

Acknowledgments

STATES

State education agencies remain our most important partners in this effort, and their gracious cooperation has helped to ensure the factual accuracy of the final product. Every state formally received a draft of the *Yearbook* in June 2015 for comment and correction; states also received a final draft of their reports a month prior to release. All but three states responded to our inquiries. While states do not always agree with our recommendations, their willingness to engage in dialogue and often acknowledge the imperfections of their teacher policies is an important step forward.

FUNDERS

The primary funders for the 2015 Yearbook were:

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- The Walton Family Foundation

The National Council on Teacher Quality does not accept any direct funding from the federal government.

NCTQ PROJECT TEAM

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Special thanks to Leigh Zimnisky and Lauren DeSha at Ironmark for their design of the 2015 *Yearbook*. Thanks also to Colleen Hale and Jeff Hale at EFA Solutions for the original *Yearbook* design and ongoing technical support.



Executive Summary

The 2015 State Teacher Policy Yearbook includes the National Council on Teacher Quality's (NCTQ) full review of the state laws, rules and regulations that govern the teaching profession. This year's report measures state progress against a set of 32 policy goals focused on helping states put in place a comprehensive framework in support of preparing, retaining and rewarding effective teachers.

Connecticut at a Glance



Overall 2015 Yearbook Grade

2013

2011

2009







2015 Connecticut Area Goal Scores

2013 Connecticut Area Goat Scor	CS
AREA 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers	B-
Admission into Teacher Preparation	•
Elementary Teacher Preparation	
Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	•
Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	
Early Childhood Teacher Preparation	•
Middle School Teacher Preparation	•
Secondary Teacher Preparation	•
Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science and Social Studies	•
Special Education Teacher Preparation	
Special Education Preparation in Reading	•
Assessing Professional Knowledge	
Student Teaching	•
Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	
AREA 2: Expanding the Teacher Pool	C+
Alternate Route Eligibility	•
Alternate Route Preparation	•
Alternate Route Usage and Providers	
Part-Time Teaching Licenses	
Licensure Reciprocity	

AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	В
State Data Systems	
Evaluation of Effectiveness	
Frequency of Evaluations	
Tenure	*
Licensure Advancement	
Equitable Distribution	•
AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	C
Induction	•
Professional Development	
Pay Scales and Performance Pay	
Differential Pay	•
Compensation for Prior Work Experience	
AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers	C-
Extended Emergency Licenses	•
Dismissal for Poor Performance	
Reductions in Force	

Goal Summary



Progress on Goals Since 2013



Progress Increased: 0



Teacher Policy Priorities for Connecticut

AREA 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Admission into Teacher Preparation

■ Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population. Academic ability can be measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or a minimum GPA requirement.

Elementary Teacher Preparation

- Ensure all new elementary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional shifts related to informational text and incorporating literacy into all content areas associated with college- and career-readiness standards.
- Establish equivalent requirements for teachers who may teach elementary grades on an early childhood license, including a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects.

Middle School Teacher Preparation

Ensure all new middle school teachers are prepared to meet the instructional shifts related to informational text, incorporating literacy into all content areas and supporting struggling readers associated with college- and careerreadiness standards.

Secondary Teacher Preparation

- Require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.
- Ensure that all new secondary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional shifts related to informational text, incorporating literacy into all content areas and supporting struggling readers associated with college- and careerreadiness standards.

Special Education Teacher Preparation

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between the preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.
- Ensure that all new special education candidates are prepared to meet the instructional shifts related to informational text and incorporating literacy into all content areas associated with college- and career-readiness standards.

Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

Hold teacher preparation programs accountable by collecting data that connect student achievement gains to programs, as well as other meaningful data that reflect program performance, and by establishing the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.

AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

License Reciprocity

Grant certification to teachers from other states who can demonstrate evidence of effectiveness and/or meet licensure test requirements.

AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

State Data Systems

Develop a definition of teacher of record that can be used to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness, and strengthen data link between teachers and students.

Licensure Advancement

Base licensure advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license on evidence of effectiveness.

Equitable Distribution of Teachers

 Publish aggregate school-level teacher evaluation ratings from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness.

AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Compensation

- While leaving districts flexibility to determine their own pay scales, support pay systems that recognize teachers for their effectiveness.
- Expand differential pay initiatives for effective teachers in both subject-shortage areas and high-need schools.

AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

Reductions in Force

■ Use teacher effectiveness as a factor when determining which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force.

Figure A	Figure A	State	State	1 State	11 State 2009
Indiana		Overal, Grade 2	Overal, Grade 2	Overall Grade 2	Overa Grade
Louisiana	Florida	B+	B+	В	С
New York B B- C D+ Tennessee B B B- C- Arkansas B- B- C C- CONNECTICUT B- B- C- D+ Delaware B- C+ C D+ Georgia B- B- C- D+ Massachusetts B- B- C D+ Ohio B- B- C+ D+ Ohio B- B- C+ D+ Ohladhoma B- B- B- D+ Oklahoma B- B- B- D+ Oklahoma B- B- C- D+ Oklahoma B- B- C- D+ Oklahoma B- B- C- D+ Oklahoma B- B- D+ D+ Michigan C- C- C- D- Michigan C-<	Indiana	В	B-	C+	D
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How to Read the Yearbook

GOAL SCORE

The extent to which each goal has been met:



Best Practice



Fully Meets



Nearly Meets



Partially Meets



Meets Only a Small Part



Does Not Meet

PROGRESS INDICATOR

Whether the state has advanced on the goal or the state has lost ground on that topic:



Goal progress has increased since 2013



Goal progress has decreased since 2013

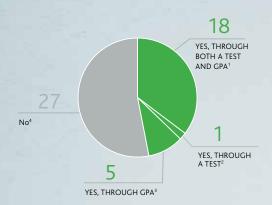
BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



Indicates the criteria to meet the goal have been raised since the 2013 Yearbook.

READING CHARTS AND TABLES:

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



This year's edition of the *State Teacher Policy* Yearbook features a new format for presenting state and national data.

Each state's volume is now summarized to present the most important information about key teacher quality policies in an infographic format. Full narrative versions -- including detailed analyses and recommendations as well as the state response for each policy topic -- can now be found online, using NCTO's State Policy Dashboard



(http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard).

The National Summary maintains the traditional Yearbook format and presentation. Topics are organized as policy goals, including the specific components that form the basis of each analysis. National findings are included for each goal, as well



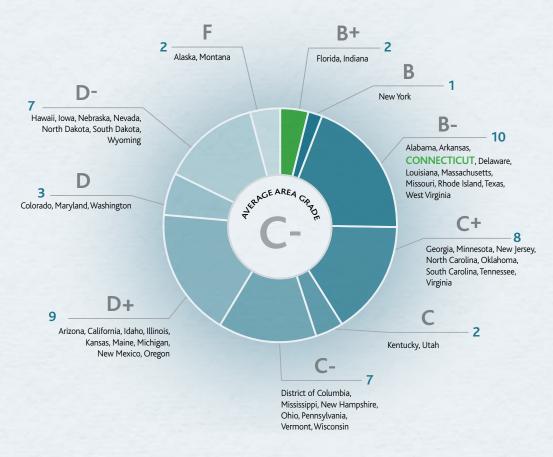
as a comprehensive set of tables and graphs that provide a national overview of the teacher policy landscape.

Area 1 Summary



How States are Faring on Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

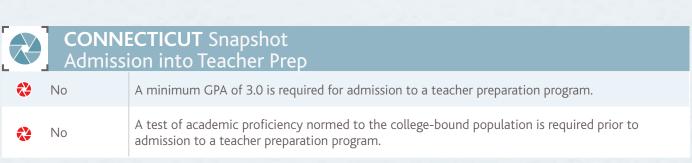
- · Admission into Teacher Preparation
- Elementary Teacher Preparation
- Middle School Teacher Preparation
- Secondary Teacher Preparation

- · Special Education Teacher Preparation
- · Assessing Professional Knowledge
- Student Teaching
- Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

Admission into Teacher Prep

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other states'
admission into teacher prep
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard





CONNECTICUT A	Admission into Teacher Prep Characteristics
Test Requirement	Praxis I Core Academic Skills for Educators assessment required for admission
GPA Requirement	B- cumulative GPA

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ADMISSION INTO TEACHER PREP POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

- Increase admission requirements.
 - Connecticut should raise the bar for admission to teacher preparation programs by either requiring a minimum GPA of 3.0 or requiring a test of academic proficiency normed to the general college-bound population.
- 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, Connecticut might also want to consider requiring content testing prior to program admission as opposed to at the point of program completion.

Examples of Best Practice

While many states now require CAEP accreditation, which includes a standard requiring strong admission practices, Delaware, Rhode Island and West Virginia have set a high bar independent of the accreditation process, ensuring that the state's expectations are clear. These 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, Rhode Island and West Virginia require teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or to be in the top 50th percentile for general education coursework completed. Rhode Island and West Virginia also require 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.

SUMMARY OF ADMISSION INTO TEACHER PREP FIGURES

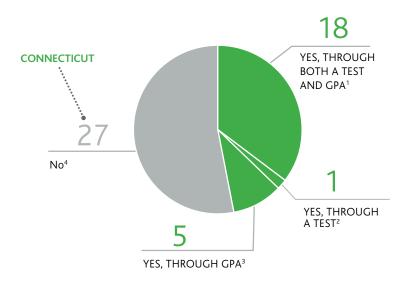
Figure 1 Academic proficiency requirements

Other admission figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Admission tests (p. 4)
- Minimum GPA for admission (p. 5)

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's admission into teacher prep
policies, including detailed recommendations,
full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 1
Do states set a high academic bar for admission to teacher preparation programs?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama⁵, Arkansas⁵, Delaware⁶, District of Columbia⁵, Indiana⁵, Louisiana⁵, Michigan⁵, New Jersey⁷, New York⁵, North Carolina⁵, Oklahoma⁵, Oregon⁵, Rhode Island, South Carolina⁵, Tennessee⁵, Utah⁶, Virginia⁵, West Virginia
- 2. Strong Practice: Texas
- 3. Strong Practice: Georgia, Hawaii⁸, Mississippi, Montana, Pennsylvania⁹
- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- Requirement for admissions test normed to college-bound population and cohort minimum GPA of 3.0 are based on CAEP accreditation standards, not state's own admissions policies.
- $\ensuremath{\mathsf{6}}.$ Candidates can qualify for admission through the GPA or test requirement.
- 7. New Jersey requires a cohort minimum GPA of 3.0. The requirement for admissions test normed to college-bound population is based on CAEP accreditation standards, not state's own admissions policies.
- Requirement for cohort minimum GPA of 3.0 is based on CAEP accreditation standards, not Hawaii's own admission standards. Hawaii exempts candidates with a bachelor's degree from admission testing requirements.
- Candidates can also be admitted with a combination of a 2.8 GPA and qualifying scores on the basic skills test or SAT/ACT.

