

#### 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.

#### Illinois at a Glance



## Overall 2015 Yearbook Grade

2013

2011

2009





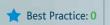


#### 2015 Illinois Area Goal Scores

ı		
ı	AREA 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers	D+
	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	<b>4</b>
	Alternate Route Preparation	•
	Alternate Route Usage and Providers	
	Part-Time Teaching Licenses	1
	Licensure Reciprocity	

AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	С
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	B+
Extended Emergency Licenses	•
Dismissal for Poor Performance	•
Reductions in Force	

#### **Goal Summary**







Meets Only a Small Part: 7

Does Not Meet: 6

#### Progress on Goals Since 2013



Progress Increased: 3



Progress Decreased: 0

#### Teacher Policy Priorities for Illinois

#### **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

- As a condition of initial licensure, require that all elementary candidates pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects and require a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction for all elementary candidates.
- Ensure all new elementary 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 career-readiness standards.
- Establish equivalent requirements for teachers who may teach elementary grades on an early childhood license.

#### Middle School Teacher Preparation

Require middle school teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach as a condition of initial licensure.

#### Secondary Teacher Preparation

- As a condition of initial licensure, require secondary candidates to pass a content test in each subject they are licensed to teach.
- Require secondary science and 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, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.
- Ensure that all new special education candidates 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 career-readiness standards.

#### Student Teaching

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

#### Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

■ Hold teacher preparation programs accountable by 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

#### Alternate Routes to Certification

Establish guidelines for alternate route programs that require preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. Ensure programs provide intensive induction support to alternate route teachers.

#### License Reciprocity

■ Grant certification to teachers from other states who can demonstrate evidence of effectiveness.

#### **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.

#### Teacher Evaluation

Require annual evaluations for all teachers.

#### Tenure

■ Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.

#### Licensure Advancement

■ Base licensure renewal on evidence of effectiveness.

#### **AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers**

#### Professional Development

■ Link professional development activities to findings in individual teacher evaluations.

#### Compensation

■ While leaving districts flexibility to determine their own pay scales, support pay systems that recognize teachers for their effectiveness and for teaching in both subject-shortage areas and high-need schools and discourage systems tied to advanced degrees and/or experience.

#### **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.

Figure A	Overall State Grade 2015	+ Grade State	Overall State	Overall State Grade 2009
	Sylver Sylver			o de la companya de l
Florida	B+	B+	В	С
Indiana	В	B-	C+	D
Louisiana	В	В	C-	C-
New York	В	B-	С	D+
Tennessee	В	В	B-	C-
Arkansas	B-	B-	С	C-
Connecticut	B-	B-	C-	D+
Delaware	B-	C+	С	D
Georgia	B-	B-	С	C-
Massachusetts	B-	B-	С	D+
Ohio	B-	B-	C+	D+
Oklahoma	B-	B-	B-	D+
Rhode Island	B-	В	B-	D
ILLINOIS	C+	C+	С	D+
Michigan	C+	B-	C+	D-
New Jersey	C+	B-	D+	D+
Utah	C+	С	C-	D
Virginia	C+	C+	D+	D+
Colorado	С	C+	С	D+
Kentucky	С	С	D+	D+
Mississippi	С	С	D+	D+
New Mexico	С	D+	D+	D+
South Carolina	С	C-	C-	C-
Arizona	C-	C-	D+	D+
Idaho	C-	D+	D+	D-
Maine	C-	C-	D-	F
Minnesota Missouri	C-	C-	C- D	D- D
Nevada	C-	C-	C-	D-
North Carolina	C-	C	D+	D+
Pennsylvania	C-	C-	D+	D
Texas	C-	C-	C-	C-
Washington	C-	C-	C-	D+
West Virginia	C-	C-	D+	D+
Alabama	D+	C-	C-	C-
District of Columbia	D+	D+	D	D-
Hawaii	D+	D+	D-	D-
Kansas	D+	D	D	D-
Maryland	D+	D+	D+	D
California	D	D+	D+	D+
Iowa	D	D	D	D
Nebraska	D	D-	D-	D-
New Hampshire	D	D	D-	D-
North Dakota	D	D	D	D-
Oregon	D	D	D-	D-
Wisconsin	D	D+	D	D
Wyoming	D	D	D	D-
Alaska South Dakota	D-	D-	D D	D D
Vermont	D-	D-	D-	F
Montana	Б- F	F F	D-	F
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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

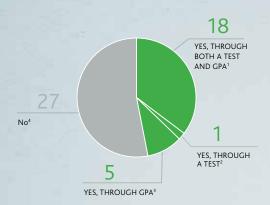
#### BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



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



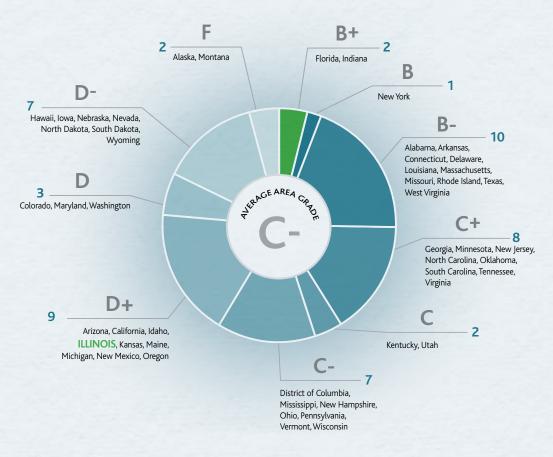
as a comprehensive set of tables and graphs that provide a national overview of the teacher policy landscape.

## **Area 1 Summary**



# How States are Faring on Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

State Area Grades



#### Topics Included In This Area

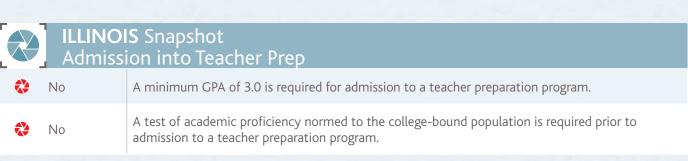
- Admission into Teacher Preparation
- Elementary Teacher Preparation
- Middle School Teacher Preparation
- Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

## Admission into Teacher Prep

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





ILLINOIS Admission into Teacher Prep Characteristics			
Test Requirement	Passage of Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) Test of Academic Proficiency required prior to student teaching		
GPA Requirement	Not required		

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ADMISSION INTO TEACHER PREP POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

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

Illinois should require candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, mathematics and writing prior to program admission. Alternatively, the state could require a minimum grade point average to establish that candidates have a strong academic history.

