

2012 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Improving Teacher Preparation in **Rhode Island**

State Policies in Need of Attention

- Admission into Preparation Programs
- Elementary Teacher Preparation
- Secondary Teacher Preparation
- Special Education Teacher Preparation
- Student Teaching
- Teacher Preparation Program Accountability



Acknowledgments

STATES

State education agencies remain our most important partners in this effort, and their continued cooperation has helped to ensure the factual accuracy of the final product. Although this year's edition did not require the extensive review that the comprehensive editions require, we still wanted to make sure that we captured all relevant policy changes and that states' perspectives were represented. Every state formally received a draft of the policy updates we identified in July 2012 for comment and correction; states also received a final draft of their reports a month prior to release. All but one state responded to our inquiries. We thank the states for their ongoing willingness to engage in dialogue with us.

FUNDERS

The primary funders for the 2012 *Yearbook* were:

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- The Walton Family Foundation

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

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Thank you to the team at CPS Gumpert for their design of the 2012 *Yearbook*. Thanks also to Colleen Hale and Jeff Hale at EFA Solutions for the original *Yearbook* design and ongoing technical support.



National Council on Teacher Quality

Improving Teacher Preparation in Rhode Island

The 2012 *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* puts a spotlight on the critical issue of teacher preparation. The 2011 edition of the *Yearbook* provided a comprehensive review of all aspects of states' teacher policies, and although considerable progress was noted in areas related to teacher effectiveness, the same could not be said for teacher preparation. While many states have made advancements in teacher evaluation and tenure requirements, teacher preparation has yet to capture states' attention.

Good preparation does not guarantee that teachers will ultimately be effective, but there is much more that can be done to help ensure that new teachers are "classroom ready." This edition of the *Yearbook* offers states a roadmap of their teacher preparation policies, identifying priorities that need critical attention and also identifying low-hanging fruit, policy changes that states can implement in relatively short order.



Current Status of Rhode Island's Teacher Preparation Policy

Last year's *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* provided an in-depth analysis of each of the topics identified below. The 2012 score includes any policy changes identified in the last year. The symbol indicates a score increase from 2011.

Yearbook Goal	Topic	2012 Score
1-A	<i>Admission into Preparation Programs</i>	
1-B	<i>Elementary Teacher Preparation</i>	
1-C	<i>Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction</i>	
1-D	<i>Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics</i>	
1-E	<i>Middle School Teacher Preparation</i>	
1-F	<i>Secondary Teacher Preparation</i>	
1-G	<i>Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science</i>	
1-H	<i>Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies</i>	
1-I	<i>Special Education Teacher Preparation</i>	
1-J	<i>Assessing Professional Knowledge</i>	
1-K	<i>Student Teaching</i>	
1-L	<i>Teacher Preparation Program Accountability</i>	

DOES NOT MEET
 MEETS ONLY A SMALL PART
 PARTIALLY MEETS
 NEARLY MEETS
 FULLY MEETS

2012 Policy Update for Rhode Island

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

■ Elementary Teacher Preparation

Effective September 1, 2013, Rhode Island will require that all elementary teachers, as a condition of licensure, pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test, which reports subscores in each subject area, including mathematics. http://www.ride.ri.gov/Regents/Docs/Enclosures/2012/Encl7a_Certification_Redesign_New_Testing_Requirements.pdf

■ Middle School Teacher Preparation

All middle school teacher candidates must pass a content test. Those applying for a stand-alone middle-grades certification and those extending a secondary certificate must now meet secondary content test requirements. Those extending an elementary certificate must now meet middle grades content test requirements. In addition, Rhode Island no longer allows middle school teachers to teach on the elementary teaching certificate. <http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Certification/Certreqs.aspx>

■ Special Education Teacher Preparation

Effective January 1, 2015, special education teacher candidates must also hold a general education certification at a specific grade level to receive that corresponding special education certification. <http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/CertificationRedesign/DOCS/Certification%20Redesign%20-%20Special%20Education%20for%20posting.pdf>

