



STANDOUT STATE

## Florida

Credible data demonstrates the value of teacher prep

*Florida's steadfast push for transparency has helped it raise the bar for teacher quality.*

Florida's data systems illustrate how better data can benefit both the state and teacher preparation programs. When the state first began publishing pass rate data at the institution level, teacher preparation programs raised concerns that these pass rates were unfair because they attributed non-program test takers to their teacher prep programs. In Florida ([like in many other states](#)), anyone can take a licensure test, regardless of whether one is training to become a teacher. When people register for the test, they identify the institution that should receive their scores. In many cases, that institution is where the person is enrolled in teacher preparation, but in some cases that may be where the person received an undergraduate education at some prior point, or there may be some other reason for identifying that institution. In other words, a test takers' identification of an institution does not guarantee that person is enrolled in preparation there.

Rather than accepting this problem, Florida took several steps to get more accurate data. First, the Department worked with their contractor, Pearson, to create a customized add-on feature (Title II filter) to Results Analyzer which is part of the reporting Ed Portal to which all state approved institutions have secure and confidential access. This customized add-on applied a "Title II filter" to test taker data, using the list of candidates that preparation programs had "claimed" for Title II reporting purposes. This process provided pass rate data that distinguished between "program test takers" (those enrolled in a teacher prep program at each institution) and "non-program test takers" (those who took the licensure test but were not enrolled in teacher preparation). To further support this process, the SEA uses a contractor who reviews and vets all data. This effort is supported by a team within the state education agency dedicated to their K-12 and postsecondary data work.

By distinguishing pass rates for program test takers and non-program test takers, Florida has been able to clearly demonstrate the power of teacher preparation programs. On nearly all licensure tests, test takers enroll in teacher prep pass licensure tests at higher rates, providing compelling evidence that formal preparation adds value.