- Require preparation programs to use a common test normed to the general college-bound population.
  - This would allow for the selection of applicants in the top half of their class, as well as facilitate program comparison.
- Consider requiring candidates to pass subject-matter tests as a condition of admission into teacher programs.

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

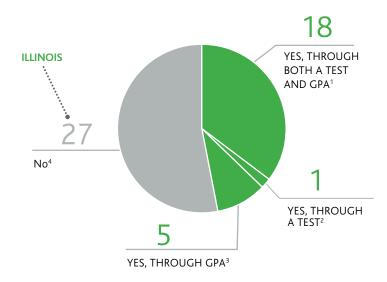
Other admission figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

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

For more information about ILLINOIS'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: Alabama<sup>5</sup>, Arkansas<sup>5</sup>, Delaware<sup>6</sup>, District of Columbia<sup>5</sup>, Indiana<sup>5</sup>, Louisiana<sup>5</sup>, Michigan<sup>5</sup>, New Jersey<sup>7</sup>, New York<sup>3</sup>, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Oklahoma<sup>5</sup>, Oregon<sup>5</sup>, Rhode Island, South Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Tennessee<sup>5</sup>, Utah<sup>6</sup>, Virginia<sup>5</sup>, West Virginia
- 2. Strong Practice: Texas
- 3. Strong Practice: Georgia, Hawaii<sup>8</sup>, Mississippi, Montana, Pennsylvania<sup>9</sup>
- 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.
- 8. 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
ILLINOIS and other states'
elementary teacher preparation
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations and state
responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

# **Elementary Teacher Preparation**

ILLINOIS 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.	
<ul> <li>Fully meets → Nearly meets → Partially meets → Meets only a small part → Does not meet N/A Not Appli</li> <li>Progress increased since 2013 → Lost ground since 2013 → Bar raised for this goal</li> </ul>	cable

	ILLINOI Elemen	I <b>S</b> Snapshot tary Teacher Preparation
*	No	Content test required for elementary teachers in each of the four core subjects.
	No	An adequate science of reading test is required.
<b>*</b>	Somewhat	Teacher preparation and licensure requirements for elementary teachers include the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards.
	No	Elementary teachers must have an academic content specialization.
*	No	Teachers who teach elementary grades on an early childhood license are held to appropriate content and early reading requirements.

ILLINOIS Elementary Teacher Preparation Characteristics			
Elementary Licenses	1-6; Birth to grade 3		
Content Tests	Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) Elementary/Middle Grades assessment (1-6); not required Birth to grade 3		
Science of Reading Requirements  No test required, but science of reading is included in teacher prep stan-			
Academic Specialization	Not required		
Instructional Shifts Associated with College-and Career- Readiness Standards	Complex informational text: Partially addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Not addressed (1-6); Partially addressed (Birth to grade 3) Struggling readers: Fully addressed (1-6); Not addressed (Birth to grade 3)		

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

Require all elementary teacher

candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure sufficient content knowledge of all subjects including reading/language arts, math, science and social studies.

Illinois should require a rigorous content test with separate, meaningful passing scores for each core academic area to assure elementary teachers have adequate knowledge in each subject area they are licensed to teach.

#### 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 ILLINOIS's elementary teacher prep policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED**

Require teacher candidates to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.

Illinois should require a rigorous reading assessment tool to ensure that its early childhood and elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared in all five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

■ 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.

Illinois 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.

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, Illinois 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.

Support struggling readers.

Illinois should articulate requirements ensuring that all teachers licensed to teach at the elementary level are prepared to identify and support students who are struggling.

#### **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.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED**

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

In addition to enhancing content knowledge, this requirement would ensure that prospective teachers in Illinois take higher-level academic coursework.

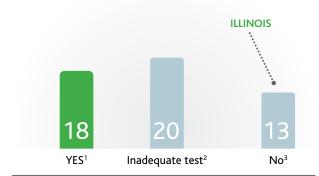
#### Figure 2

- 1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.
- 2. Massachusetts and North Carolina require a general curriculum test that does not report scores for each elementary subject. A separate score is reported for math.
- 3. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass a content test in Ohio.
- 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 2	<i>₩</i>	Elementary content fees	Elementary content	<i>z</i> /
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Figure 3

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

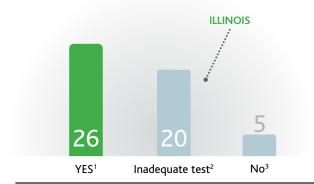


- Strong Practice: Alabama<sup>4</sup>, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee<sup>6</sup>, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District 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		18X	12 / 12 / NO / NO
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Wisconsin	Washington			
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	Wisconsin			
	Wyoming			

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, Tennessee<sup>4</sup>, Washington, Wisconsin
- 3. Alaska<sup>5</sup>, Hawaii, Iowa, Montana, Ohio<sup>6</sup>
- 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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Figure 6	* *	
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California <sup>1</sup> Colorado		
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Hawaii		
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Kansas		
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Maine		
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	7	13

For more information about **JLLINOIS** 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**

#### **ILLINOIS** 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



# ILLINOIS Snapshot Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

ILLINOIS Middle	ILLINOIS Middle School Teacher Preparation Characteristics				
Middle School Licenses	5-8; to earn this candidate must already have a K-9, 9-12, or special education K-12 license				
Content Tests	A middle level core content test required if a test is available. It is not clear that this will result in teachers passing a test in each licensed subject.				
Academic Requirements	Content area minor required				
Instructional Shifts Associated with College-and Career- Readiness Standards	Complex informational text: Fully addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Fully addressed Struggling readers: Fully addressed				

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

Require content testing in all core areas.

Illinois should require subject-matter testing for all middle school teacher candidates in every core academic area they intend to teach as a condition of initial licensure. To ensure meaningful middle school content tests, the state should set its passing scores to reflect high levels of performance. It appears that the state is moving towards requiring content testing for every core subject, however, draft test frameworks were not available for review.

#### **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 ILLINOIS's middle school teacher prep policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see

http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 7	n K-8 LICENSE N.C.	K-8 license of free for	Suoo <sub>o</sub>
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elementary preparation?	Ę	cers onta	/ .ev
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<sup>1.</sup> Offers 1-8 license.

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

Figure 8			on Rubje	ïes.
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West Virginia				
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Wyoming				
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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.

Are states ensuring that new	USCENEORY	MCORPORATMELTER SKILLSINTO	SUPORT.
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and career-readiness standards	? 5 /	€ 8	\ \s\ 24
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# Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

ILLINOIS 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.	•
<ul> <li>Fully meets</li></ul>	

	ILLINO Second	I <b>S</b> Snapshot ary Teacher Preparation
*		Secondary teachers must pass a content test to teach any single core subject.
**	No	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.
*	No	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.