■ Assessing Professional Knowledge

All teacher candidates must now pass a pedagogy test from the Praxis series. <http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/CertificationRedesign/DOCS/Certification%20Redesign%20Regulations%20-%20Promulgated%20Version.pdf>

■ Student Teaching

Candidates must complete a minimum of 60 hours of field experience prior to student teaching. <http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/CertificationRedesign/DOCS/Certification%20Redesign%20Regulations%20-%20Promulgated%20Version.pdf>

■ Alternate Route Eligibility

Beginning in 2015, new rules require that alternate route programs ensure that candidates meet eligibility requirements for their certificate area prior to entering an approved program, which includes having passed all subject matter testing requirements. In addition, the state no longer requires candidates applying to postbaccalaureate degree or nondegree programs to take the basic skills test if they have achieved a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 in an undergraduate or graduate program. *Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in Rhode Island 8.2.1 and 8.2.1.1*

Rhode Island Response to Policy Update

States were asked to review NCTQ's identified updates and also to comment on policy changes related to teacher preparation that have occurred in the last year, pending changes or teacher preparation in the state more generally. States were also asked to review NCTQ's analysis of teacher preparation authority (See Figure 20).

Rhode Island was helpful in providing NCTQ with additional information about policy changes related to teacher preparation. The state noted that its policy requiring basic skills testing was established in 2009, and there are exemptions for SAT scores and GPA for graduate-level programs. It will be revising expectations during the 2012-2013 school year.

In addition, Rhode Island noted that reading is included in the elementary multi-subject test, and that secondary math teachers will have to pass a content test as of September 2013. Further, previous regulations did not recognize a social studies preparation, and although new regulations are still based on a foundation of history, they have broadened the expectations to include social studies areas. A content test will be required.

The state also pointed out that because special education teacher candidates must now also hold a general education certification, content tests will be required in addition to specialized knowledge and skills in special education. The state noted that teacher preparation program accountability is a focus area for the 2012-2013 school year.

For its alternate route to certification, Rhode Island noted that candidates are participating in the state's new induction program as a coordinated approach with program support. The state added that while there have not been policy changes in alternative certification providers, it continues to see new partnerships and providers.

Rhode Island was also helpful in providing NCTQ with additional information about state authority for teacher preparation and licensing

COMING SOON

NCTQ Teacher Prep Review

Preparing teachers to be effective and successful in the classroom requires both the strong state policy framework described in the *Yearbook* and quality implementation by states' teacher preparation programs.

How are **Rhode Island's** programs doing? NCTQ will soon answer that question with our forthcoming review of the nation's higher education-based teacher preparation programs that produce 99 percent of traditionally-prepared teachers. The *Review* will find the programs that are doing the best job preparing tomorrow's educators, those that need to improve and those that need to be radically restructured.

The *Review* will be released in Spring 2013. Find out more at www.nctq.org/p/edschools.

For a sneak peek, see page 6.

Figure 1

Delivering well-prepared teachers

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

Teacher Preparation Policy Checklist for States

1.	Raise admission standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Require teacher candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission into teacher preparation programs. ✓ Require preparation programs to use a common test normed to the general college-bound population.
2.	Align teacher preparation with Common Core State Standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure that coursework and subject-matter testing for elementary teacher candidates are well aligned with standards. ✓ Ensure that teacher preparation programs prepare elementary teaching candidates in the science of reading instruction and require a rigorous assessment of reading instruction. ✓ Require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers.
3.	Improve clinical preparation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning. ✓ Require summative clinical experience for all prospective teachers that includes at least 10 weeks of full-time student teaching.
4.	Raise licensing standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Eliminate K-8 generalist licenses. ✓ Require subject-matter testing for middle school teacher candidates. ✓ Require subject-matter testing for secondary teacher candidates. ✓ Require middle school and secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a test of content knowledge that ensures sufficient knowledge of the subjects taught.
5.	Don't lower the bar for special education teachers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do away with K-12 special education teacher licenses. ✓ Require special education teachers to pass a subject-matter test for licensure that is no less rigorous than what is required of general education candidates.
6.	Hold teacher preparation programs accountable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collect data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs. ✓ Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance. ✓ Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data. ✓ Produce and publish an annual report card for each teacher preparation program.