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other states'
elementary teacher preparation
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Elementary Teacher Preparation

CONNECTICUT Ratings	
Content Knowledge New elementary teachers know the subject matter they are licensed to teach.	
Reading Instruction New elementary teachers know the science of reading instruction and understand the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards.	
Mathematics New elementary teachers have deep knowledge of the math content taught in elementary grades.	
Early Childhood Teachers who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license are appropriately prepared for the elementary classroom.	•
 Fully meets → Nearly meets → Partially meets → Meets only a small part → Does not meet N/A Not Appli Progress increased since 2013 → Lost ground since 2013 → Bar raised for this goal 	cable

	CONNI Elemen	ECTICUT Snapshot tary Teacher Preparation
*	Yes	Content test required for elementary teachers in each of the four core subjects.
*	Yes	An adequate science of reading test is required.
*	Somewhat	Teacher preparation and licensure requirements for elementary teachers include the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards.
*	Yes	Elementary teachers must have an academic content specialization.
₹	Somewhat	Teachers who teach elementary grades on an early childhood license are held to appropriate content and early reading requirements.

CONNECTICUT E	Elementary Teacher Preparation Characteristics
Elementary Licenses	1-6; PreK-3
Content Tests	Praxis II Multiple Subjects Test (5001) 1-6; not required for PreK-3
Science of Reading Requirements	Pearson Foundations of Reading 1-6; PreK-3
Academic Specialization	Academic major requirement may be met with an interdisciplinary major, which must consist of 18 semester hours of credit in one subject area with the remainder distributed among no more than three subjects related to the area of concentration; coursework in professional education is not acceptable.
Instructional Shifts Associated with College-and Career- Readiness Standards	Complex informational text: Partially addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Not addressed Struggling readers: Fully addressed

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

 Ensure that early childhood education teachers are adequately prepared to teach at the elementary level.

Connecticut should require all early childhood teacher candidates who teach the elementary grades to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas including reading/ language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

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

Incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

Connecticut is encouraged to strengthen its teacher preparation requirements and ensure that all teachers licensed to teach at the elementary level have the ability to adequately incorporate complex informational text into classroom instruction—as a condition of initial licensure.

SUMMARY OF ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREPARATION FIGURES

- Figure 2 Content test requirements
- **Figure 3** Science of reading tests
- Figure 4 Instructional shifts associated with college-and career-readiness standards
- **Figure 5** Math requirements
- **Figure 6** Requirements for early childhood teachers

Other elementary teacher preparation figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Academic concentrations (p. 8)
- Science of reading preparation and testing requirements (p. 11)
- Early childhood content tests (p. 18)
- Early childhood science of reading tests (p. 19)
- Early childhood math tests (p. 19)
- Early childhood instructional shifts associated with college- and careerreadiness standards (p. 20)

For more information about CONNECTICUT's elementary teacher prep policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

Incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.

To ensure that elementary school students are capable of accessing varied information about the world around them, Connecticut should include specific teacher preparation requirements for all teachers licensed to teach at the elementary level regarding literacy skills and using text as a means to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, and the arts.

Examples of Best Practice

Unfortunately, NCTQ cannot award "best practice" honors to any state's policy in the area of elementary teacher preparation. However, three states—Florida, Indiana and Virginia—are worthy of mention for holding early childhood candidates who are licensed to teach elementary grades to the same standards as all other elementary teachers. Each state requires its early childhood candidates to pass a content test with separately scored subtests, as well as a test of scientifically based reading instruction. Florida also ensures that both early childhood and elementary education teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

California stands out for its focus on elementary teachers' readiness to teach reading and literacy skills. All elementary education candidates must pass a comprehensive assessment that specifically tests the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. California's test frameworks go further than most states in ensuring that elementary teacher candidates 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 must also show they know how to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject and are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

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.

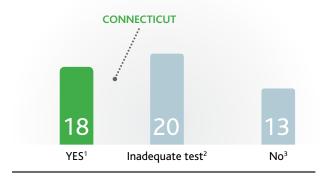
EEMENTARY CONTENT PASSING SCORE FOR ECT Elementary content test for some subjects Elementary content test Figure 2 Do states ensure that elementary teachers know core content? Alabama Alaska 1 Arizona Arkansas California Colorado CONNECTICUT Delaware П П District of Columbia П Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho П П Illinois Indiana Iowa П Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana Maine П Maryland П П ____Z Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota П Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire П New Jersey П П New Mexico New York П П North Carolina North Dakota П Ohio 3 Oklahoma Oregon П П Pennsylvania Rhode Island П П South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas П П Utah П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 5 22 9 15

Figure 2

- 1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.
- 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.
- 4. New legislation in Tennessee allows teachers to delay passage of content and pedagogy tests if they possess a bachelor's degree in a core content area.

Figure 3

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

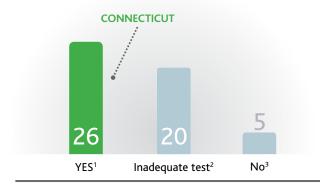


- Strong Practice: Alabama⁴, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁵, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee⁶, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming
- 3. Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota
- 4. Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum.
- 5. Teachers have until their second year to pass the reading test.
- 6. New legislation in Tennessee allows teachers to delay passage of content and pedagogy tests if they possess a bachelor's degree in a core content area.

Figure 4 Are states ensuring that new elementary teachers are prepared for the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards? Alabama	Figure 4		TEXT	7 2 / N
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Figure 5

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee⁴, Washington, Wisconsin
- 3. Alaska⁵, Hawaii, Iowa, Montana, Ohio⁶
- 4. New legislation in Tennessee allows teachers to delay passage of content and pedagogy tests if they possess a bachelor's degree in a core content area.
- 5. Testing is not required for initial licensure.
- 6. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass a content test in Ohio.

Figure 6

- 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. Florida's test consists of three subtests covering language arts and reading, math and science.
- Early childhood candidates may pass either multiple subjects (subscores) or content knowledge (no subscores) test.
- 4. New legislation in Tennessee allows teachers to delay passage of content and pedagogy tests if they possess a bachelor's degree in a core content area.

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For more information about **CONNECTICUT** and other states' 🦫 middle school teacher prep policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Middle School **Teacher Preparation**

CONNECTICUT Ratings

Middle School Teacher Preparation



New middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content and for the ways that college-and career-readiness standards affect instruction.



Fully meets • Nearly meets • Partially meets • Meets only a small part • Does not meet









↑ Progress increased since 2013





Bar raised for this goal



CONNECTICUT Snapshot Middle School Teacher Preparation

*	Yes	Middle school teachers must pass a content test for each subject they are licensed to teach.
	Yes	Middle school teachers must hold a middle grade-specific or secondary license.
₹	No	Teacher preparation and licensure requirements for middle school teachers include the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards

CONNECTICUT Middle School Teacher Preparation Characteristics

Middle School Licenses	4-8
Content Tests	Praxis II Middle School single-subject tests
Academic Requirements	Subject-area major, or an interdisciplinary major, or 24 semester hours of study in a subject and 15 semester hours in a second subject
Instructional Shifts Associated with College-and Career-Readiness Standards	Complex informational text: Partially addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Not addressed Struggling readers: Not addressed

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

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

Incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

Although Connecticut's English language arts content test for middle school teachers addresses informational texts, the state should strengthen its policy and ensure that teachers are able to challenge students with texts of increasing complexity.

Incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.

To ensure that middle school students are capable of accessing varied information about the world around them, Connecticut should include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.

Support struggling readers.

Connecticut should articulate more specific requirements ensuring that middle school teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

■ Ensure meaningful content tests.

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

Examples of Best Practice

Arkansas ensures that all middle school teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach middle school-level content. The state does not offer a K-8 generalist license, requires passing scores on subject-specific content tests and explicitly requires at least two content-area minors. Arkansas also ensures that middle school teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students. The state's competencies for the middle grades specify that middle school 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 must also know how to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject and are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

SUMMARY OF MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREPARATION FIGURES

- Figure 7 Distinctions in licenses between middle and elementary teachers
- Figure 8 Content test requirements
- **Figure 9** Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college-and career-readiness standards

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's middle school teacher prep
policies, including detailed recommendations,
full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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^{1.} Offers 1-8 license.

California offers a K-12 generalist license for all self-contained classrooms.
 With the exception of mathematics.

Figure 8		No, test does not to	No, K-8 license	No, testing
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- ${\it 1. Alaska does \ not \ require \ content \ tests \ for \ initial \ licensure.}$
- 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.
- 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 have a core concentration and to pass a middle school content test in a core area. Teachers with a 5-8 license must pass a Praxis II assessment.
- 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.
- New legislation in Tennessee allows teachers to delay passage of content tests if they possess a bachelor's degree in a core content area.