ILLINOIS Secondary Teacher Preparation Characteristics		
Secondary Licenses	6-12	
Content Tests	Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) single-subject content test required for initial licensure	
General Science License and Testing Requirements	Broad field science requires 32 credit hours in one science area and content test in that area; teachers with broad field license can teach any science course other than AP or honors classes	
General Social Studies License and Testing Requirements	Broad field social studies requires 32 credit hours in one subject area and content test in that area; teachers with broad field license can teach any social studies course but not AP or honors classes	
Endorsement Requirements	Major or minor OR 12 semester hours of coursework and content test required to add science and social studies endorsements; all other areas require content tests	
Instructional Shifts Associated with College-and Career- Readiness Standards	Complex informational text: Not addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Not addressed Struggling readers: Not addressed	

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE SECONDARY TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

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

By allowing general social studies and general science certifications—and only requiring general knowledge exams for each—Illinois is not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge.

■ Require subject-matter testing when adding subject-area endorsements.

Illinois should require passing scores on subject-specific content tests, regardless of other coursework or degree requirements, for teachers who are licensed in core secondary subjects and wish to add another subject area to their licenses.

#### 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 Illinois's testing framework for its secondary English language arts assessment mentions informational texts, these are listed as examples rather than actual requirements. The state should expand either its testing framework or standards to specifically require knowledge of informational texts and the ability 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, Illinois's teacher standards or testing frameworks should also be expanded to include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.

Support struggling readers.

Illinois should articulate more specific 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.

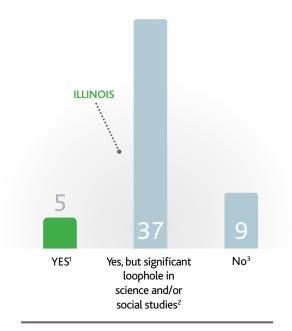
Arkansas also ensures that secondary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students. The state's competencies specify that secondary teacher candidates must have the ability to not only build content knowledge and vocabulary through 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 ILLINOIS'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<sup>4</sup>
- 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 Carolina<sup>5</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 3. Alaska<sup>6</sup>, Arizona<sup>7</sup>, 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 STRUCTS
are prepared for the	á		12 / K
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# Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

ILLINOIS 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	•
<ul> <li>Fully meets → Nearly meets → Partially meets → Meets only a small part → Does not meet</li> <li>Progress increased since 2013 → Lost ground since 2013</li> </ul>	

	ILLINOIS Snapshot Special Education Teacher Preparation				
*	No	Only discrete elementary and secondary special education licenses are offered.			
	Somewhat	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.			
*	No	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.			

ILLINOIS Special Education Teacher Preparation Characteristics		
Special Education License(s)	PreK-12; Birth to grade 3	
Content Tests	Birth to grade 3: no content test required PreK-12: ILTS Special Education General Curriculum test (content test with composite score)	
Science of Reading Test	Not required	
Instructional Shifts Associated with College-and Career- Readiness Standards  Complex informational text: Not addressed Incorporating literacy into core subjects: Not addressed Struggling readers: Fully addressed		

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

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 Illinois 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 a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.

Illinois should requiring a rigorous content test that reports separate, meaningful passing scores for each content area to ensure teachers possess requisite content knowledge in each subject area.

## 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 career-readiness 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, Illinois's current policy of only requiring a general content test geared to special education teachers is problematic and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards.
- Require all special education teacher candidates who teach the elementary grades to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
  - Illinois should require a rigorous reading assessment tool to ensure that special education teacher candidates are adequately prepared in all five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.
- Ensure that new special education teachers are prepared to incorporate informational text of increasing complexity into classroom instruction.

  Either through testing frameworks or teacher standards, Illinois should specifically address the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex informational texts and careful reading of

informational and literary texts associated with the state's college- and career-readi-

 Ensure that new special education teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.

ness standards for students.

Illinois should also include specific requirements regarding literacy skills and using text as a means 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 ILLINOIS's special education teacher prep policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

... Intip.//inciq.org/staterolicyDashboah

Figure 12  Do states distinguish between elementary and secondary special education teachers?  Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho ILLINOIS Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Newada 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	Figure 12	-		ication (s
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#### 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	ry Subject-Matter Test			
Required for an elementary special education license	Alabama, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri¹, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania², Rhode Island, West Virginia³, Wisconsin			
Required for a K-12 special education license	Colorado, Idaho, ILLINOIS, North Carolina <sup>4</sup>			
Secondary Subject-Matter Test(s)				
Tests in all core subjects required for secondary special education license	Missouri <sup>1</sup> , New York <sup>5</sup> , Wisconsin <sup>6</sup>			
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 d	18 / 84 C	¥ / Š
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Louisiana Maine			
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Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			

#### For more information about

LLINOIS and other states' assessing professional knowledge policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see

http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

# Assessing Professional Knowledge





Yes

All new teachers must pass a pedagogy test.

# Pedagogy Test Assessment of Professional Teaching and the edTPA Type of Test Assessment of Professional Teaching: multiple choice; edTPA: performance assessment Teachers Included All new teachers

#### RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ASSESSING PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

 Ensure that performance assessments provide a meaningful measure of new teachers' knowledge and skills.

Since additional research is needed to determine how the Teacher Performance Assessment compares to other teacher tests as well as whether the test's scores are predictive of student achievement, Illinois should carefully monitor and collect data about the validity of the edTPA.

#### **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.

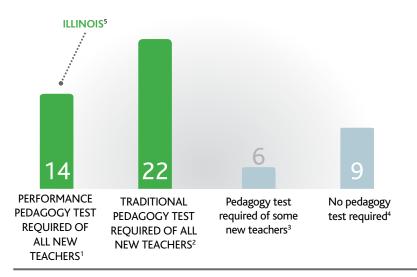
## SUMMARY OF ASSESSING PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE FIGURES

Figure 15 Pedagogy tests

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

Figure 15

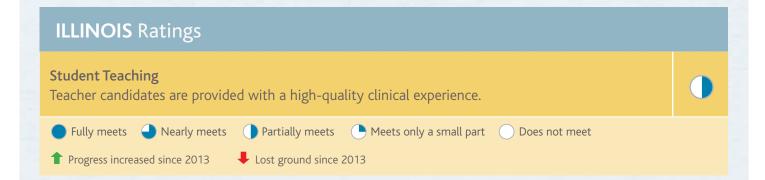
Do states measure new teachers' knowledge of teaching and learning?