Critical Issues for State Teacher Preparation Policy

Critical Attention: Admission into Teacher Preparation Programs



Rhode Island does not ensure that teacher preparation programs admit candidates with strong academic records.

The demands of K-12 classrooms today require teachers with strong academic backgrounds who can positively affect student learning. To ensure that such strong candidates enter classrooms, it is important to set rigorous standards for entry into the teacher pipeline. This begins with teacher preparation program admissions.

Looking to international examples, such top-performing countries as Finland and South Korea admit prospective teacher candidates from the top 10 percent of the college-going population. While a bar that high is a long way from average standards in the United States, it seems reasonable and appropriate that states should limit access to teacher preparation programs to those who are in the top half of the college-going population in terms of academic achievement.

Most states limit their academic screening to basic skills tests, which generally assess only middle school-level skills and which are generally only normed to the prospective teacher population.

At present, Rhode Island requires that approved undergraduate teacher preparation programs only accept teacher candidates who have passed a basic skills test (the Praxis I). Although the state sets the minimum score for this test, it is normed just to the prospective teacher population. Rhode Island allows candidates to substitute equivalent scores on the SAT or ACT for its basic skills testing requirement.

NEXT STEPS FOR RHODE ISLAND:

- **Require that programs use a common admissions test normed to the general college-bound population.**

Rhode Island should require programs to use an assessment that demonstrates that candidates are academically competitive with all peers, regardless of their intended profession. Requiring a common test normed to the general college population would allow for the selection of applicants in the top half of their class while also facilitating program comparison.

- **Consider requiring that candidates 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, Rhode Island might also want to consider requiring content testing prior to program admission as opposed to at the point of program completion. Program candidates are likely to have completed coursework that covers related test content in the prerequisite classes required for program admission. Thus, it would be sensible to have candidates take content tests while this knowledge is fresh rather than wait two years to fulfill the requirement, and candidates lacking sufficient expertise would be able to remedy deficits prior to entering formal preparation.

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Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, 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, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

1

Illinois

1

Texas

SNEAK PEEK: *Teacher Prep Review*

Are Rhode Island's undergraduate teacher preparation programs in the *Review* sufficiently selective?

80% are not sufficiently selective.

The *Review* will be released in Spring 2013.
Find out more at www.nctq.org/p/edschools.

1. New Hampshire is in the process of adopting a requirement that will make the test a condition of admission.

Figure 2

Do states appropriately test teacher candidates' academic proficiency?

	TEST NORMED TO COLLEGE-BOUND POPULATION PRIOR TO ADMISSION TO PREP PROGRAM	Test normed only to teacher candidates before admission to prep program	Test normed only to teacher candidates during or after completion of prep program	No test required
Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RHODE ISLAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	1	23	18	9

Critical Attention: Elementary Teacher Preparation



Rhode Island does not ensure that new elementary teachers are ready to teach to the Common Core Standards.

To be effective, elementary teacher candidates need liberal arts coursework relevant to the K-6 classroom, and they should also be required to pass a rigorous content test that ensures appropriate subject-matter knowledge.

The Common Core State Standards, adopted by nearly all states including Rhode Island, represent an effort to significantly raise expectations for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness. And Rhode Island, like all states, must ensure that its teachers are prepared to teach to these high standards.

Although a “standards-based” approach grants greater flexibility to teacher preparation programs regarding program design, it is difficult to monitor or enforce absent a rigorous test. Further, alignment of preparation program instruction with student learning standards should be augmented with a broader and deeper content perspective than what will actually be taught in the elementary classroom.

