
Oklahoma	□	□	□
Oregon	□	□	■
Pennsylvania	■	■	□
Rhode Island	■	□	■
South Carolina	□	□	□
South Dakota	□	□	□
Tennessee	□	□	■
Texas	□	□	■
Utah	□	□	□
Vermont	□	□	□
Virginia	□	□	■
Washington	□	□	□
West Virginia	■	□	■
Wisconsin	■	□	■
Wyoming	□	□	□

■ Fully addresses instructional component ■ Partially addresses instructional component

SUMMARY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREP FIGURES

Figure 18

Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards

Figure 19

Distinctions in licenses between elementary and secondary teachers

Figure 20

Content test requirements

Figure 21

Science of reading requirements

Figure 22

Teacher Prep Review findings about special education teacher prep



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Although all states have weaknesses when it comes to special education teachers' preparedness to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students, both **Indiana** and **New York** are notable for addressing the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex informational texts and careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these standards.

Unfortunately, states are also weak in other areas of special education teacher preparation. However, three states—**Missouri**, **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. These three 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 multi-subject 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. Secondary special education teachers in Missouri can either take a multi-subject test comprised of four separately scored sections or a single-subject secondary assessment.

Figure 19

Do states distinguish between elementary and secondary special education teachers?

	DOES NOT OFFER A K-12 CERTIFICATION	Offers K-12 and grade-specific certification(s)	Offers only a K-12 certification
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ARKANSAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	16	12	23

Figure 20

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

Elementary Subject-Matter Test	
Required for an elementary special education license	Alabama, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri ¹ , New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania ² , Rhode Island, West Virginia ³ , 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	Missouri ¹ , New York ⁴ , Wisconsin ⁵
Test in at least one subject required for secondary special education license	Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania ² , Rhode Island, West Virginia ³
Required for a K-12 special education license	None

1. Missouri offers a K-12 certification but candidates must pass either the elementary multi-content assessment or the middle/secondary multi-content assessment.
2. In Pennsylvania, a candidate who opts for dual certification in elementary or secondary special education and as a reading specialist does not have to take a content test.
3. West Virginia also allows elementary special education candidates to earn dual certification in early childhood, which would not require a content test. Secondary special education candidates earning a dual certification as a reading specialist are similarly exempted.
4. New York requires a multi-subject content test specifically geared to secondary special education candidates. It is divided into three subtests.
5. Wisconsin requires a middle school level content area test which does not report subscores for each area.

Figure 19

1. Missouri, New Jersey, Oregon and Vermont issue a K-12 certificate, but candidates must meet discrete elementary and/or secondary requirements.

Figure 21

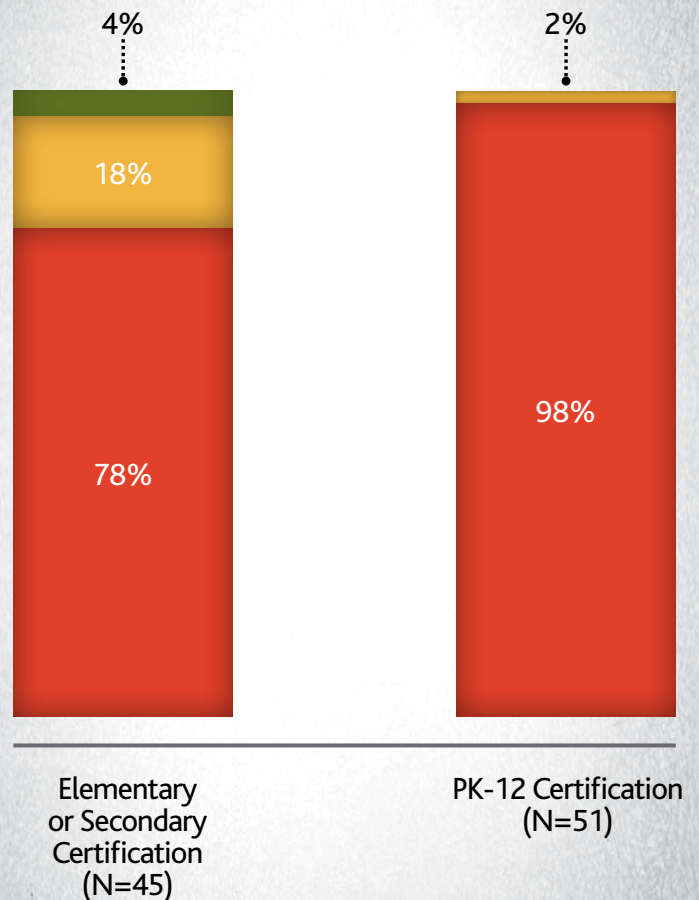
Do states require all teachers of early reading to pass an adequate science of reading test?