Figure 9 Are states ensuring that new	LIST CHAPPING	INCORPORATING ITES	SUPPLY SUBJECTS
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Secondary Teacher Preparation

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other
states' secondary teacher prep
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

CONNECTICUT Ratings	
Content Knowledge New secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content and for the ways that college-and career-readiness standards affect instruction.	•
General Science and Social Studies Secondary science and social studies teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach.	•
Fully meets Nearly meets Partially meets Meets only a small part Does not meet	
↑ Progress increased since 2013 ↓ Lost ground since 2013 ♠ Bar raised for this goal	

	CONN Second	ECTICUT Snapshot ary Teacher Preparation
*	Yes	Secondary teachers must pass a content test to teach any single core subject.
₹>	Yes	Only single-subject science certifications are offered or general science license has appropriate requirements to ensure teachers know each included subject.
<	No	Only single-subject social studies certifications are offered or general social studies license has appropriate requirements to ensure teachers know each included subject.
*	Somewhat	A content test is required to add an endorsement to a license.
<	No	Teacher preparation and licensure requirements for secondary school teachers include the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards.

CONNECTICUT S	Secondary Teacher Preparation Characteristics
Secondary Licenses	7-12
Content Tests	Praxis II single-subject content test required for initial licensure
General Science License and Testing Requirements	General science license offered, but teachers with this license may only teach general science courses
General Social Studies License and Testing Requirements	General social studies license offered; requires only general social studies test
Endorsement Requirements	Content tests are required to add endorsements; general social studies endorsement only requires general social studies test
Instructional Shifts Associated with College-and Career- Readiness Standards	Complex informational text: Partially addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Not addressed Struggling readers: Not addressed

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE SECONDARY TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

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

By allowing a general social studies certification—and only requiring a general knowledge social studies exam—Connecticut is not ensuring that its secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge.

SUMMARY OF SECONDARY TEACHER PREPARATION FIGURES

- **Figure 10** Content test requirements
- Figure 11 Instructional shifts associated with college-and career-readiness standards

Other secondary teacher preparation figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Endorsement requirements (p. 28)
- Content knowledge of general science teachers (p. 32)
- Content knowledge of general social studies teachers (p. 33)

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

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

Incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

Although Connecticut's required secondary English language arts content test addresses informational texts, the state should strengthen its policy and ensure that teachers are able to challenge students with texts of increasing complexity.

Incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.

To ensure that secondary students are capable of accessing varied information about the world around them, Connecticut should also—either through testing frameworks or standards—include literacy skills and using text as a means to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.

Support struggling readers.

Connecticut should articulate requirements ensuring that secondary teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

Examples of Best Practice

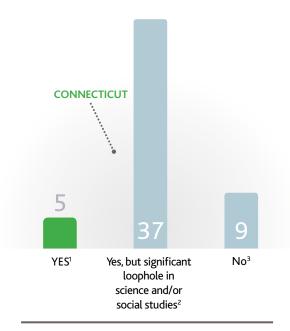
Missouri requires that secondary teacher candidates pass a content test to teach any core secondary subjects. Of particular note, Missouri ensures that its secondary science teachers know the content they teach by taking a dual approach to general secondary science certification. The state offers general science certification but only allows these candidates to teach general science courses. Missouri also offers an umbrella certification—called unified science—that requires candidates to pass individual subtests in biology, chemistry, earth science and physics. These certifications are offered in addition to single-subject licenses. In addition, Missouri requires general social studies teachers to pass a multi-content test with six independently scored subtests.

Arkansas also ensures that secondary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students. The state's competencies specify that secondary 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 must also know how to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject and are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

For more information about CONNECTICUT's secondary teacher prep policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 10

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



- $1. \ Strong \ Practice: Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, South \ Dakota, Tennessee ^4$
- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁵, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 3. Alaska⁶, Arizona⁷, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Montana, Washington, Wyoming
- New legislation in Tennessee allows teachers to delay passage of content and pedagogy tests if they possess a bachelor's degree in a core content area.
- 5. Teachers may also have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
- 6. Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.
- 7. Candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.

Are states ensuring that new secondary teachers		MCORPORATING I	SUPPORTING STRUCTS READERS TING STRUCT
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Special Education Teacher Preparation

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other states'
special education teacher prep
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

CONNECTICUT Ratings	
Content Knowledge New special education teachers know the subject matter they are licensed to teach.	
Reading Instruction New elementary teachers know the science of reading instruction and understand the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards	•
 Fully meets → Nearly meets → Partially meets → Meets only a small part → Does not meet Progress increased since 2013 → Lost ground since 2013 	

	CONNI Special	ECTICUT Snapshot Education Teacher Preparation
	No	Only discrete elementary and secondary special education licenses are offered.
	No	Elementary subject-matter test is required for elementary special education license.
*	No	Secondary-level test in at least one subject area is required for secondary special education license.
	Yes	An adequate test on the science of reading is required for elementary special education teachers.
₹	Somewhat	Teacher preparation and licensure requirements for special education teachers include the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards.

CONNECTICUT S	Special Education Teacher Preparation Characteristics
Special Education License(s)	K-12
Content Tests	Not required
Science of Reading Test	Foundations of Reading
Instructional Shifts Associated with College-and Career- Readiness Standards	Complex informational text: Partially addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Not addressed Struggling readers: Fully addressed

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

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 Connecticut to ensure that a K-12 special education teacher knows all the subject matter he or she is expected to be able to teach. 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 the same contest test as general education elementary teachers.

To ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess sufficient knowledge of the subject matter at hand, Connecticut should require these candidates to pass the same multiple-subjects test it requires of all elementary teachers.

SUMMARY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION FIGURES

- Figure 12 Distinctions in licenses between elementary and secondary teachers
- **Figure 13** Content test requirements
- Figure 14 Instructional shifts associated with college-and careerreadiness standards

Other special education teacher preparation figures available in the Yearbook National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Science of reading tests (p. 39)

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

- Ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.
 - While it may be unreasonable to expect multi-subject secondary special education teachers to meet the same requirements as single-subject teachers, Connecticut's current policy of requiring no subject-matter testing is problematic and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards.
- Ensure that new special education teachers are prepared to incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.
 - Although Connecticut is on the right track with its requirement of the Foundations of Reading test, the state is encouraged to make certain that its framework captures the major instructional shifts of college-and career-readiness standards, thereby ensuring that all special education teacher candidates have the ability to adequately incorporate complex informational text into classroom instruction.
- Ensure that new special education teachers are prepared to 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, Connecticut should include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.

Examples of Best Practice

Unfortunately, NCTQ cannot award "best practice" honors to any state's policy in the area of special education. However, **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 licensed to teach. These 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.

In addition, California ensures that all special education teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and careerreadiness standards for students. All special education candidates must pass a comprehensive assessment that specifically tests the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. California's test frameworks go further than most states and ensure that special education teacher candidates 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 also must know how to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject and are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

For more information about CONNECTICUT's special education teacher prep policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 12	DOESNOT OF ER	Offers K-12 and	^{Gati} on(s)
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and secondary special	18.00 18.70 18.70	284	s on
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Utah			
Vermont			3
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wisconsin Wyoming			

Figure 12

- Missouri offers a K-12 certification but candidates must pass either the Elementary Multi-Content Assessment or the new Middle/Secondary Content Assessment (English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies) or choose one of the specific content assessment for a specific area of certification.
- 2. Although New Jersey does issue a K-12 certificate, candidates must meet discrete elementary and/or secondary requirements.
- 3. Candidates must meet requirements for both the K-8 and 7-12 special education licenses.

Figure 13
Which states require subject-matter testing for special education teachers?

Elementa	Elementary Subject-Matter Test					
Required for an elementary special education license	Alabama, 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, Illinois, North Carolina ⁴					
Secondary Subject-Matter Test(s)						
Tests in all core subjects required for secondary special education license	Missouri¹, New York⁵, Wisconsin ⁶					
Test in at least one subject required for secondary special education license	Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania², Rhode Island, West Virginia³					
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 new Middle/Secondary Content Assessment (English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies) or choose one of the specific content assessment for a specific area of certification.
- In Pennsylvania, a candidate who opts for dual certification in elementary or secondary special education 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.
- North Carolina gives teachers until their second year to earn a passing score, provided they attempt to pass during their first year.
- 5. New York requires a multi-subject content test specifically geared to secondary special education candidates. It is divided into three subtests.
- Wisconsin requires a middle school level content area test which does not report subscores for each area.

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education teachers are prepared for t	ho 8	18 / 84 C	¥ / Š
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Oregon Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other states'
assessing professional knowledge
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Assessing Professional Knowledge





Somewhat

All new teachers must pass a pedagogy test.

CONNECTICUT	Pedagogy Characteristics
Pedagogy Test	Praxis II
Type of Test	Multiple choice
Teachers Included	All new elementary teachers

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ASSESSING PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

- Require that all new teachers pass a pedagogy test to verify that they meet professional standards.
 - Connecticut should expand the requirement for a pedagogy test to all new teachers.
- Verify that commercially available tests of pedagogy actually align with state standards.
 - Connecticut should ensure that its selected test of professional knowledge measures the knowledge and skills the state expects new teachers to have.

Examples of Best Practice

Although no state stands out for its pedagogy test policy, eight states are worthy of mention for the licensing test they require to verify that all new teachers meet state standards. Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas ensure that all new teachers take a pedagogy test that specifically is aligned with each state's own professional standards.

SUMMARY OF ASSESSING PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE FIGURES

Figure 15 Pedagogy tests

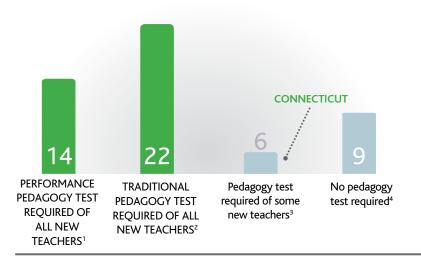
For more information about

CONNECTICUT's assessing professional
knowledge policies, including detailed
recommendations, full narrative
analysis and state response, see

http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 15

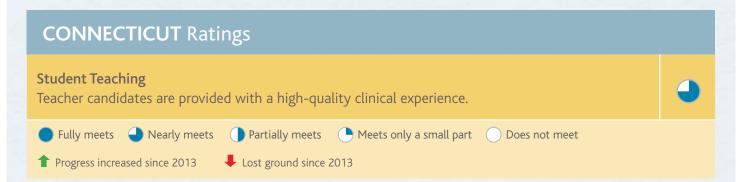
Do states measure new teachers' knowledge of teaching and learning?