Although Rhode Island requires elementary teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II “Multiple Subjects” test, which reports subscores for all four core content areas, the state does not adequately test teacher candidates’ knowledge of the science of reading. Further, Rhode Island’s coursework requirements lack the specificity to guarantee relevancy to the elementary classroom.

NEXT STEPS FOR RHODE ISLAND:

■ Ensure that the new content test sufficiently measures knowledge in all subjects.

Rhode Island is on the right track with its requirement of a content test for elementary teacher candidates that reports subscores for all four core content areas. However, the state should monitor this new assessment to guarantee that it is appropriately aligned with the Common Core Standards and set the passing score for each subtest so that it is meaningful and reflects a high level of performance.

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

Rhode Island should require a rigorous reading assessment to ensure that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared in the science of reading instruction before entering the classroom. The assessment should clearly test knowledge and skills related to the science of reading, and if it is combined with an assessment that also tests general pedagogy or elementary content, it should report a subscore for the science of reading specifically.

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

Rhode Island should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish comprehensive coursework requirements for elementary teacher candidates that align with the Common Core Standards to ensure that candidates will complete coursework relevant to the common topics in elementary grades.

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Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, 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

6

Alabama, California, Connecticut, Indiana, Minnesota, New Hampshire

1

Massachusetts

An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours in the core subject areas of English, science, social studies and fine arts. Presently, Rhode Island does not specify any coursework requirements for general education or elementary teacher candidates, and the national standards for teachers adopted by the state fall far short of the mark by offering no mention of significant subject areas.

■ **Require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers.**

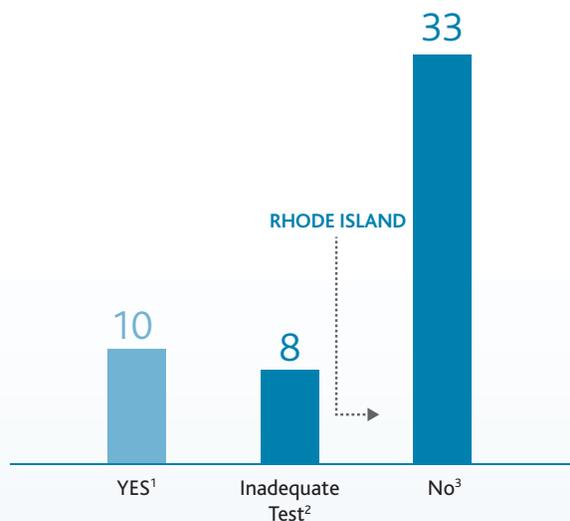
Although national standards for teachers adopted by Rhode Island require some knowledge in key areas of mathematics, the state should require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers. This includes specific coursework in foundations, algebra and geometry, with some statistics.

■ **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 Rhode Island take higher-level academic coursework. This requirement also provides an important safeguard in the event that candidates are unable to successfully complete clinical practice requirements. With an academic concentration (or better still a major or minor), candidates who are not ready for the classroom and do not pass student teaching can still be on track to complete a degree.

Figure 3

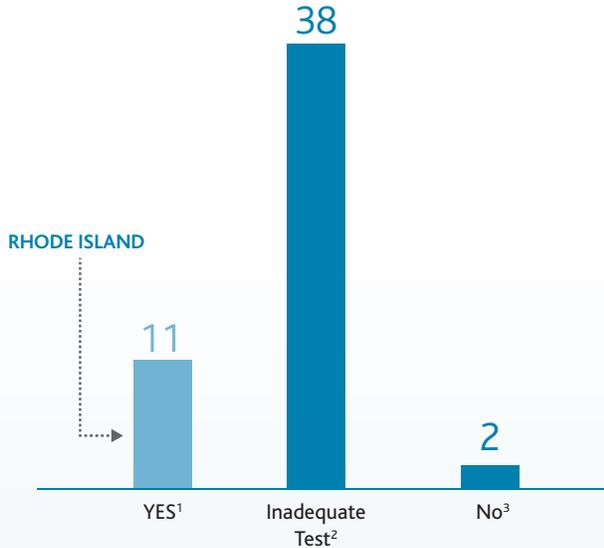
Do states measure new teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