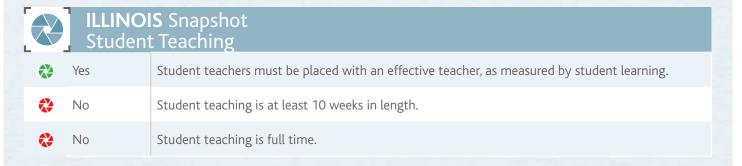


- 1. Strong Practice: California, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois<sup>5</sup>, Iowa<sup>6</sup>, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Tennessee<sup>6</sup>, Washington, Wisconsin
- 2. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina<sup>7</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia
- 3. Connecticut, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Utah<sup>8</sup>
- 4. Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming
- 5. All new teachers must also pass a traditional pedagogy test.
- $\ensuremath{\mathsf{6}}.\ensuremath{\mathsf{Teachers}}$  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
ILLINOIS and other states' student
teaching policies, including full
harrative analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard





ILLINOIS Student	Teaching Characteristics
Duration of Student Teaching	No specific requirements
Selection of Cooperating Teachers Connected to Effectiveness	Cooperating teachers must have received a proficient rating or above on their most recent evaluation
Other Criteria for Selection of Cooperating Teachers	Must be licensed to teach in the area the student teacher is seeking licensure and have at least 3 years of experience

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT TEACHING POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

Require teacher candidates to spend at least 10 weeks student teaching.
Illinois should require a full-time, summative clinical experience for all prospective teachers; this ensures both adequate classroom experience and exposure to a

variety of ancillary professional activities.

 Explicitly require that student teaching be completed locally, thus prohibiting candidates from completing this requirement abroad.

Outsourcing arrangements for student teaching makes it impossible to ensure the selection of the best cooperating teacher and adequate supervision of the student teacher and may prevent training of the teacher on relevant state instructional frameworks.

#### **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 ILLINOIS's student teaching policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see

http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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Figure 16	TEACHER	STUDENT TEACHING
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California		
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia		
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Louisiana		
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Michigan		
Minnesota		
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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		
-	13	34

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

# Teacher Prep Program Accountability

## **ILLINOIS** Ratings

#### **Program Accountability**

The approval process for teacher preparation programs holds programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.



Fig. 11. Commercial and a	
 Fully meets	
,	



Nearly meets



Meets only a small part



↑ Progress increased since 2013

Lost ground since 2013



# **ILLINOIS** Snapshot Teacher Prep Program Accountability

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

ILLINOIS Teacher Prep Program Accountability Characteristics				
Use of Student Achievement Data	Performance evaluation data of program completer required, beginning in 2018			
Other Data Collected	None			
Performance Standards for Data Collected	None			
Program Report Cards	Annual, publicly accessible reports are required data have been updated since 2008-2009			
Role of National Accreditation	State maintains authority over teacher preparation program approval			

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TEACHER PREP PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

- Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance.
  - Illinois's accountability system should include other objective measures in addition to student growth that show how well programs are preparing teachers for the classroom.
- Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.

  Illinois should establish precise minimum standards for teacher preparation 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.

Illinois 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.

# 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**

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

Illinois should ensure that it is the state that considers the evidence of program performance and makes the decision about whether programs should continue to be authorized to prepare teachers.

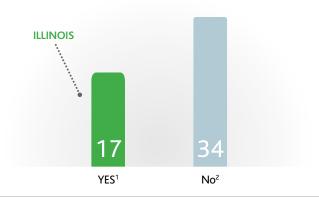
#### **Examples of Best Practice**

**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 ILLINOIS's teacher prep program accountability policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 18	OBJECTIVE PROCESSAN.	FOR PERFORMANCES	$\begin{array}{c c} D_{A7A} & P_{UBUGY} \\ AVAUABLE OM \end{array}$
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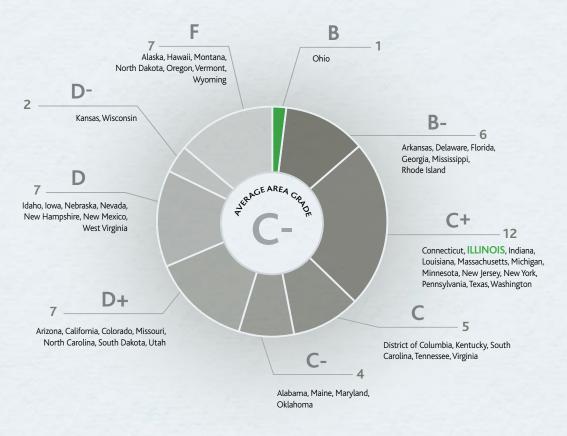
- $1. \ For \ traditional \ preparation \ programs \ only.$
- 2. Report cards only include limited data.
- 3. Report cards are at the institution rather than the program level.
- ${\it 4.\ Non-university\ based\ alternate\ route\ programs\ are\ not\ included}.$
- $5. \ For \ alternate \ route \ programs \ only.$
- 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

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

ILLINOIS Ratings	
Eligibility  Alternate route programs only admit candidates with strong academic records while also providing flexibility for nontraditional candidates.	<b>4</b>
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.	
<ul> <li>Fully meets → Nearly meets → Partially meets → Meets only a small part → Does not meet</li> <li>↑ Progress increased since 2013 → Lost ground since 2013</li> </ul>	

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

	e Routes to Certification Characteristics
Name of Route(s)	Alternative Provisional Educator endorsement
Academic Requirements for Entry	Minimum 3.0 GPA and a major in the subject area of the endorsement sought; major requirement can be waived by taking at least 32 semester hours of coursework while in the alternative preparation program.
Subject-Matter Requirements for Entry	Subject-matter exam
Coursework Requirements	Courses in instructional planning, instructional strategies, classroom management and the assessment of students and use of data to drive instruction; no specific requirements for amount of time or credits for coursework
Practice Teaching/Mentoring Requirements	During the first year of residency, candidates are assigned a mentor whose two most recent evaluation ratings are effective during first year of residency; during second year, assigned a coach who provides consultation as needed; no practice teaching opportunity required
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 ILLINOIS

Offer flexibility in fulfilling coursework requirements.

Illinois should allow any candidate who already has the requisite knowledge and skills to demonstrate such by passing a rigorous test.

 Establish coursework guidelines for alternate route preparation programs.

Illinois should ensure that coursework requirements are manageable and contribute to the immediate needs of new teachers, through exposure to topics like methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction.

# 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 ILLINOIS'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 Illinois requires all new teachers to work with a mentor, there are insufficient guidelines indicating that the mentoring program is structured for new teacher success. The state should consider strategies like practice teaching prior to teaching in the classroom or intensive mentoring with full classroom support in the first few weeks or months of school.

■ Offer opportunities to practice teach.