- 1. Strong Practice: California, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois⁵, Iowa⁶, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Tennessee⁶, Washington, Wisconsin
- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina⁷, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia
- 3. Connecticut, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Utah⁸
- 4. Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming
- 5. All new teachers must also pass a traditional pedagogy test.
- 6. Teachers have the option of the edTPA or a traditional Praxis pedagogy test.
- 7. North Carolina teachers have until their second year to pass if they attempt to pass during their first year.
- 8. Not required in Utah until a teacher advances from a Level One to a Level Two license.

Student Teaching

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other
states' student teaching
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard





CONNECTICUT S	Student Teaching Characteristics
Duration of Student Teaching	At least 10 weeks
Selection of Cooperating Teachers Connected to Effectiveness	No specific requirements
Other Criteria for Selection of Cooperating Teachers	Primary criteria are experience and "recognized success as educators"

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT TEACHING POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

- Ensure that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.
 In addition to the ability to mentor an adult, cooperating teachers in Connecticut should explicitly be screened for their capacity to further student achievement.
- Use evidence from the state's teacher evaluation system to select cooperating teachers.

Since Connecticut requires objective measures of student growth to be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations, the state should utilize its evaluation results in the selection of effective cooperating teachers.

Examples of Best Practice

Rhode Island and Tennessee not only require teacher candidates to complete at least 10 weeks of full-time student teaching, but they also require that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning. Further, both of these states ensure that student teaching is completed locally, which better ensures teacher training on relevant state instructional frameworks and allows a higher degree of program oversight and feedback to the teacher candidate.

SUMMARY OF STUDENT TEACHING FIGURES

Figure 16 Student teaching requirements

Other student teaching figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Effectiveness as a factor in selection of cooperating teachers (p. 44)
- Student teaching duration (p. 45)

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's student teaching policies,
including detailed recommendations, full
narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 16	COPERATIVE TEACHER	STUDENT TEACHIN
Do states ensure a	WC ₇	55 S
high-quality student	8 G G	
teaching experience?	8 4 6	LE LE
tedening experience.		128
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Alaska		
Arizona Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
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District of Columbia		
Florida		
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Michigan		
Minnesota		
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Nebraska		
Nevada		
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico		
New York North Carolina		
North Carolina North Dakota		
Ohio		
Oklahoma		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	13	34

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other states'
leacher prep program accountability
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Teacher Prep Program Accountability

Program Accountability The approval process for teacher preparation programs holds programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce. Pully meets Nearly meets Partially meets Meets only a small part Does not meet Progress increased since 2013 Lost ground since 2013

CONNECTICUT Snapshot Teacher Prep Program Accountability						
	X	No	Data are collected that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.			
•	X	No	Other objective data related to the performance of teacher preparation programs are collected.			
•	X	No	Minimum standards for program performance have been established.			
	X	No	Report cards showing program performance are available to the public.			
•	X	Yes	The state maintains full authority over program approval.			

CONNECTICUT	Teacher Prep Program Accountability Characteristics
Use of Student Achievement Data	None
Other Data Collected	None
Performance Standards for Data Collected	None
Program Report Cards	None
Role of National Accreditation	State maintains full authority over teacher preparation program approval

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TEACHER PREP PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

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

Connecticut should consider the academic achievement gains of students taught by programs' graduates, averaged over the first three years of teaching and disaggregated by specific preparation programs. Connecticut should report all collected data at the program level for accountability purposes.

■ Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance.

Connecticut's accountability system should include other objective measures in addition to student growth that show how well programs are preparing teachers for the classroom.

SUMMARY OF TEACHER PREP PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY FIGURES

- Figure 17 Use of student achievement data
- Figure 18 Accountability requirements

Other teacher prep program accountability figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

National accreditation (p. 49)

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

- Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.
 Connecticut should establish precise minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category
- program performance for each category of data, which programs should be held accountable for meeting.
- Publish an annual report card on the state's website.
 Connecticut should produce an annual
 - report card on individual teacher preparation programs, which should be published on the state's website at the program level and presented in a manner that clearly conveys whether programs have met performance standards.

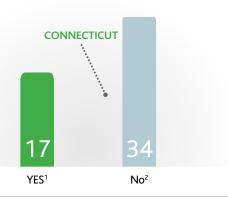
Examples of Best Practice

Delaware and **Florida** have made great strides in teacher preparation program accountability policies in the past few years and now stand out as leaders in this area. In Delaware and Florida, preparation programs report and are held accountable to a number of measures, including the effectiveness of program graduates as measured by student achievement, as well as placement and retention rates of program graduates.

Delaware has developed minimum standards of performance for each data category and has released the first of its program report cards, which make preparation program data accessible and transparent. In Florida, the state applies specific cut-scores in various data categories to decide on continued program approval. In addition, after two years of initial employment, any program completer in Florida who receives an unsatisfactory evaluation rating must be provided additional training by the preparation program at no additional cost to the teacher.

Figure 17

Do states connect student achievement data to teacher preparation programs?



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

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's teacher prep program
accountability policies, including
detailed recommendations, full narrative
analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 18	OBJECTIVE PROCRAW.	MINIMUM STANDARDS	$\Box A \gamma_A P_U B U C \gamma$ $A \gamma_{A} U A B U C \gamma$
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preparation programs	\$ 3	12/04	PUB BLE
accountable?			\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
accountable.	0 g /	z 0 /	Q, \lambda
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Kentucky			4
Louisiana			
Maine			
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Michigan		1	1
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Mississippi	1		
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Montana Nebraska			
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New Jersey	1		1
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Washington			
West Virginia	1		
Wisconsin			
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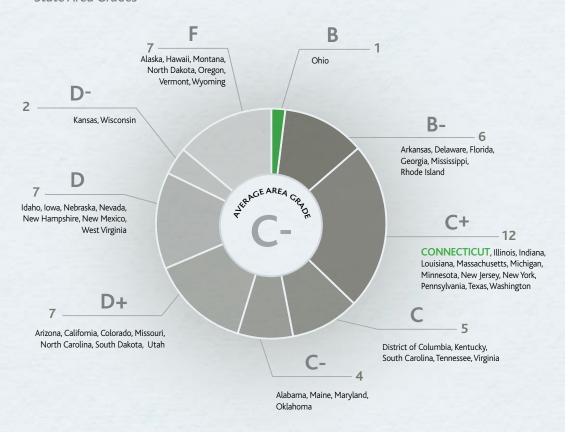
- $1. \ For \ traditional \ preparation \ programs \ only.$
- ${\it 2. Report\ cards\ only\ include\ limited\ data}.$
- 3. Report cards are at the institution rather than the program level.
- ${\it 4. Non-university based alternate route programs are not included.}$
- $5. \ For \ alternate \ route \ programs \ only.$
- 6. University-based programs only; state does not distinguish between alternate route programs and traditional programs in public reporting.

Area 2 Summary



How States are Faring in Expanding the Pool of Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

- Alternate Routes to Certification
- Part-Time Teaching Licenses

• Licensure Reciprocity

Alternate Routes to Certification

For more information about CONNECTICUT and other states' alternate routes to certification policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

CONNECTICUT Ratings	
Eligibility Alternate route programs only admit candidates with strong academic records while also providing flexibility for nontraditional candidates.	•
Preparation Alternate route programs provide efficient preparation that is relevant to the immediate needs of new teachers, as well as adequate mentoring and support.	•
Usage and Providers Alternate routes are free from limitations on usage, and a diversity of providers is allowed.	
 Fully meets	

CONNECTICUT Snapshot Alternate Routes to Certification A rigorous academic standard is required for program entry. Somewhat A subject-matter test is required for admission. Somewhat Subject-matter test can be used in lieu of a major to demonstrate content knowledge. A practice teaching opportunity is required prior to becoming teacher of record. Yes Intensive mentoring is required to support new teachers. No Coursework requirements are streamlined. Yes Yes Coursework requirements are limited to relevant topics. Alternate routes are offered without limitation by grades, subjects or geographic areas. Providers other than institutions of higher education are permitted.

CONNECTICUT A	CONNECTICUT Alternate Routes to Certification Characteristics					
Name of Route(s)	Alternate Route to Certification (ARC)					
Academic Requirements for Entry	Minimum 3.0 GPA					
Subject-Matter Requirements for Entry	Pass a subject-matter test prior to entering the classroom; not required for admission to the alternate route program					
Coursework Requirements	Core sessions provided on the foundations of education; methods classes are subject-specific and focus on planning instruction, instructional methodology, classroom management and assessing student learning. Offered as either two-month, full-day program or weekend program that runs from September to May.					
Practice Teaching/Mentoring Requirements	Candidates student teach for a minimum of five weeks with a trained cooperating teacher					
Usage	No limit with regard to subject, grade or geographic area					
Eligible Providers	Diverse providers allowed					

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ALTERNATE ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

■ Require applicants to pass a subjectmatter test prior to admission.

Connecticut should require the subjectmatter test for admission, as opposed to prior to entering the classroom. The concept behind alternate routes is that the nontraditional candidate is able to concentrate on acquiring professional knowledge and skills because he or she has strong subject-area knowledge.

 Extend flexibility in fulfilling coursework requirements to all candidates.

Connecticut should consider whether it is appropriate to allow any candidate, not just shortage area candidates, who already has the requisite knowledge and skills to demonstrate such by passing a rigorous test.

SUMMARY OF ALTERNATE ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION FIGURES

- **Figure 19** Quality of alternate routes
- **Figure 20** Alternate route requirements

Other alternate routes to certification figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Admission requirements (p. 54)
- Minimum GPA for admission (p. 55)
- Flexibility in demonstrating content knowledge (p. 56)
- Preparation requirements (p. 59)
- Diversity of usage and providers (p. 62)
- Providers of alternate route programs (p. 62)

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's alternate routes to
certification policies, including detailed
recommendations, full narrative
analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

Strengthen the induction experience for new teachers.