1. **Strong Practice:** Alabama⁴, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota⁵, New Hampshire, New Mexico⁶, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin
2. California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas
3. Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina⁷, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
4. Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum.
5. Based on the limited information available about the test on Minnesota's website.
6. Test is under development and not yet available for review.
7. North Carolina has adopted a task force recommendation to require the Foundations of Reading test. Rules have yet to be promulgated, including whether the test will be required for initial licensure. Current rules require such tests for professional licensure only.

Figure 4

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont

2. Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York⁴, North Carolina⁵, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

3. Montana, Nebraska

4. New York is in the process of developing a stand-alone math test.

5. North Carolina has adopted a task force recommendation to require the Massachusetts Test of General Curriculum, including the math subtest. Rules have yet to be promulgated, including whether the test will be required for initial licensure. Current rules require such tests for professional licensure only.

1. Testing is not required for initial licensure.
2. The required test is a questionable assessment of content knowledge, instead emphasizing methods and instructional strategies.
3. Massachusetts requires a general curriculum test that does not report scores for each elementary subject. A separate score is reported for math (see Figure 4).
4. North Carolina has adopted a task force recommendation to require the Massachusetts Test of General Curriculum. Rules have yet to be promulgated, including whether the test will be required for initial licensure. Current rules require such tests for professional licensure only.
5. Oregon allows "alternative assessment" for candidates who fail twice.

Figure 5

Do states ensure that elementary teachers know core content?

	ELEMENTARY CONTENT TEST WITH SEPARATE SCORE FOR EACH SUBJECT	Elementary content test with separate passing score for some subjects	Elementary content test with composite score	No test required
Alabama	■	□	□	□
Alaska	□	□	□	■ ¹
Arizona	□	□	■	□
Arkansas	□	□	■	□
California	□	■	□	□
Colorado	□	□	■	□
Connecticut	■	□	□	□
Delaware	□	□	■	□
District of Columbia	□	□	■	□
Florida	□	□	■	□
Georgia	□	■	□	□
Hawaii	□	□	■	□
Idaho	□	□	■	□
Illinois	□	□	■	□
Indiana	■	□	□	□
Iowa	□	□	■	□
Kansas	□	□	■	□
Kentucky	■	□	□	□
Louisiana	□	□	■	□
Maine	□	□	■	□
Maryland	□	□	■ ²	□
Massachusetts	□	□	■ ³	□
Michigan	□	■	□	□
Minnesota	□	■	□	□
Mississippi	□	□	■	□
Missouri	□	□	■	□
Montana	□	□	□	■
Nebraska	□	□	□	■
Nevada	□	□	■ ²	□
New Hampshire	■	□	□	□
New Jersey	■	□	□	□
New Mexico	□	□	■	□
New York	□	■	□	□
North Carolina	□	□	□	■ ⁴
North Dakota	□	□	■	□
Ohio	□	□	■	□
Oklahoma	□	■	□	□
Oregon	□	■ ⁵	□	□
Pennsylvania	□	■	□	□
RHODE ISLAND	■	□	□	□
South Carolina	□	□	■ ²	□
South Dakota	□	□	■	□
Tennessee	□	□	■	□
Texas	□	□	■	□
Utah	■	□	□	□
Vermont	■	□	□	□
Virginia	□	□	■	□
Washington	□	■	□	□
West Virginia	□	□	■	□
Wisconsin	□	□	■	□
Wyoming	□	□	■	□
	9	9	29	4