In addition to intensive induction support,

Illinois may want to consider providing

its candidates with a practice-teaching

opportunity prior to their placement in
the classroom.

## **Examples of Best Practice**

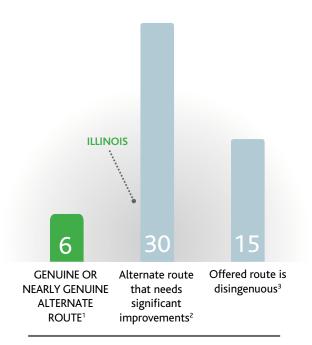
No state can be singled out for its overall alternate route policies. There are, however, states that offer best practices in individual alternate route policy areas.

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. Alaska<sup>4</sup>, 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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California							*	*	*
Colorado			*	*				*	*
Connecticut	*			*	*	*		*	*
Delaware				*	*	*	*		*
District of Columbia	*	*	*			*	*	*	*
Florida		*	*					*	*
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Idaho									
ILLINOIS	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>						*	*
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Iowa				*					
Kansas		*							
Kentucky							*	*	*
Louisiana		*	*					*	*
Maine		*	*						
Maryland					*	*	*	*	*
Massachusetts		*	*		*	*		*	*
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New Jersey	*	*		*	*		<b>*</b>	*	
New Mexico		*				*		*	
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J									

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

# Part-Time Teaching Licenses

## **ILLINOIS** Ratings

#### **Part-Time Teaching Licenses**

A license with minimal requirements is offered that allows content experts to teach part time.



Fully meets • Nearly meets

Progress increased since 2013

Lost ground since 2013



## **ILLINOIS** Snapshot Part-Time Teaching Licenses

Somewhat

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

# **ILLINOIS** Part-Time Teaching Licenses Characteristics

Name of License	Part-Time Provisional Career and Technical Educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations, which may be issued for teaching no more than two courses of study for grades 6 through 12
Subject-Matter Requirements	Minimum of 8,000 hours of work experience in the skill for which the applicant is seeking the endorsement
Other Requirements	Renewal requires candidates to pass a basic skills test and complete 20 hours of coursework

#### RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE PART-TIME TEACHING LICENSES POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

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

Illinois's Part-Time Provisional Career and Technical Educator endorsement only serves to allow those with career and technical education expertise to teach a limited grade span. The state should expand on this idea and offer a license that permits all 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

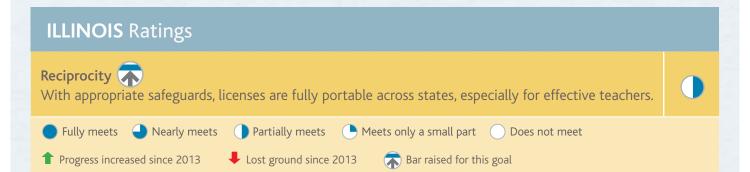
For more information about ILLINOIS's
part-time teaching licenses policies, including
detailed recommendations, full narrative
analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

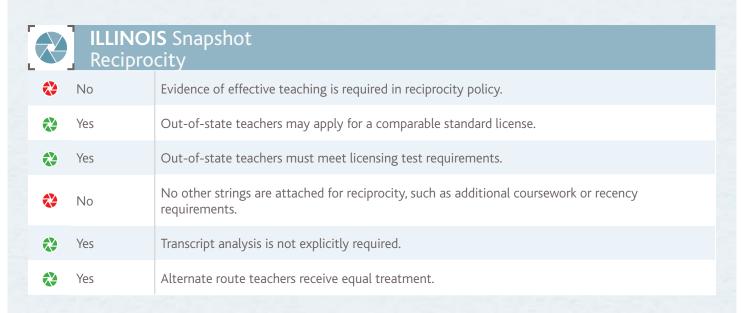
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# Licensure Reciprocity

For more information about
ULINOIS and other states' reciprocity
policies, including full narrative
analyses, recommendations and state
responses, see

http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard





ILLINOIS Reciprod	city Characteristics
License Available to Fully Certified Out-of-State Teachers	Professional; may apply for the Educator License with Stipulations, which allows two years to meet the requirements for the professional license.
Effectiveness Requirements	None
Testing Requirements	Must meet Illinois's testing standards.
Coursework and/or Recency Requirements	Coursework in cross-categorical special education methods, methods of reading and reading in the content area, and ESL/bilingual methods. Middle grades endorsements require 18 semester hours in the content area and two additional three-semester-hour courses in middle grades education.
Additional Alternate Route Requirements	None

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE RECIPROCITY POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

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

To facilitate the movement of effective teachers between states, Illinois 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.

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

Illinois should insert flexibility into its policy by allowing a test-out option for its coursework requirements.

#### **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 ILLINOIS's reciprocity policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

## **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.

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

<sup>2.</sup> Alaska allows up to three years to meet testing requirements.

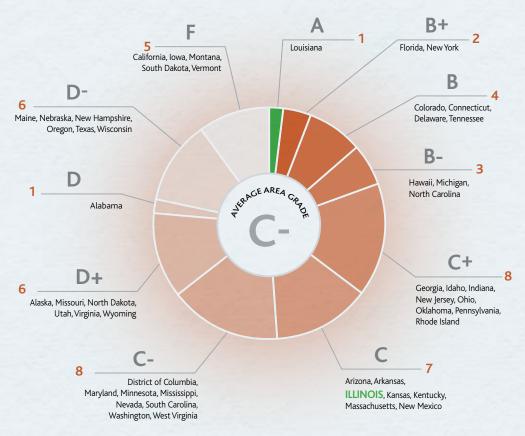
<sup>3.</sup> Allows up to three years to submit passing scores.

# **Area 3 Summary**



# How States are Faring in Identifying Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



## Topics Included In This Area

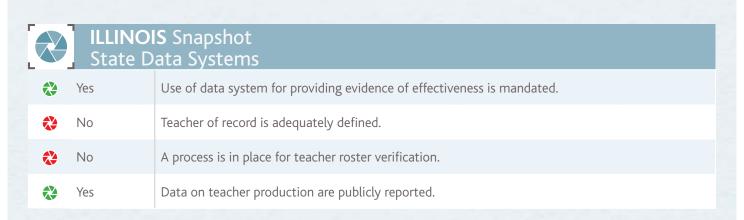
- State Data Systems
- Teacher Evaluation
- Tenure

- · Licensure Advancement
- · Equitable Distribution of Teachers

# State Data Systems

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

# ILLINOIS Ratings State Data Systems The state's data system contributes some of the evidence needed to assess teacher effectiveness. 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



ILLINOIS 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	None				
Other Characteristics	No roster verification or ability to connect multiple teachers to a single student				
Teacher Production Data/ Hiring Statistics	Publishes an annual report that includes the number of program completers and new certificates issued, broken down by type of certification, along with demand factors that include enrollment projections and workforce growth. An analysis of the over/under supply of teachers presents data on areas for which institutions may be producing too many or too few educators, the unfilled position data used to identify regional shortages, and district ratings of the supply of applicants for vacancies.				