	Elementary teachers	Early childhood teachers	Elementary special education teachers
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ARKANSAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
California	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	18	13	11

Figure 22

TEACHER PREP REVIEW FINDINGS

Less than 5 percent of preparation programs ensure that special education teachers are well prepared in the subjects they will teach.



From NCTQ's 2014 *Teacher Prep Review* Standard 9: Content for Special Education (n=96 special education programs)

1. 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.

Admission into Teacher Preparation

Key Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

1. The state should limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population.
2. 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. Alternatively, academic proficiency could be demonstrated by grade point average.



How well are states ensuring that teacher prep programs have rigorous admission standards?

18

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming

8

Alabama, **ARKANSAS**, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon

10

Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

2

Georgia, Mississippi

13

Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia

Admission into Teacher Prep Analysis: Arkansas

RAISING THE BAR FOR TEACHER PREP THROUGH HIGHER ADMISSION STANDARDS

NCTQ has repeatedly found that too many teacher preparation programs are in need of major improvement, graduating first-year teachers lacking skills and content knowledge adequate to thrive in the classroom. One important way states can raise the bar for teacher preparation programs is to set more ambitious admission requirements for new elementary, secondary and special education teachers. This is even more relevant and important as the increasing expectations of college- and career-readiness standards demand more from teachers academically. A key criterion for admissions is evidence of a strong academic background, and states should require programs to select candidates from the top half of the college-going population. Countries like Singapore and Finland are even more restrictive in admissions; the top half goal is realistic and achievable while representing a significantly higher standard for programs throughout the United States. Until recently, few states had rigorous academic standards for admission, but with states like Rhode Island and Delaware significantly raising the bar by taking the lead in establishing higher standards and new accreditation requirements from CAEP, this is beginning to change.



ARKANSAS

ADMISSION INTO TEACHER PREP SNAPSHOT



State requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 for admission into teacher prep.



State requires a test normed to college-bound population prior to admission to prep program.



Yes



No

Arkansas requires that approved undergraduate teacher preparation programs only accept teacher candidates who have passed a basic skills test, the Praxis CASE (Core Academic Skills for Educators) tests in reading, writing and mathematics. Although the state sets the minimum score for this test, it is normed just to the prospective teacher population. In addition, the state also requires a 2.5 GPA for admission to an undergraduate program.

Supporting Research

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/HR_and_Educator_Effectiveness/Educator_Prep/Protocol_for_Approving_Ed_Prep_Programs_010314.pdf

ARKANSAS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

While not asked to respond to the full analysis for this section, Arkansas did not indicate any policy updates related to admission to teacher preparation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Arkansas should require an assessment demonstrating that candidates are academically competitive with all peers, regardless of their intended profession. Requiring a test normed to the general college population would allow for the selection of applicants in the top half of their class.

- **Increase the GPA requirement.**

Requiring only a 2.5 GPA sets a low bar for the academic performance of the state's prospective teachers. Arkansas should consider using a higher GPA requirement for program admission in combination with a test of academic proficiency. A sliding scale of GPA and test scores would allow flexibility for candidates in demonstrating academic ability. When using such multiple measures, a sliding scale that still ensures minimum standards would allow students to earn program admission through a higher GPA and a lower test score, or vice-versa.

- **Exempt candidates with comparable SAT or ACT scores.**

Arkansas should waive its current basic skills test requirement for candidates whose SAT or ACT scores demonstrate that they are in the top half of their class.

- **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, Arkansas 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.

Figure 23

Do states measure the academic proficiency of teacher candidates?