Figure 6

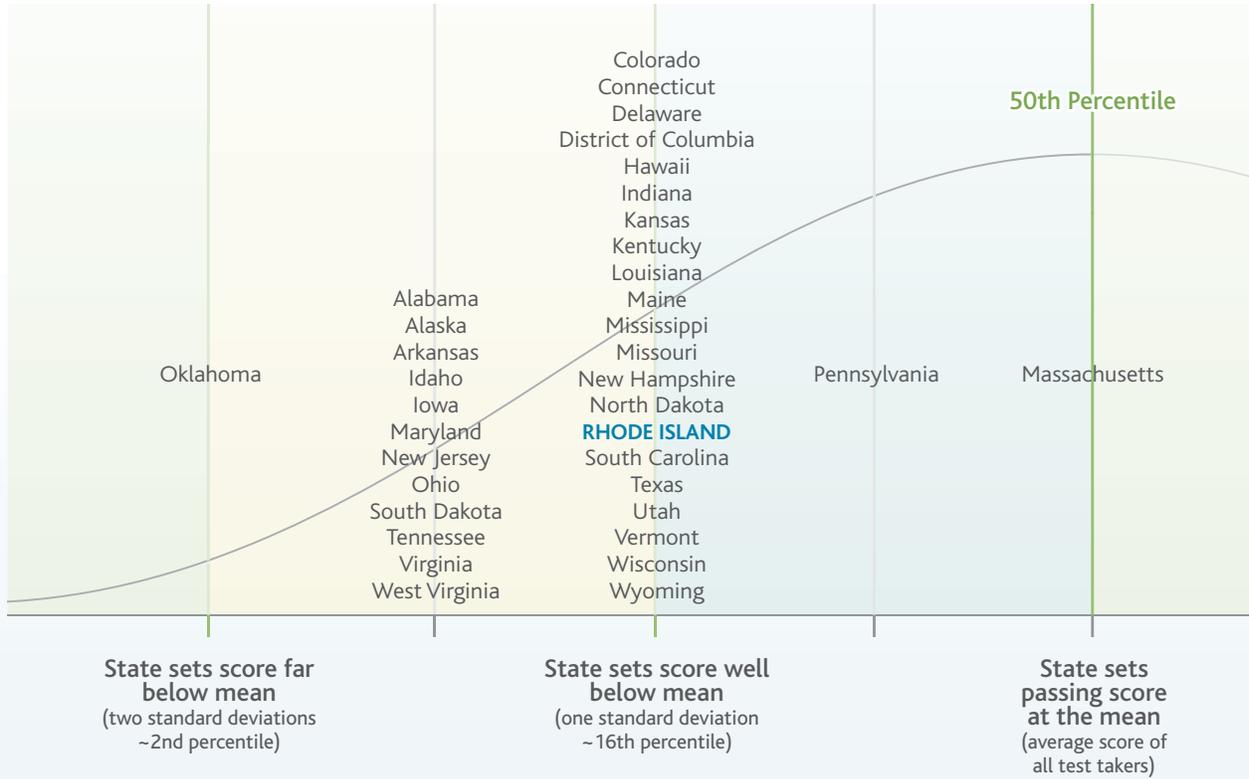
Do states expect elementary teachers to have in-depth knowledge of core content?

	ENGLISH				SCIENCE				SOCIAL STUDIES						FINE ARTS			
	American Literature	World/British Literature	Writing/Grammar/Composition	Children's Literature	Chemistry	Physics	General Physical Science	Earth Science	Biology/Life Science	American History I	American History II	American Government	World History (Ancient)	World History (Modern)	World History (Non-Western)	Geography	Art History	Music
Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■					
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	
Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■					
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■								
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■					
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■					
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	■	■	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	■	■	
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■					
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	
Illinois	■	■	★	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	
Indiana	■	■	★	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	■	■	★	★	★	■	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■					
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	■	■	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	■	■	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■				
Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■					
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	★
New York	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■					
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	■	■	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	
Pennsylvania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
RHODE ISLAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■					
South Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■					
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■					
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	■	■	★	■	■	■	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
Texas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■				
Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■					
Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	■	■	■	■	■	■	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■				