Although Connecticut requires all new teachers to work with a mentor, there are insufficient guidelines indicating that the mentoring program is structured for new teacher success.

Examples of Best Practice

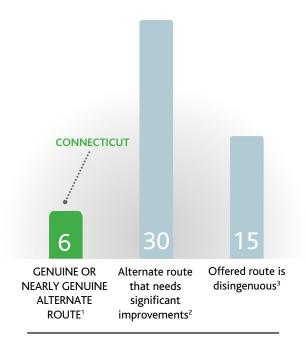
No state can be singled out for its overall alternate route policies. There are, however, states that offer best practices in individual alternate route policy areas.

With regard to admissions into alternate routes, the **District of Columbia** and **Michigan** have established a high bar. Both require candidates to demonstrate strong academic performance as a condition of admission with a minimum 3.0 GPA. In addition, neither requires a content-specific major; subjectarea knowledge is demonstrated by passing a test, making their alternate routes flexible to the needs of nontraditional candidates. Also worthy of note is new policy in **New York** that significantly raises the bar by requiring that all graduate-level teacher preparation programs adopt entrance standards that include a minimum score on the GRE or an equivalent admission exam and a cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0 in the candidate's undergraduate program.

Delaware has policies that help to ensure that alternate routes provide efficient preparation that meets the needs of new teachers. The state requires a manageable number of credit hours, relevant coursework, intensive mentoring and a practice teaching opportunity.

Most states offer alternate routes that are widely available across grades, subjects and geographic areas and permit alternate route providers beyond higher education institutions. NCTQ commends all states that permit both broad usage and a diversity of providers for their alternate routes.

Figure 19
Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification?



- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, New Jersey, Rhode Island
- Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
- 3. Alaska⁴, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Alaska no longer offers an alternate route to certification.

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Alaska									
Arizona			*			*		*	*
Arkansas		*	*	*	*		*		*
California							*	*	*
Colorado			*	*				*	*
CONNECTICUT	*			*	*	*		*	*
Delaware				*	*	*	*		*
District of Columbia	<u></u>	*	*			*	*	*	*
Florida		*	*	*			★	*	*
Georgia			*		*			*	*
Hawaii Idaho									
Illinois	*	*						*	*
Indiana	<u> </u>			*				*	*
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Kansas		*		- ^					
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Louisiana		*	*					*	*
Maine		*	*		$\overline{\Box}$				
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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									

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other
states' part-time teaching licenses
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Part-Time Teaching Licenses

CONNECTICUT Ratings Part-Time Teaching Licenses A license with minimal requirements is offered that allows content experts to teach part time. Fully meets Nearly meets Partially meets Meets only a small part Does not meet Progress increased since 2013 Lost ground since 2013



No

A part-time license with minimal requirements is available for those with subject-matter expertise.

CONNECTICUT Part-Time Teaching Licenses Characteristics				
Name of License	Not offered			
Subject-Matter Requirements	Not applicable			
Other Requirements	Not applicable			

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE PART-TIME TEACHING LICENSES POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

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

While Connecticut permits some individuals with content-expertise to serve as part-time instructors, the state does this on a very limited basis for only some individuals in only certain schools. Connecticut should permit individuals with deep subject-area knowledge to teach a limited number of courses without fulfilling a complete set of certification requirements, and should verify content knowledge through a rigorous test and conduct background checks as appropriate, while waiving all other licensure requirements.

Examples of Best Practice

Georgia offers a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time. Individuals seeking this license must pass a subjectmatter test and are assigned a mentor.

SUMMARY OF PART-TIME TEACHING LICENSES FIGURES

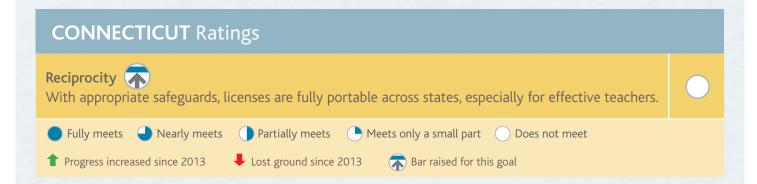
Figure 21 Part-time licenses

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's part-time teaching licenses
policies, including detailed recommendations,
full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Alabama	Figure 21			
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Licensure Reciprocity

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other states'
reciprocity policies, including full
harrative analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard



	CONNECTICUT Snapshot Reciprocity					
	No	Evidence of effective teaching is required in reciprocity policy.				
₹ }	Yes	Out-of-state teachers may apply for a comparable standard license.				
(2)	No	Out-of-state teachers must meet licensing test requirements.				
♦	No	No other strings are attached for reciprocity, such as additional coursework or recency requirements.				
4	Yes	Transcript analysis is not explicitly required.				
**	Yes	Alternate route teachers receive equal treatment.				

CONNECTICUT Reciprocity Characteristics License Available to Fully Professional Certified Out-of-State **Teachers** None required. Teachers with at least two years of experience must be exempt from completing the beginning educator program if they can show "effectiveness as a teacher... **Effectiveness Requirements** which may include, but need not be limited to, a demonstrated record of improving student achievement." Out-of-state teachers are exempt from tests if they either 1) have three years of **Testing Requirements** "successful appropriate" experience in the past 10 years, or 2) have a master's degree in the subject area. To be eligible for the professional license, candidates must be nationally board certified, Coursework and/or Recency have taught for two years in the preceding 10 years and hold a master's degree in the Requirements subject area. Additional Alternate Route None Requirements

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE RECIPROCITY POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

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

To facilitate the movement of effective teachers between states, Connecticut should require that evidence of teacher effectiveness, as determined by an evaluation that includes objective measures of student growth, be considered for all out-of-state candidates.

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

Connecticut should insist that out-ofstate teachers meet its own testing requirements, and it should not provide any waivers of its teacher tests unless an applicant can provide evidence of a passing score under its own standards.

SUMMARY OF RECIPROCITY FIGURES

Figure 22 Requirements for licensing teachers from other states

Other reciprocity figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Licensure tests (p. 70)
- Evidence of effectiveness (p. 71)
- Traditional versus alternate route requirements (p. 72)

For more information about CONNECTICUT's reciprocity policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

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

Connecticut's requirements for a comparable license appear burdensome to both traditional and alternate route out-of-state teachers. The state should reconsider its requirement of an advanced degree, as the earning of such is not an indicator of effectiveness in the classroom, and requiring one is likely to deter talented individuals from applying for licensure.

Examples of Best Practice

Although no state stands out for its overall reciprocity policies, two states are worthy of mention for their connection of reciprocal licensure to evidence of teacher effectiveness. When determining eligibility for full certification, both **Delaware** and **Idaho** consider teacher evaluations from previous employment that include objective measures of student growth. NCTQ also commends **Indiana**, **Massachusetts**, **Mississippi**, **North Carolina**, **Ohio**, **Pennsylvania**, **Rhode Island** and **Texas** for appropriately supporting licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet their own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate route teachers.

Figure 22		PASSAGE OF LICE	NO OTHER OBSYACES
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other states?	FF	\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \	/ > 0
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CONNECTICUT			
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District of Columbia			
Florida			
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lowa			
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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		3	
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
		20	21

Obstacles include transcript analysis, recency and/or coursework requirements, and additional requirements for teachers certified through alternate routes.

^{2.} Alaska allows up to three years to meet testing requirements.

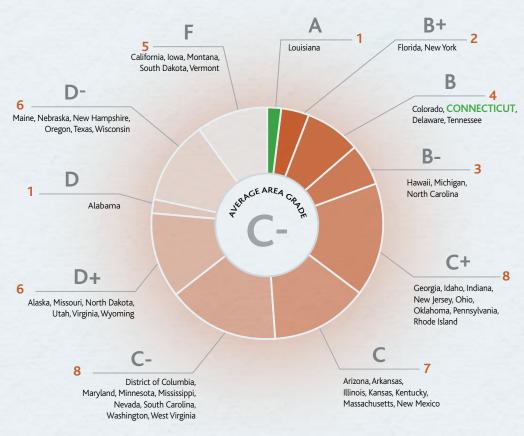
^{3.} Allows up to three years to submit passing scores.

Area 3 Summary



How States are Faring in Identifying Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

- State Data Systems
- Teacher Evaluation
- Tenure

- · Licensure Advancement
- · Equitable Distribution of Teachers

State Data Systems

↑ Progress increased since 2013

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other states'
data systems policies, including full
narrative analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

CONNECTICUT Ratings State Data Systems The state's data system contributes some of the evidence needed to assess teacher effectiveness. Partially meets Partially meets Pertially meets Does not meet

Bar raised for this goal

Lost ground since 2013



CONNECTICUT State Data System Characteristics				
Teacher Student Data Link	Capacity to connect student identifiers to teacher identifiers and match records over time			
Teacher of Record Definition	Not adequately connected to providers of instruction.			
Other Characteristics	No roster verification or ability to connect multiple teachers to a single student			
Teacher Production Data/ Hiring Statistics	Publishes annual hiring reports that include a collection of information "primarily concerning certified educational positions, designed to track employment trends and identify teacher shortage areas." Highlighted data include hiring statistics by endorsement and present figures for available positions that year, October 1 vacancies and median applicants.			

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE STATE DATA SYSTEM POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

- Develop a definition of "teacher of record" that can be used to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.
 Connecticut should articulate a definition of teacher of record that reflects instruction.
- Strengthen data link between teachers and students.

Connecticut should put in place a process for teacher roster verification, which is of particular importance for using the data system to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness, and ensure that its teacher-student data link is able to connect more than one educator to a particular student in a given course.

Examples of Best Practice

Hawaii and West Virginia are leaders in using their state data systems to support the identification and supply of effective teachers. Both states have all three elements needed to assess teacher effectiveness, and both states have also developed definitions of teacher of record that reflect instruction. Their data links can connect multiple teachers to a particular student, and there is a process for teacher roster verification. In addition, Hawaii and West Virginia publish teacher production data. Maryland remains worthy of mention for its "Teacher Staffing Report," which serves as a model for other states. The report's primary purpose is to determine teacher shortage areas, while also identifying areas of surplus.