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE STATE DATA SYSTEM POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

- Develop a definition of "teacher of record" that can be used to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.
   Illinois should articulate a definition of teacher of record that reflects instruction.
- Strengthen data link between teachers and students.
  - Illinois 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 ILLINOIS's state data system policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see
 http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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<sup>1.</sup> Lacks capacity to connect student identifiers to teacher identifiers and match records over time.

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

# **Teacher Evaluation**

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

	ILLINOIS Snapshot Teacher Evaluation					
*	Yes	Objective student data is the preponderant or a significant criterion of teacher evaluations.				
<b>*</b>	No	All teachers are evaluated annually.				
	Somewhat	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.				
<b>*</b>	No	Surveys (student, parent, peer) are explicitly required or allowed.				

ILLINOIS Teacher	Evaluation Characteristics
Use of Student Achievement Data in Evaluation	Significant criterion. Defined as 30 percent
Types of Required Student Data	Must include the use of at least one Type I (statewide or beyond) or Type II (districtwide) assessment and at least one Type III (aligned with course curriculum) assessment, along with a measurement model to assess student growth on these assessments. SLOs are one option districts can choose as a measurement model. Teachers without Type I or Type II assessments must use two Type III assessments. Examples include teacher-created assessments and student work samples or portfolios.
Other Required Measures	Observations
Number of Rating Categories	4
Frequency of Evaluations	Nonprobationary teachers: once every 2 years. Teachers with needs improvement or unsatisfactory ratings: once during the following school year. New teachers: annually.
Number of Observations	All new teachers and nonprobationary teachers who receive a rating of needs improvement or unsatisfactory must be observed 3 times per school year, 2 of which must be formal observations. All other nonprobationary teachers must be observed twice during the observation cycle.
System Structure	State provides criteria for district-designed evaluation systems
Surveys (Parent, Student, Peer)	Not mentioned
Evaluator Requirements	Training; certification

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TEACHER EVALUATION POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

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

Illinois's requirement falls short by failing to require that evidence of student learning be the most significant criterion. The state should strengthen its policy by ensuring a teacher is unable to receive an effective rating if found to be ineffective in the classroom.

For more information about ILLINOIS's teacher evaluation policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see

http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED**

Require annual formal evaluations for all teachers.

All teachers in Illinois should be evaluated annually, as a means to reward good teachers, help average teachers improve and hold weak teachers accountable for poor performance.

 Base evaluations on multiple observations.

To guarantee that annual evaluations are based on an adequate collection of information, Illinois should require multiple observations for all teachers.

 Ensure that classroom observations specifically focus on and document the effectiveness of instruction.

Illinois should ensure that the primary component of a classroom observation be quality of instruction, as measured by student time on task, student grasp or mastery of the lesson objective and efficient use of class time.

### **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 senificant con 80 met.	Requires that student	rithout explicit criterion Requires some of evidence	Student achieven
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<sup>60 :</sup> NCTO STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2015 | TEACHER EVALUATION | ILLINOIS

 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.

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# **Tenure**

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





ILLINOIS Tenure Characteristics					
Consideration of Teacher Effectiveness	Must receive 4 consecutive overall evaluation ratings of at least proficient in the last term (school year) and at least proficient in either the second or third term. If at the end of 4 years, the teacher does not qualify for nonprobationary status, then he/she is dismissed. May also qualify for accelerated contractual continued service with 3 consecutive terms in which the teacher receives overall evaluation ratings of excellent.				
Length of Probationary Period	4 years				

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TENURE POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

 Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.

Illinois should make evidence of effectiveness, rather than number of years in the classroom, the most significant factor when determining this leap in professional standing.

Ensure that the probationary period is adequate.

Illinois should make certain that its probationary period allows sufficient time to collect data that adequately reflect teacher performance.

### **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 ILLINOIS's tenure policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 26	<i>M</i> <sub>2</sub>	. <sub>18</sub>	pa /	_ /
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- 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.

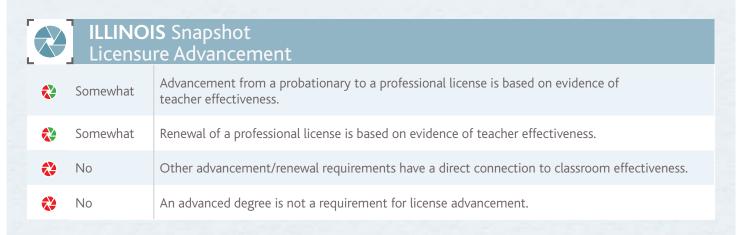
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- 1. Florida only awards annual contracts.
- 2. Idaho limits teacher contract terms to one year.
- 3. Kansas has eliminated due process rights associated with tenure.
- 4. North Carolina teachers can be awarded a two- or four-year contract if they 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
JLLINOIS and other states' licensure
Advancement policies, including full
harrative analyses, recommendations
and state responses, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

# 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



ILLINOIS Licensure Advancement Characteristics					
Performance Requirements to Advance from a Probationary to Professional License	Certificate may be suspended or revoked for incompetency, defined as an unsatisfactory rating on a performance evaluation for 2 or more school terms within a period of 7.				
Other Requirements for Advancement	Must complete 120 clock hours of professional development.				
Initial Certification Period	5 years				
Performance Requirements to Renew a Professional License	Certificate may be suspended or revoked for incompetency, defined as an unsatisfactory rating on a performance evaluation for 2 or more school terms within a period of 7.				
Other Requirements for Renewal	Must complete 120 clock hours of professional development.				
Renewal Period	5 years				

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE LICENSURE ADVANCEMENT POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

- Require evidence of effectiveness as a part of teacher licensing policy.
  Illinois should also incorporate performance reviews into its license renewal policy.
- Discontinue license requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

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

### **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 ILLINOIS's licensure advancement policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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Wyoming				

Georgia does not require evidence of effectiveness for each year of renewal period.

<sup>2.</sup> Illinois allows revocation of licenses based on ineffectiveness.

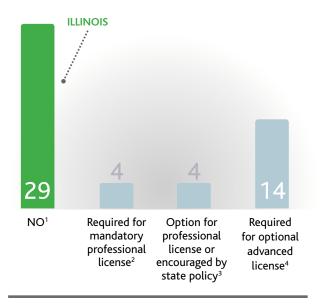
<sup>3.</sup> Uses objective evidence for advancement, not renewal.