■ Subject mentioned ★ Subject covered in depth

Figure 7

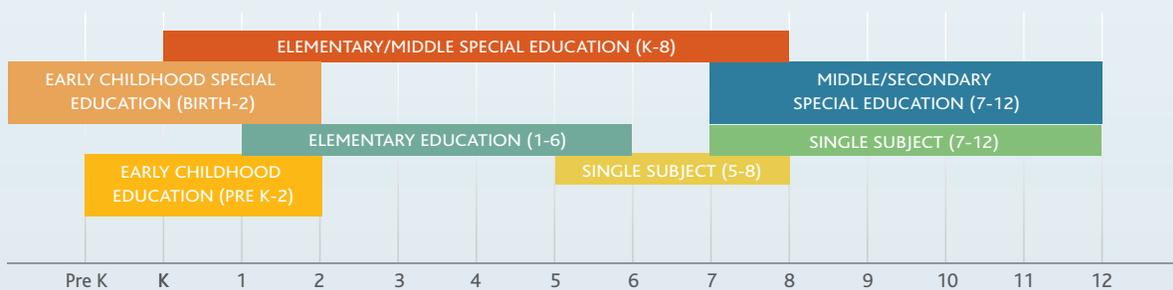
Where do states set the passing score on elementary content licensure tests¹?



¹ Based on the most recent technical data that could be obtained; data not available for Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington. Montana and Nebraska do not require a content test. Colorado score is for Praxis II, not PLACE. Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Utah and Vermont now require the Multiple Subjects test and Maryland, Nevada and South Carolina now require the Instructional Practice and Applications test. Both are new Praxis tests for which technical data are not yet available; analysis is based on previously required test.

Figure 8

Teacher licensing structure in Rhode Island



Critical Attention: Middle School Teacher Preparation



Rhode Island is on track to ensure that new middle school teachers will be prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.

The middle school years are critical to students' education, yet the preparation and licensure requirements for middle school teachers often do not ensure that they are sufficiently prepared to teach grade-level content.

Too many states fail to distinguish the knowledge and skills needed by middle school teachers from those needed by an elementary teacher. Whether teaching a single subject in a departmentalized setting or teaching multiple subjects in a self-contained classroom, middle school teachers must be able to teach significantly more advanced content than what elementary teachers are expected to teach.

Commendably, Rhode Island does not offer a K-8 generalist license, and all new middle school teachers are required to pass a Praxis II single-subject content test to attain licensure.

25

Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

3

Maryland, Massachusetts, New York

23

Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, **RHODE ISLAND**, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

Figure 9

Do states distinguish middle grade preparation from elementary preparation?

	K-8 LICENSE NOT OFFERED	K-8 license offered for self-contained classrooms	K-8 license offered
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ³
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁴
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RHODE ISLAND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁵
Wyoming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	32	5	14

1. California offers a K-12 generalist license for self-contained classrooms.
2. Illinois has repealed its K-9 license and is in the process of revising middle school certification requirements.
3. With the exception of mathematics.
4. Oregon offers 3-8 license.
5. Wisconsin offers 1-8 license.

Figure 10

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

	YES	No, test does not report subscores for all core subjects	No, K-8 license requires only elementary test	No, testing of all subjects not required
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹
Colorado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁴
Kansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁶	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁷	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RHODE ISLAND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	25	4	15	7

1. Candidates teaching multiple subjects only have to pass the elementary test.
2. For K-8 license, Idaho also requires a single-subject test.
3. Illinois has repealed its K-9 license. The state is in the process of revising its middle school certification requirements.
4. It is unclear how new legislation will affect testing requirements for middle school candidates.
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 education grades.
6. For nondepartmentalized classrooms, generalist in middle childhood education candidates must pass new assessment with three subtests.
7. Candidates opting for middle-level endorsement may either complete a major or pass a content test. Oregon allows "alternative assessment" for candidates who fail twice.