	TEST NORMED TO COLLEGE-BOUND POPULATION PRIOR TO ADMISSION TO PREP PROGRAM	Test normed to teacher candidates only before admission to prep program	Test normed to teacher candidates only during or after completion of prep program	No test required
Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ARKANSAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	13	18	13	7

SUMMARY OF ADMISSION INTO TEACHER PREP FIGURES

- **Figure 23**
Test of academic proficiency requirements
- **Figure 24**
GPA requirements
- **Figure 25**
Teacher Prep Review findings about admissions

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

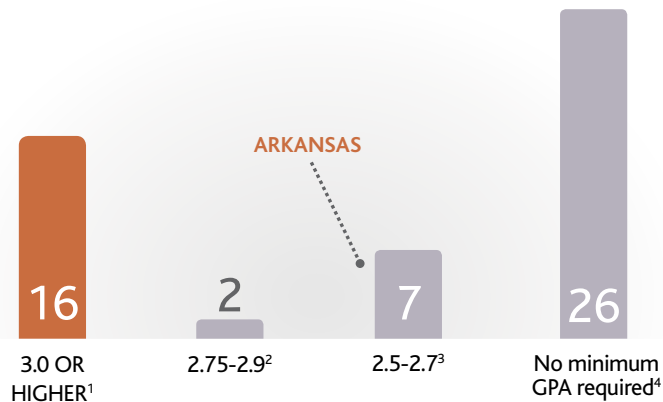
While many states now require CAEP accreditation which includes a standard requiring strong admission practices, **Rhode Island** and **Delaware** have set requirements independent of the accreditation process, ensuring that the states' expectations are clear. Both states require a test of academic proficiency normed to the general college-bound population rather than a test that is normed just to prospective teachers. Delaware also requires teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or be in the top 50th percentile for general education coursework completed. Rhode Island also requires an average cohort GPA of 3.0, and, beginning in 2016, the cohort mean score on nationally-normed tests such as the ACT, SAT or GRE must be in the top 50th percentile. In 2020, the requirement for the mean test score will increase from the top half to the top third.

1. Requirements for admissions test normed to college-bound population is based on CAEP accreditation standards, not state's own admission policy.

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

Figure 24

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

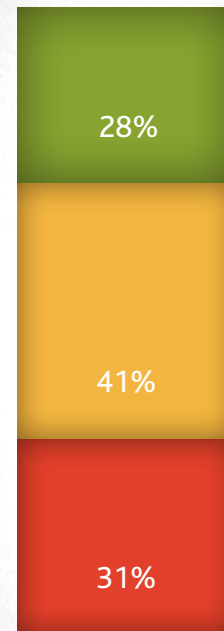


1. **Strong Practice:** Delaware, District of Columbia⁵, Georgia⁶, Hawaii⁵, Louisiana⁵, Michigan⁵, Mississippi⁶, New Jersey⁶, New York⁵, North Carolina⁵, Oklahoma⁷, Pennsylvania⁸, Rhode Island, South Carolina⁵, Utah, Virginia⁵
2. Kentucky, Texas
3. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut⁹, Florida, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin¹⁰
4. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
5. Required minimum GPA of 3.0 is based on CAEP accreditation standards, not state's own admission policy.
6. The 3.0 GPA requirement is a cohort average; individual candidates in Mississippi and New Jersey must have a 2.75 GPA. Individual candidates in Georgia must have a 2.5 GPA.
7. Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission by passing a basic skills test.
8. Students can also be admitted with a combination of a 2.8 GPA and qualifying scores on the basic skills test or SAT/ACT.
9. Connecticut requires a B- grade point average for all undergraduate courses.
10. The GPA admission requirement is 2.5 for undergraduate and 2.75 for graduate programs.

Figure 25

TEACHER PREP REVIEW FINDINGS

Only 28 percent of teacher preparation programs have a high bar for admissions.



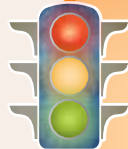
From NCTQ's 2014 *Teacher Prep Review* Standard 1: Selection Criteria (n=2,396 elementary, secondary and special education programs)

Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

Key Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

1. The state should incorporate preparation to teach to college- and career-readiness standards into its accountability requirements for teacher preparation programs.
2. 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.
3. The state should establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data. Programs should be held accountable for meeting these standards, with articulated consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.
4. The state should produce and publish on its website an annual report card that shows all the data the state collects on individual teacher preparation programs.
5. The state should retain full authority over its process for approving teacher preparation programs.



How well are states ensuring that teacher preparation programs are accountable for their performance?

12

Alaska, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

18

Arizona, **ARKANSAS**, California, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

10

Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Carolina, Washington, Wisconsin

10

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


1






Louisiana



Teacher Prep Program Accountability Analysis: Arkansas

HOLDING PREPARATION PROGRAMS ACCOUNTABLE FOR RESULTS

The ultimate goal of teacher preparation programs should be to produce teachers who are effective in educating their students and ensure that they are ready for college and career. As programs operate by virtue of state approval, it is the state's responsibility to connect approval to accountability measures that ensure high performance. While this goal may have been hard to assess a few years ago, that is no longer the case. Redesigned evaluations of teacher effectiveness in the majority of states offer an opportunity for states to collect meaningful objective data on the performance of program graduates. To date, few states connect their process of approving teacher preparation programs to measurable outcome data about programs' graduates.