SUMMARY OF STATE DATA SYSTEMS FIGURES

■ Figure 23 Using data system elements to assess teacher effectiveness

Other state data systems figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Teacher production data (p. 77)

For more information about CONNECTICUT's state data system policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 23		6 /	28/
Do states' data systems	,	1 S S	\$ /
nclude elements needed	Ž		
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Idaho			
Illinois			
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Louisiana			
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Minnesota			
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Nebraska Nevada ¹			
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New Mexico			
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North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota ¹			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia Washington			
Washington West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	30		
	29	34	26

^{1.} Lacks capacity to connect student identifiers to teacher identifiers and match records over time.

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other
states' teacher evaluation
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Teacher Evaluation

CONNECTICUT Ratings	
Evaluation of Effectiveness Instructional effectiveness is the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.	
Frequency of Evaluations All teachers receive annual evaluations.	•
 Fully meets → Nearly meets → Partially meets → Meets only a small part → Does not meet Progress increased since 2013 → Lost ground since 2013 	

	CONNI Teacher	ECTICUT Snapshot · Evaluation
*	Yes	Objective student data is the preponderant or a significant criterion of teacher evaluations.
*	Yes	All teachers are evaluated annually.
	Yes	Multiple observations are required for all teachers.
*	Yes	More than two rating categories are used.
*	No	New teachers receive feedback early in the school year.
	Yes	Surveys (student, parent, peer) are explicitly required or allowed.

CONNECTICUT 1	eacher Evaluation Characteristics
Use of Student Achievement Data in Evaluation	Preponderant criterion. 45 percent of the evaluation must be based on attainment of 1-4 goals and/or objectives for student growth
Types of Required Student Data	22.5 percent standardized tests; 22.5 percent: may consist of, at most, one additional standardized indicator, or at least one nonstandardized indicator.
Other Required Measures	Observation, 40 percent; schoolwide student learning indicators or student feedback, 5 percent; and feedback from peers and parents including surveys, 10 percent
Number of Rating Categories	4
Frequency of Evaluations	Annual for all teachers
Number of Observations	New teachers: 3 formal observations. Teachers with below standard or developing rating: At least 3 formal observations. Teachers with proficient or exemplary rating: A combination of 3 formal observations/reviews of practice, one of which must be a formal observation.
System Structure	State provides presumptive evaluation model for districts; approval required to use alternate district-designed system.
Surveys (Parent, Student, Peer)	Parent or peer feedback required; option between schoolwide student learning indicators or student feedback.
Evaluator Requirements	Training

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TEACHER EVALUATION POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

 Ensure that reviews of practice are sufficient to provide instructional feedback.

While it may be practical to reduce the number of observations for the highest-performing teachers, Connecticut must ensure that these reviews are not too limited in scope to provide these teachers with rich feedback that can help them grow and excel.

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's teacher evaluation policies,
including detailed recommendations, full
narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

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

Connecticut should ensure that its new teachers get the support they need, and that supervisors know early on which new teachers may be struggling or at risk for unacceptable levels of performance.

Examples of Best Practice

Tennessee requires that objective measures of student growth be the preponderant criterion of all evaluations. All teachers in the state must be evaluated annually, and multiple observations are required, with a postobservation conference scheduled after each to discuss performance. The state's observation schedule ensures that new teachers receive feedback early in the year. Tennessee also requires the use of five performance rating categories.

Idaho, New Jersey and Washington also require annual evaluations and multiple observations for all teachers, and they ensure that new teachers are observed and receive feedback during the first half of the school year.

SUMMARY OF TEACHER EVALUATION FIGURES

- Figure 24 Use of student learning data
- Figure 25 Frequency of evaluations

Other teacher evaluation figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Use of surveys (p. 81)
- Rating categories (p. 81)
- State role in evaluations (p. 82)
- Evaluator requirements (p. 83)
- Annual evaluations (p. 85)
- Classroom observation requirements (p. 87)
- Observation frequency (p. 87)
- Timing of observations for new teachers (p. 88)

Figure 24	REQUIRES THAT STUDENT	Requires that student sensor	Requires that student	richout explicit guidelines Requires some pri	Student achieven
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	16	11	8	8	8

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

In 2014-15, student achievement was 10% of the total evaluation rating; for 2015-16, it is 20%. This appears connected to test transition rather than permanent lowering of student growth percentage.

^{3.} Explicitly defined for 2014-15 school year.

Figure 25		CHERS
Do states require districts	1470	ZZ / ZZ
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Washington		
West Virginia Wisconsin		
VVISCOUSIII		
Wyoming		

Tenure

For more information about CONNECTICUT and other states' tenure policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard





CONNECTICUT 1	Tenure Characteristics
Consideration of Teacher Effectiveness	Tenure must be earned on the basis of effective practice as shown in a teacher's evaluation rating.
Length of Probationary Period	40 months

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TENURE POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

 As a result of Connecticut's strong tenure policies, no recommendations are provided.

Examples of Best Practice

Colorado, Connecticut and New York appropriately base tenure decisions on evidence of teacher effectiveness. In Connecticut, tenure is awarded after four years and must be earned on the basis of effective practice as demonstrated in evaluation ratings. Colorado requires ratings of either effective or highly effective for three consecutive years to earn tenure status, which can then be lost with two consecutive years of less-than-effective ratings. New York has extended its probationary period to four years and requires teachers to be rated effective or highly effective for three of those years. All three states require that student growth be the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.

SUMMARY OF TENURE FIGURES

- Figure 26 Tenure and teacher effectiveness
- Figure 27 Length of probationary period

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's tenure policies, including
detailed recommendations, full narrative
analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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Figure 26	EVIDENCE OF STUDENT	Some evidence of s	Virtually automass	٨ /
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Nevada				
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North Carolina		3		
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Pennsylvania				
Rhode Island				
South Carolina				
South Dakota				
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Texas				
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Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
	9	14	26	2

- 1. Florida only awards annual contracts; decisions are connected to effectiveness.
- 2. Kansas only awards annual contracts; decisions are not connected to effectiveness.
- 3. North Carolina generally awards only one-year contracts, except that teachers can be awarded a two- or four-year contract if they have "shown effectiveness as demonstrated by proficiency on the evaluation instrument." However, no student growth measures required.
- 4. No state-level policy.
- Oklahoma has created a loophole by essentially waiving student learning requirements and allowing the principal of a school to petition for career-teacher status.

Figure 27 How long before a teacher	er.	/					
earns tenure?							
	6.				/ 5	/ 5	/ em
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Arkansas							
California							
Colorado							
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South Carolina							
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	2	1	3	31	5	6	3

- 1. Florida only awards annual contracts.
- 2. Idaho limits teacher contract terms to one year.
- 3. Kansas has eliminated due process rights associated with tenure.
- North Carolina teachers can be awarded a two- or four-year contract if they have "shown effectiveness as demonstrated by proficiency on the evaluation instrument." However, no student growth measures required.
- 5. In Ohio, teachers must hold an educator license for at least 7 years, and have taught in the district at least 3 of the last 5 years.
- Oklahoma teachers may also earn career status with an average rating of at least effective for a four-year period and a rating of at least "effective" for the last two years.
- 7. In Virginia, local school boards may extend up to five years.
- 8. In Washington, at a district's discretion, a teacher may be granted tenure after the second year if he/she receives one of the top two evaluation ratings.

Licensure Advancement

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other
states' licensure advancement
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

CONNECTICUT Ratings Licensure Advancement Licensure advancement is based on evidence of teacher effectiveness. Fully meets Nearly meets Partially meets Meets only a small part Does not meet Progress increased since 2013 Lost ground since 2013

	CONNI Licensu	ECTICUT Snapshot re Advancement
**	No	Advancement from a probationary to a professional license is based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.
	No	Renewal of a professional license is based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.
*	No	Other advancement/renewal requirements have a direct connection to classroom effectiveness.
	No	An advanced degree is not a requirement for license advancement.

CONNECTICUT L	icensure Advancement Characteristics
Performance Requirements to Advance from a Probationary to Professional License	None
Other Requirements for Advancement	Provisional: Must complete 10 months of successful experience and the induction/mentoring program, or 30 months of experience within 10 years. Professional: Must have 3 years of satisfactory teaching and a master's degree.
Initital Certification Period	Initial: 3 years; Provisional: up to 8 years
Performance Requirements to Renew a Professional License	None
Other Requirements for Renewal	None
Renewal Period	5 years

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE LICENSURE ADVANCEMENT POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

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

Connecticut's policy of just counting successful experience toward the months needed to move to the next level of certification only indirectly links effectiveness to licensure advancement. The state should directly link this requirement to teacher evaluations; its policy is further compromised by the issuance of professional educator licenses with no requirements for renewal.

 Discontinue license requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

While targeted requirements may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Connecticut's general, nonspecific coursework requirements for license advancement and renewal do not correlate with teacher effectiveness.

■ End teacher advancement tied to master's degrees.

Connecticut should remove the requirement that teachers must obtain a master's degree in order to advance from a provisional to a professional educator license, as research is conclusive that master's degrees do not have any significant correlation to performance.

Examples of Best Practice

Both **Rhode Island** and **Louisiana** are integrating certification, certification renewal and educator evaluations. In Rhode Island, teachers who receive poor evaluations for five consecutive years are not eligible to renew their licenses. In addition, teachers who consistently receive highly effective ratings are eligible for a special license designation. Louisiana requires its teachers to meet the standard for effectiveness for three years during their initial certification or renewal period to be issued a certificate or have their certificate renewed.

SUMMARY OF LICENSURE ADVANCEMENT FIGURES

- Figure 28 Evidence of effectiveness for license advancement
- Figure 29 Advanced degree requirements

Other licensure advancement figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Coursework requirements (p. 96)
- Lifetime licenses (p. 96)

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's licensure advancement
policies, including detailed recommendations,
full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Do states require teachers to show evidence of effectiveness before conferring professional licensure? Alabama Alaska	OBECTIVE EVIDENCE	Some objective evice.	Consideration Siven to	Cassoon effective but Performance not consider
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Wyoming				
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Georgia does not require evidence of effectiveness for each year of renewal period.