<sup>4.</sup> An optional license requires evidence of effectiveness.

<sup>5.</sup> 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 ILLINOIS and other states' equitable 💪 🖫 distribution of teachers policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

## **ILLINOIS** 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

Lost ground since 2013



# ILLINOIS Snapshot Equitable Distribution of Teachers

*	Yes	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.
*	No	School-level data on percentage of highly qualified teachers are reported.
	No	School-level data on percentage of teachers with emergency credentials are reported.

## **ILLINOIS** Equitable Distribution of Teachers Characteristics

· ·	
Public Reporting of Teacher Effectiveness Data	Provides school report cards that contain data regarding the percentage of teachers rated proficient or excellent by the evaluation system.
Other Public Reporting Related to Teacher Distribution	Reports data on teacher absenteeism and turnover at each school.

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF TEACHERS POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

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

#### **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

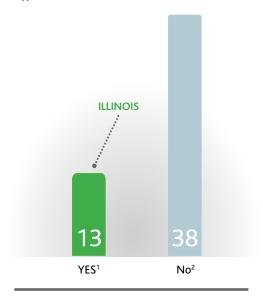
Data reporting requirements (p. 99)

For more information about ILLINOIS'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?



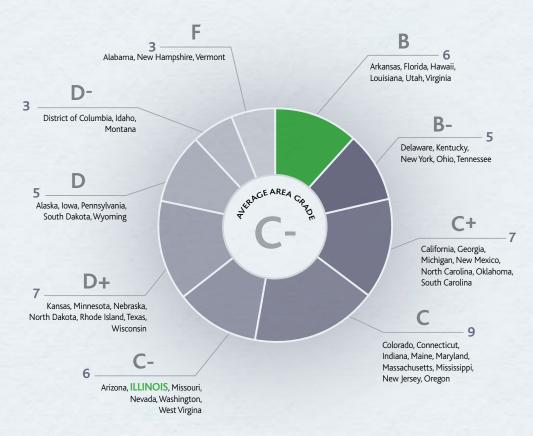
- Strong Practice: Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island<sup>3</sup>, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah<sup>3</sup>, 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 **ILLINOIS** and other states' new teacher induction policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

## **ILLINOIS** 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

Lost ground since 2013



# ILLINOIS Snapshot New Teacher Induction

*	Yes	All new teachers receive mentoring.
*	Yes	Mentoring is of sufficient frequency and duration.
*	Yes	Mentors are carefully selected.
*	Yes	Induction programs are evaluated.
*	Yes	Induction programs include a variety of effective strategies.

### **ILLINOIS** New Teacher Induction Characteristics

Induction Program	All districts must develop induction and mentoring programs
Requirements for Mentor/ New Teacher Contact	40 hours of contact between mentors and teachers per year, with 30 of those hours in face-to-face meetings
Selection Criteria for Mentors	3 years teaching experience and ratings of either excellent or proficient on the two most recent performance evaluations
Other Mentor Requirements	Not specified
Required Induction Strategies Other than Mentoring	Release time and reduced course loads

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE NEW TEACHER INDUCTION POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

Prioritize funding for induction program.

Illinois is commended for delineating strong policy to support new teachers. However, the code indicates that funding may not always be available for this program. NCTQ encourages the state to prioritize funding for its induction program.

#### **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

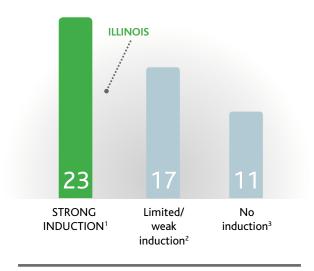
Other new teacher induction figures available in the *Yearbook* National Summary at http://www.nctq.org/2015NationalYearbook

Elements of induction (p. 104)

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

## Professional Development

## **ILLINOIS** 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





# ILLINOIS Snapshot Professional Development

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

## **ILLINOIS** Professional Development Characteristics

Connection Between Evaluation and Professional Development	Only required for teachers with needs improvement or unsatisfactory evaluations; must be aligned with findings from teacher evaluations for these teachers.
Evaluation Feedback	Copies are provided, with specification of strengths and weaknesses, and supporting reasons; feedback in writing after each observation.
Improvement Plan	Teachers rated unsatisfactory are placed on 90-day remediation plans.

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

 Ensure that professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.

Illinois should ensure that districts utilize teacher evaluation results in determining professional development needs and activities for all teachers not just those rated needs improvement or unsatisfactory.

 Ensure that teachers receiving less than effective ratings are placed on a professional improvement plan.

Illinois should strengthen its policy and require an improvement plan for any teacher whose performance is in need of improvement, not just those in the lowest performance category.

### **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 ILLINOIS's professional development policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

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Figure 32		)RMS	411 / XS / 411
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West Virginia			
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Wyoming			
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	38	31	35

Does not require improvement plans for all less-than-effective teachers; just those in the lowest rating category.

<sup>2.</sup> South Dakota requires improvement plans only for teachers rated unsatisfactory who have been teaching for four years or more.

## Compensation

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

ILLINOIS 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	

	ILLINOI Compe	I <b>S</b> Snapshot nsation
*	Somewhat	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.

ILLINOIS Compen	sation Characteristics
Authority for Salary Schedule	Controlled by local districts, but state requires minimum salaries based on teachers' years of experience and earned advanced degrees
Performance Pay Initiatives	None
Role of Experience and Advanced Degrees in Salary Schedule	Minimum salaries based on experience and advanced degrees
Differential Pay for Shortage Subjects	None; loan forgiveness offered, up to \$25,000
Differential Pay for High-Need Schools	None; loan forgiveness offered, up to \$25,000
Pay for Prior Work Experience	None

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE COMPENSATION POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

■ Give districts flexibility to determine their own pay structure and scales.

While Illinois does not require local districts to adhere to a state-dictated schedule, it still mandates a minimum salary based on years of experience and earned advanced degree, thereby not giving full authority to districts.

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

While still leaving districts the flexibility to establish their own pay scales, Illinois 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.

