



TEACHER EVALUATION POLICY IN ARKANSAS:

Where is Arkansas in implementing teacher effectiveness policies?

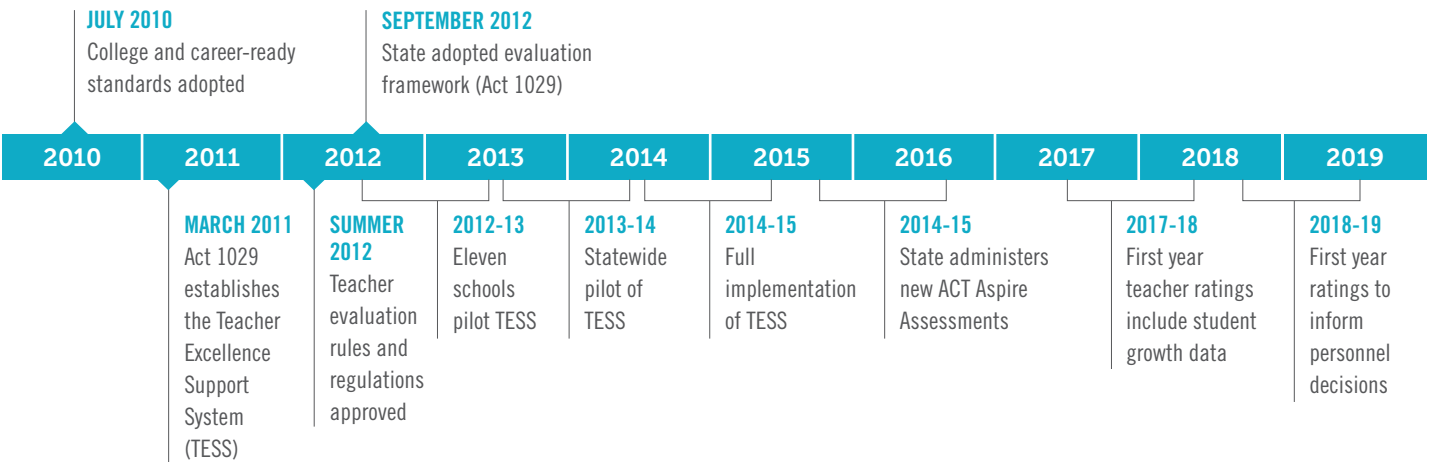
THE NATIONAL PICTURE

STATE TEACHER EVALUATION POLICIES (2015)

ARKANSAS



ARKANSAS' IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



ARKANSAS' EVALUATION SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

EVALUATION SYSTEM	REQUIREMENTS
Evaluation System Structure	State provides criteria/framework for district designed evaluations: <i>Arkansas Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS)</i> .
Use of achievement data/student growth in teacher evaluations	Evidence of student growth must be a “significant” part of evaluations but the rules do not articulate what this will actually mean in practice.
Observations	Both formal and informal observations are required.
Tenure Policy	Teachers are awarded nonprobationary status automatically after a three-year probationary period.
Dismissal Policy	If, after intensive support, an ineffective teacher has not improved, districts can terminate or non-renew a teacher’s contract. The timeline for when a teacher is eligible for dismissal is unclear.

DOES ARKANSAS CONNECT TEACHER EVALUATIONS TO RELATED POLICY ISSUES?



Arkansas has made important strides in developing high-quality evaluations of teacher effectiveness grounded in student growth and achievement and has articulated some important teacher policies linked to new teacher evaluations. But more can be done to “connect the dots” — ensuring that evaluation results are used to guide teacher policy statewide in ways that will further the quality of teaching and learning for all.

For more information about Arkansas and other states’ teacher effectiveness policies, NCTQ’s *2015 Arkansas State Teacher Policy Yearbook* is immediately available for free download at: www.nctq.org/statepolicy