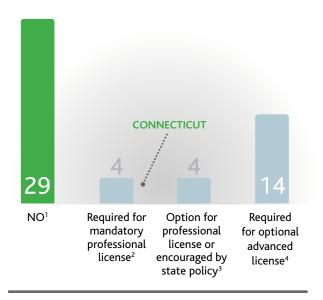
^{2.} Illinois allows revocation of licenses based on ineffectiveness.

^{3.} Uses objective evidence for advancement, not renewal.

 $^{{\}bf 4.}\,{\bf An}\,\,{\bf optional}\,\,{\bf license}\,\,{\bf requires}\,\,{\bf evidence}\,\,{\bf of}\,\,{\bf effectiveness}.$

^{5.} Teachers have the option of using evaluation ratings as a factor in license advancement or renewal.

Figure 29
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licenses?



Strong Practice: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

- 2. Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, New York
- 3. Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon
- 4. Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia

Equitable Distribution of Teachers

For more information about **CONNECTICUT** and other 🖫 states' equitable distribution of teachers policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

CONNECTICUT Ratings

Equitable Distribution

Districts' distribution of teacher talent among schools is publicly reported to identify inequities in schools serving disadvantaged students.







Fully meets • Nearly meets • Partially meets • Meets only a small part • Does not meet



♠ Progress increased since 2013

Public Reporting of Teacher

Lost ground since 2013



CONNECTICUT Snapshot Equitable Distribution of Teachers

<	No	School districts must publicly report aggregate school-level data about teacher performance.
₹	No	A school-level teacher-quality index is used to demonstrate the academic backgrounds of a school's teachers and the ratio of new to veteran teachers.
*	Yes	School-level data on teacher absenteeism or turnover rates are reported.
*	Yes	School-level data on percentage of highly qualified teachers are reported.
	No	School-level data on percentage of teachers with emergency credentials are reported.

CONNECTICUT Equitable Distribution of Teachers Characteristics

Effectiveness Data	Not reported
Other Public Reporting Related to Teacher Distribution	Reports percentage of highly qualified teachers and the percentage of teachers with two years' experience or less for each school. Also reports on the poverty and minority percentages at both the district and state levels, and compares the percentages of highly qualified teachers at high- and low-poverty schools as well as high- and low-minority-population schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF TEACHERS POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

 Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

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

Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

Connecticut should provide comparative data for schools with similar poverty and minority populations, as this would yield a more comprehensive picture of gaps in the equitable distribution of teachers.

Ensure that data are current.

Connecticut should keep its data updated and current in order to provide the public with an accurate picture of teacher distribution across schools in districts.

Examples of Best Practice

Although not awarding "best practice" honors for this topic, NCTQ commends the 13 states that give the public access to teacher performance data aggregated to the school level. This transparency can help shine a light on how equitably teachers are distributed across and within school districts and help to ensure that all students have access to effective teachers.

SUMMARY OF EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF TEACHERS FIGURES

Figure 30 Reporting of teacher effectiveness data

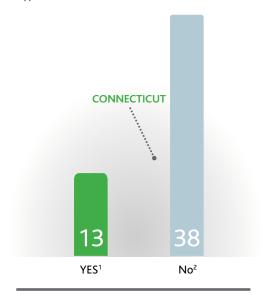
Other equitable distribution of teachers figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Data reporting requirements (p. 99)

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's equitable distribution
of teachers policies, including detailed
recommendations, full narrative
analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 30

Do states require public reporting of school-level data about teacher effectiveness?



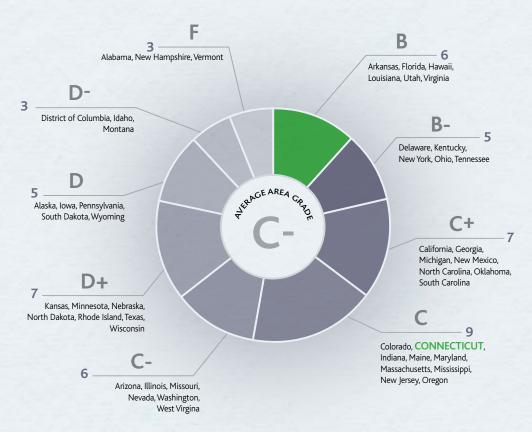
- Strong Practice: Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island³, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah³, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Reports data about teacher effectiveness at the district level.

Area 4 Summary



How States are Faring in Retaining Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

New Teacher Induction

Compensation

Professional Development

New Teacher Induction

For more information about **CONNECTICUT** and other states' new teacher induction policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

CONNECTICUT Ratings

Induction

Effective induction is available for all new teachers, with special emphasis on teachers in high-need schools.









Fully meets • Nearly meets • Partially meets • Meets only a small part • Does not meet



↑ Progress increased since 2013





CONNECTICUT Snapshot New Teacher Induction

*	Yes	All new teachers receive mentoring.
**	Yes	Mentoring is of sufficient frequency and duration.
*	Somewhat	Mentors are carefully selected.
*	No	Induction programs are evaluated.
*	Yes	Induction programs include a variety of effective strategies.

CONNECTICUT New Teacher Induction Characteristics

Induction Program	Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program
Requirements for Mentor/ New Teacher Contact	Mentors must spend at least 10 hours on each professional growth module
Selection Criteria for Mentors	Criteria determined at the local level
Other Mentor Requirements	Training to provide instructional support; mentor pairings made by grade and content area
Required Induction Strategies Other than Mentoring	Professional growth modules

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE NEW TEACHER INDUCTION POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

Expand guidelines to include other key areas.

Connecticut should articulate minimum guidelines for a high-quality induction experience. The state should ensure that new teachers receive support during the critical first few weeks of school and require program evaluation.

Ensure high quality mentors.

Connecticut should also establish criteria for the selection of high-quality mentors. Of particular importance is that mentors themselves are effective teachers. Teachers without evidence of effectiveness should not be able to serve as mentors.

Examples of Best Practice

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

Arkansas, Illinois, Maryland and New Jersey are also worthy of mention for their requirements related to mentor selection. Arkansas, Illinois and New Jersey require that all mentors must be rated in one of the top two rating categories on their most recent evaluation. Maryland also requires mentors, who are either current or retired teachers, to have obtained effective evaluation ratings.

SUMMARY OF NEW TEACHER INDUCTION FIGURES

Figure 31 Quality of induction policies

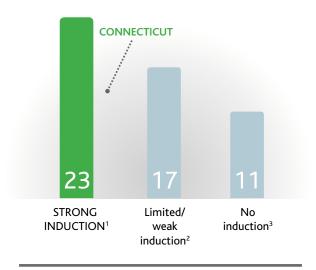
Other new teacher induction figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Elements of induction (p. 104)

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's new teacher induction
policies, including detailed recommendations,
full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 31

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



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

For more information about **CONNECTICUT** and other states' professional development policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Professional Development

CONNECTICUT Ratings

Professional Development

Teachers receive feedback about their performance, and professional development is based on needs identified through teacher evaluations.



Fully meets • Nearly meets • Partially meets • Meets only a small part • Does not meet

♠ Progress increased since 2013

Lost ground since 2013



	Yes	Teachers must receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations.
*	Yes	Professional development must be aligned with evaluation results.
*	Yes	Teachers with unsatisfactory/ineffective ratings are placed on improvement plans.

CONNECTICUT Professional Development Characteristics

Connection Between Evaluation and Professional Development	Professional development activities must be directly informed by student performance and linked to teacher evaluation goals.
Evaluation Feedback	End-of-year conference; feedback must be "clear, specific, and constructive"
Improvement Plan	Required for teachers rated developing or below standard

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

 As a result of Connecticut's strong professional development policies, no recommendations are provided.

Examples of Best Practice

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

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FIGURES

Figure 32 Connecting teacher evaluation to continuous improvement

Other professional development figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Evaluation feedback (p. 109)
- Evaluations and professional development (p. 109)

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's professional development
policies, including detailed recommendations,
full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 32		ORMS	4LL 14LL 14L
Do states ensure that			
evaluations are used to	ERS DR		1 1 2 2
help teachers improve?	4. A.	1 2 2 2 2	8 \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
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Does not require improvement plans for all less-than-effective teachers; just those in the lowest rating category.

^{2.} South Dakota requires improvement plans only for teachers rated unsatisfactory who have been teaching for four years or more.

Compensation

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other states'
compensation policies, including full
harrative analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

	CONNECTICUT Ratings	
\	Pay Scales and Performance Pay While local districts are given the authority over pay scales, performance pay is supported, but in a manner that recognizes its appropriate uses and limitations.	•
	Differential Pay Differential pay for effective teaching in shortage and high-need areas is supported.	•
	Compensation for Prior Work Experience Districts are encouraged to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience.	•
	Fully meets Nearly meets Partially meets Meets only a small part Does not meet	
	Progress increased since 2013 Lost ground since 2013 🕟 Bar Raised for this Goal	

	CONNI Compe	ECTICUT Snapshot nsation
*	Yes	Districts have flexibility to determine pay structure and scales.
*	No	Effective teachers can receive performance pay.
*	No	Districts are discouraged from tying compensation to advanced degrees.
	No	Teachers can earn additional compensation by teaching shortage subjects.
*	No	Teachers can earn additional compensation by teaching in high-need schools.
*	No	Districts are encouraged to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience.

CONNECTICUT Compensation Characteristics					
Authority for Salary Schedule	Controlled by local districts				
Performance Pay Initiatives	None				
Role of Experience and Advanced Degrees in Salary Schedule	Not explicitly discouraged				
Differential Pay for Shortage Subjects	None; mortgage assistance for the purchase of a principal residence				
Differential Pay for High-Need Schools	None; mortgage assistance for the purchase of a principal residence				
Pay for Prior Work Experience	None				

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE COMPENSATION POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

 Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees and/or experience.