**ARKANSAS**
TEACHER PREP ACCOUNTABILITY SNAPSHOT

	State collects data that connects student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.
	State collects other meaningful data that reflect program performance.
	State has set minimum standards for program performance.
	State publishes an annual report card on its own website.
	State retains full authority over its approval process.

 Yes  No

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

Most importantly, Arkansas does not collect or report data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs. The state does collect some other objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs, including completion numbers, exam pass rates and completer surveys of program satisfaction, which are available in a report card online that allows the public to review and compare program performance. However, Arkansas does not apply any transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval. Arkansas does collect programs' annual summary licensure test pass rates (80 percent of program completers must pass their licensure exams). However, the 80 percent pass-rate standard, while common

RECOMMENDATIONS

■ Collect data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.

As one way to measure whether programs are producing effective classroom teachers, Arkansas 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.

■ Report other meaningful data that reflect program performance.

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

1. Evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching;
2. Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests
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. Arkansas should be mindful of setting rigorous standards for program performance, as its current requirement that 80

among many states, sets the bar quite low and is not a meaningful measure of program performance.

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 the state have been identified as low performing.

National accreditation is required for program approval.

Supporting Research

Protocol for the Review and Approval of Programs of Study

Leading to Educator Licensure or Endorsement in Arkansas

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/HR_and_Educator_Effectiveness/Educator_Prep/Protocol_for_Approving_Ed_Prep_Programs_Revised_060113.pdf

<https://adedata.arkansas.gov/eppr/>

Title II State Reports

<https://title2.ed.gov>

www.ncate.org

ARKANSAS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

While not asked to respond to the full analysis for this section, Arkansas was helpful in providing NCTQ with additional information about policy changes related to teacher preparation program accountability.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

percent of program graduates must pass the state's licensing tests is too low a bar. Programs should be held accountable for meeting rigorous standards, and there should be consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.

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

Arkansas should not cede its authority and must 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.

Figure 26

Do states hold teacher preparation programs accountable?

	OBJECTIVE PROGRAM-SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED	MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE SET	DATA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ARKANSAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²
Georgia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²
Maine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	35	4	18

SUMMARY OF TEACHER PREP PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY FIGURES

■ Figure 26

Accountability requirements

■ Figure 27

Use of student achievement data

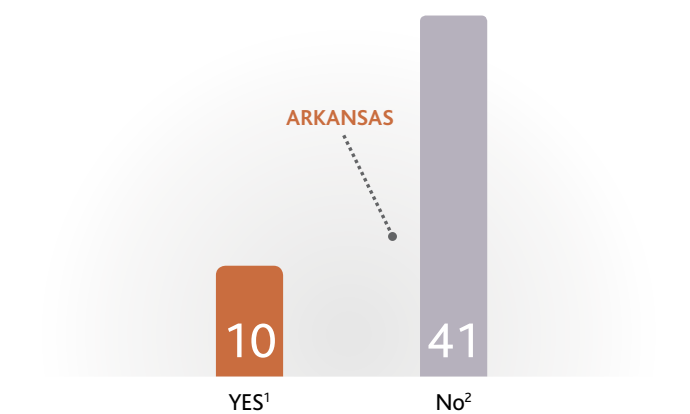


EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

No state has yet implemented a full accountability system for teacher preparation that features data, including student achievement gains, connected to teacher preparation programs (not just the institution level); has clear minimum standards of performance for those data; and publishes the results for use by prospective teachers, hiring school districts and the general public. Some states are well on their way. **Georgia** and **Louisiana** collect student achievement gains and set minimum standards of performance, while **Ohio** and **Tennessee** have published report cards that include connections to student achievement gains.

Figure 27

Do states connect student achievement data to teacher preparation programs?



1. **Strong Practice:** Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas

2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia³, Hawaii³, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland³, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York³, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

3. Included in state's Race to the Top plan, but not in policy or yet implemented.

Figure 26

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.

Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Arkansas

Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.
Priority for special education teacher preparation.
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.
Priority for middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.
Priority for middle and secondary teacher preparation.

Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

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

Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

Hold preparation programs accountable:



- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.



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