#### **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**

- Support a performance pay plan that recognizes teachers for their effectiveness.
  - Illinois should ensure that performance pay structures thoughtfully measure class-room performance and connect student achievement to teacher effectiveness.
- Expand differential pay initiatives for teachers in high-need schools and shortage-subject areas.
  - Illinois should expand its loan repayment program to include those who are already part of the teaching pool, as a salary differential is an attractive incentive for every teacher, not just those with education debt.
- Encourage local districts to compensate new teachers with relevant prior work experience.
  - Illinois 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**

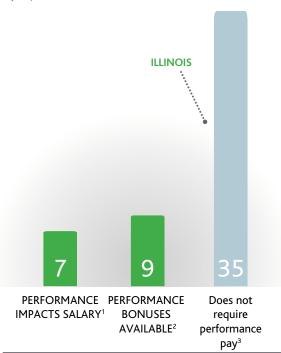
Florida allows local districts to develop their own salary schedules while preventing districts from prioritizing elements not associated with teacher effectiveness. Local salary schedules must ensure that the most effective teachers receive salary increases greater than the highest salary adjustment 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 ILLINOIS'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, Tennessee<sup>4</sup>
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona<sup>5</sup>, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Idaho<sup>6</sup>, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky<sup>7</sup>, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri<sup>6</sup>, Montana, Nebraska<sup>7</sup>, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon<sup>7</sup>, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia<sup>7</sup>, 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 effectiveness
- 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.

Figure 34		<i>y</i> ≥≥ /	' <sub>~</sub> /	Requires compensation
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Do states provide incentives to teach in high-need schools or shortage subject areas?  Alabama Alabama Alabama Alabama California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho ILLINOIS Indiana Iowa Iowa Iowa Iowa Iowa Iowa Iowa Iow	Figure 35		HIGH-NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT	/
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<sup>1.</sup> Iowa provides state assistance to supplement salaries of teachers in high-need schools.

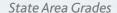
Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in shortage subject areas.

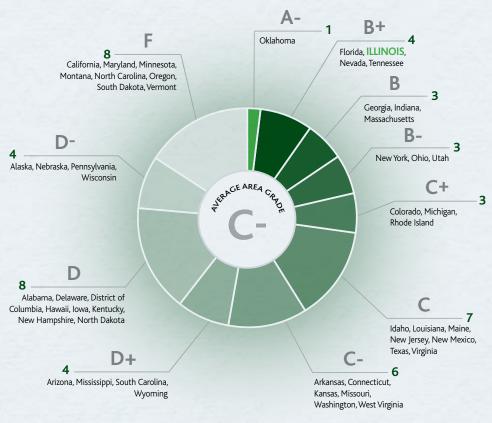
<sup>3.</sup> South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in highneed schools.

## **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**

Yes

matter tests.

For more information about

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



If emergency licenses are offered, teachers are given no longer than one year to pass all subject-

ILLINOIS Extende	ILLINOIS Extended Emergency License Characteristics				
Emergency License	Provisional license				
Minimum Requirements	Provisional license requires program completion except licensure tests				
Duration	1 year				
Renewal Requirements	Nonrenewable				

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE EXTENDED EMERGENCY LICENSE POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

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

While Illinois' policy offering its provisional license for one year only minimizes the risks brought about by having teachers in classrooms who lack 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 ILLINOIS'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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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 JLLINOIS and other states' dismissal 🚅 policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

## Dismissal for Poor Performance

## **ILLINOIS** 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
- Lost ground since 2013



## ILLINOIS Snapshot

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

## **ILLINOIS** Dismissal Characteristics

Dismissal for Ineffectiveness	For teachers placed on remediation plans for poor performance who receive a subsequent unsatisfactory performance rating within three years, "the school district may forego remediation and seek dismissal."
Due Process Rights of Teachers	There is an "optional alternative evaluative dismissal process" for teachers who have received an unsatisfactory performance evaluation and failed to complete a remediation with a rating of proficient or better.
Length of Appeals Process	Multiple opportunities to appeal: After notice, each party has two days to present evidence at a hearing. The hearing officer must issue "findings of fact and recommendation" within 30 days to the State Board of Education, which then issues a decision within 45 days. An additional appeal to the appellate court for judicial review is also permitted within 35 days.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE DISMISSAL POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

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

Illinois differentiates the due process rights between loss of employment and issues with far-reaching consequences that could permanently affect a teacher's right to practice through its new "optional alternative evaluative dismissal process." However, by making this dismissal process "optional" and an "alternative," districts have the potential to opt out of this more expedient process. Further, Illinois should ensure that the opportunity to appeal occurs only once and only at the district level.

#### **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 ILLINOIS's
dismissal policies, including detailed
recommendations, full narrative analysis
and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 37	FES THROUGH EVALUATION	/
Do states articulate that	Ŧ	8 C /
ineffectiveness is grounds	25	~ /
for dismissal?	77.75	? /
or distribute.	YES J VALUE	/ &
Alabama		/ <
Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
ILLINOIS		
Indiana		
lowa		
Kansas		1
Kentucky		
Louisiana Maine		
Maryland Massachusetts		
Michigan		
Minnesota		
Mississippi		
Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
Nevada		<b>2</b>
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico		
New York		
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio		
Oklahoma		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island South Carolina		
South Carolina South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		Ō
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		

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 **ILLINOIS** and other states' reductions 🦫 in force policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

## **ILLINOIS** 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





## **ILLINOIS** Snapshot Reductions in Force



Yes

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



Yes

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

### **ILLINOIS** Reductions in Force Characteristics

Use of Teacher Performance	In districts with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants, teachers are grouped according to evaluation ratings, with the lowest-rated teachers dismissed first and the highest-rated teachers dismissed last. In Chicago, teachers' qualifications, certifications, experience, performance ratings or evaluations, and any other factors relating to job performance must be considered.		
Use of Seniority	Can be considered among teachers with comparable performance ratings, in districts with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants		
Other Factors	Determined by districts		

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE REDUCTIONS IN FORCE POLICIES IN ILLINOIS

 Consider whether groupings sufficiently prioritize classroom performance.

When determining reductions in force, Illinois categorizes each teacher into one of four groups according to their evaluation ratings. The state may want to consider further dividing Grouping 2, which includes teachers who have received needs improvement or unsatisfactory on either of their previous two ratings. Laying off teachers with a single needs-improvement rating before teachers with more seniority, but perhaps with multiple unsatisfactory ratings, may run counter to the state's intentions.

#### **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 ILLINOIS's reductions in force policies, including detailed recommendations, full narrative analysis and state response, see
http://nctq.org/StatePolicyDashboard

Figure 38	5	SEWORTY CANNOT RE
Do states prevent districts	EMU	/ § 5
from basing layoffs solely	ANC ERE	724
on "last in, first out"?	XX 23 23 23 24 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	18.7
	PERFORMANCE MUST	SENIC TEO
Alabama		
Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
ILLINOIS		
Indiana		
Iowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		
Maine		
Maryland		
Massachusetts		
Michigan		
Minnesota		
Mississippi Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
Nevada		
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico		
New York		
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio		
Oklahoma		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	19	22
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NCTQ is available to work with individual states to improve teacher policies.

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