While still leaving districts the flexibility to establish their own pay scales, Connecticut should articulate policies that definitively discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees as well as determining the highest steps on the pay scale solely by seniority.

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

Connecticut should ensure that performance pay structures thoughtfully measure classroom performance and connect student achievement to teacher effectiveness.

SUMMARY OF COMPENSATION FIGURES

- Figure 33 Compensation for performance
- Figure 34 Compensation for advanced degrees
- Figure 35 Differential pay

Other compensation figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- State role in teacher pay (p. 112)
- State support for performance pay (p. 114)
- Differential pay for shortage subjects or high-need schools (p. 119)
- Compensation for prior work experience (p. 121)

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

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

Connecticut should expand its mortgage assistance program to include initiatives for all teachers, as a salary differential is an attractive incentive for every teacher, not just those interested in becoming homeowners.

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

Connecticut should encourage districts to incorporate mechanisms such as starting these teachers at a higher salary than other new teachers. Such policies would be attractive to career changers with related work experience, such as in the STEM subjects.

Examples of Best Practice

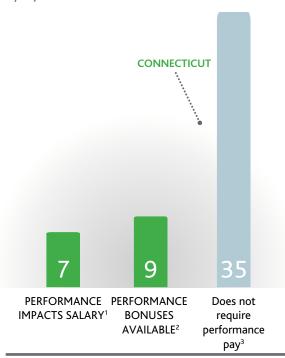
Florida allows local districts to develop their own salary schedules while preventing districts from prioritizing elements not associated with teacher effectiveness. Local salary schedules must ensure that the most effective teachers receive salary increases greater than the highest salary adjustment available. Florida also supports differential pay by providing salary supplements for teachers in both high-need schools and shortage subject areas.

In addition, **Indiana** and **Utah** both articulate compensation policies that reward effective teachers by requiring performance to be the most important factor in deciding a teacher's salary. **Louisiana** supports differential pay by offering up to \$3,000 per year, for four years, to teach math, biology, chemistry, physics and special education, and up to an additional \$6,000 per year, up to four years, to teach in low-performing schools. **North Carolina** compensates new teachers with relevant prior-work experience by awarding them one year of experience credit for every year of full-time work after earning a bachelor's degree that is related to their area of licensure and work assignment.

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's compensation policies,
including detailed recommendations, full
narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 33

Do states ensure pay is structured to account for performance?



- Strong Practice: Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, Utah
- 2. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee⁴
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona⁵, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Idaho⁶, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky⁷, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri⁶, Montana, Nebraska⁷, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon⁷, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia⁷, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. A performance component is not required. Districts must differentiate teacher compensation based on at least one of the following criteria: additional roles or responsibilities, hard-to-staff schools or subject areas, and performance based on teacher evaluations.
- Arizona allocates funds for teacher compensation increases based on performance and employment related expenses; there is no clear requirement for compensation connected to evidence of effectiveness.
- Idaho does offer a master teacher premium, but it is dependent on years of experience.
- 7. Performance bonuses are available, but not specifically tied to teacher affectiveness
- 8. Performance bonuses are available for teachers in schools deemed "academically deficient."

Figure 34

- Louisiana allows districts to set salary schedules based on three criteria: effectiveness, experience and demand. Advanced degrees may be included only as part of demand.
- 2. Only discouraged for those districts implementing $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Q}}$ Comp.
- 3. For advanced degrees earned after April 2014.
- 4. Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training".
- Texas has a minimum salary schedule based on years of experience. Compensation for advanced degrees is left to district discretion.

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Rhode Island South Carolina			4	
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	3	2	31	15

Figure 35		HIGH-NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT AREAS Salua Jago Juleo 7	/
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^{1.} Iowa provides state assistance to supplement salaries of teachers in high-need schools.

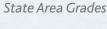
Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in shortage subject areas.

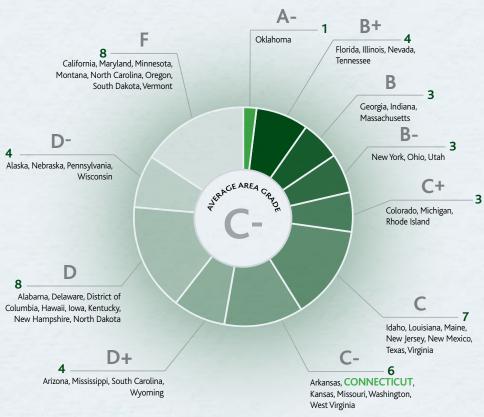
^{3.} South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in highneed schools.

Area 5 Summary



How States are Faring in Exiting Ineffective Teachers





Topics Included In This Area

- Extended Emergency Licenses
- Dismissal for Poor Performance
- · Reductions in Force

Extended Emergency Licenses

For more information about
CONNECTICUT and other states'
extended emergency license
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard





CONNECTICUT Extended Emergency License Characteristics						
Emergency License Interim educator certificate						
Minimum Requirements	Interim educator certificate requires traditional or alternative route program completion except licensing tests or out-of-state teachers who have met all licensure requirements except licensing tests					
Duration	1 year					
Renewal Requirements	Nonrenewable					

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EXTENDED EMERGENCY LICENSE POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

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

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

Examples of Best Practice

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

SUMMARY OF EXTENDED EMERGENCY LICENSES FIGURES

Figure 36 Time to pass licensure tests

Other extended emergency licenses figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Emergency licenses (p. 127)

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's extended emergency
licenses policies, including detailed
recommendations, full narrative
analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 36		/	/	/
How long can new teachers		/	/	/
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West Virginia	2			
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Wyoming				

- 1. Teachers can have up to two additional years to pass licensing tests in the event of "extraordinary extenuating circumstances."
- 2. Out-of-state teachers can teach on a non-renewable license until all requirements are met.
- 3. Tennessee does not offer emergency licenses but candidates for initial practitioner license have three years to pass licensure tests.
- 4. Permits can be extended without passing licensing tests if districts receive hardship approval.

For more information about **CONNECTICUT** and other states' 🖫 dismissal policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Dismissal for Poor Performance

CONNECTICUT Ratings

Dismissal

Ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal and the process for terminating ineffective teachers is expedient and fair to all parties.



Fully meets Nearly meets Partially meets Meets only a small part Does not meet



↑ Progress increased since 2013





CONNECTICUT Snapshot Dismissal

*	Yes	Teacher ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.
*	No	Terminated teachers have one opportunity to appeal.
*	No	Appeals process occurs within a reasonable timeframe.
	No	The due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance are different from those facing license revocation.

CONNECTICUT Dismissal Characteristics

Dismissal for Ineffectiveness	May be terminated for incompetence or ineffectiveness, the basis of which is the "evaluation of the teacher using teacher evaluation guidelines"
Due Process Rights of Teachers	Same regardless of the grounds for dismissal, which include inefficiency or incompetence, insubordination, moral misconduct and disability
Length of Appeals Process	Multiple opportunities to appeal: After notice, the teacher may, within 20 days, request a hearing, which must occur within 15 days. A teacher may then file an additional appeal, within 30 days, to the superior court. Time frame of this appeal not specified.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE DISMISSAL POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

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

Connecticut should ensure that the opportunity to appeal occurs only once and only at the district level so that a conclusion is reached within a reasonable time frame.

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

While nonprobationary teachers should have due process for any termination, Connecticut should differentiate between loss of employment and issues with far-reaching consequences that could permanently affect a teacher's right to practice. Appeals related to effectiveness should only be decided by those with educational expertise.

Examples of Best Practice

New York now allows charges of incompetence against any teacher who receives two consecutive ineffective ratings; charges must be brought against any teacher who receives three consecutive ineffective ratings. Due process rights for teachers dismissed for ineffective performance are distinguishable from those facing other charges, and an expedited hearing is required. For teachers who have received three consecutive ineffective ratings, that timeline must not be longer than 30 days.

SUMMARY OF DISMISSAL FIGURES

Figure 37 Dismissal due to ineffectiveness

Other dismissal figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Dismissal appeals (p. 130)

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's dismissal policies, including
detailed recommendations, full narrative
analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 37		/
Do states articulate that	ΞŠ	
ineffectiveness is grounds	3₹	~ / ·
for dismissal?	77.5	÷ /
ior distribute:	FS THOUGH EVALUATION	/ &
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	28	23

Kansas has repealed the law that gave tenured teachers who faced dismissal the right to an independent review of their cases.

In Nevada, a teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations, but the state does not articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

Reductions in Force

For more information about **CONNECTICUT** and other states' reductions in force policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

CONNECTICUT Ratings

Reductions in Force

Districts must consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off when a reduction in force is necessary.



Fully meets • Nearly meets • Partially meets • Meets only a small part • Does not meet



♠ Progress increased since 2013

Lost ground since 2013



CONNECTICUT Snapshot Reductions in Force



No

Districts must consider classroom performance when determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.



No

Seniority cannot be the only/primary factor used to determine which teachers are laid off.

CONNECTICUT Reductions in Force Characteristics Use of Teacher Performance Consideration of performance not required Use of Seniority Determined by districts Other Factors Determined by districts

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE REDUCTIONS IN FORCE POLICIES IN CONNECTICUT

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

Connecticut can still leave districts flexibility in determining layoff policies, but it should do so within a framework that ensures that classroom performance is considered.

 Ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off.

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

Examples of Best Practice

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

SUMMARY OF REDUCTIONS IN FORCE FIGURES

■ Figure 38 Layoff criteria

Other reductions in force figures available in the Yearbook National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

- Performance in layoffs (p. 132)
- Emphasis on seniority in layoffs (p. 133)

For more information about
CONNECTICUT's reductions in force policies,
including detailed recommendations, full
narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 38	5	
Do states prevent districts	FMU	
from basing layoffs solely	4NG ERE	\ \Q^2
on "last in, first out"?	787, 1510,	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
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Wyoming		
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NCTQ is available to work with individual states to improve teacher policies.

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