Critical Attention: Secondary Teacher Preparation



Rhode Island could do more to ensure that new secondary teachers will be prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.

Secondary teachers must be experts in the subject matter they teach, and only a rigorous test ensures that teacher candidates are sufficiently and appropriately knowledgeable in their content area. Coursework is generally only indicative of background in a subject area; even a major offers no certainty of what content has been covered.

Yet not all states ensure that secondary teachers have sufficient content knowledge in the subjects they are licensed to teach. And nearly all states—even those that do generally require content testing for secondary teachers—allow some science and/or social studies teachers to teach with broad licenses that have significant loopholes.

Most high school science courses are specialized, and the teachers of these subjects are not interchangeable. Nonetheless, most states allow teachers to obtain general science or combination licenses across multiple science disciplines, and, in most cases, these teachers need only pass a general knowledge science exam that does not ensure subject-specific content knowledge. This means that a teacher with a background in biology could be fully certified to teach advanced chemistry or physics having passed only a general science test—and perhaps answering most of the chemistry or physics questions incorrectly.

Just as with broad field science, most states offer a general social studies license at the secondary level. For this certification, teachers can have a background in a wide variety of fields, ranging from history and political science to anthropology and psychology. Under such a license a teacher who majored in psychology could teach history to high school students having passed only a general knowledge test and answering most—and perhaps all—history questions incorrectly.

Commendably, Rhode Island requires that its secondary teacher candidates pass a Praxis II content test to teach any core secondary subjects. Although the state offers secondary certification in general science, it specifically articulates that teachers with the general science certificate 7-12 may teach only general science courses. However, Rhode Island offers secondary certification in general social studies. Teachers with this license are not required to pass individual content tests for each discipline they are permitted to teach.

NEXT STEPS FOR RHODE ISLAND:

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

By allowing a general social studies certification—and only requiring a general knowledge social studies exam—Rhode Island is not ensuring that its secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. The state's required assessment combines all subject areas (e.g., history, geography, economics) and does not report separate scores for each subject area.

12

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming

36

Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, **RHODE ISLAND**, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin

3

Indiana, Minnesota, Tennessee

Figure 11

Do all secondary teachers have to pass a content test in every subject area they are licensed to teach?

	YES	Loophole in science	Loophole in social studies	No
Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RHODE ISLAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	3	28	34	12

1. It is unclear at this point how new legislation will affect content test requirements for secondary teachers.

Critical Attention: Special Education Teacher Preparation



Rhode Island could do more to ensure that new special education teachers will know the subject matter that they will be required to teach.

Across the country, states are raising performance expectations to ensure that students who graduate high school are college and career ready. These more rigorous standards apply to special education students just as they do to other students. The challenge of ensuring that teachers are prepared to teach to the new Common Core State Standards is even more pronounced for special education teachers, who typically have had to meet an even lower bar for content preparation than general educators. And certification rules for special education teachers that do not differentiate between teaching at the elementary and secondary levels only exacerbate the problem.

Allowing a generic K-12 special education certification makes it virtually impossible and certainly impractical for states to ensure that these teachers know all the subject matter they are expected to teach; this issue is just as valid in terms of pedagogical knowledge.

While a K-12 special education license may be appropriate for 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.

Commendably, Rhode Island does not offer a K-12 special education certification. Rhode Island also holds its elementary special education teachers to the same preparation and subject-matter testing requirements as general elementary teachers. However, as noted in the elementary section, these standards are insufficient to ensure that teachers will be prepared to teach to the Common Core State Standards. Secondary special education teachers, beginning in 2015, must also hold a general education certification at the secondary level, which, although not ensuring content knowledge of every subject that will be taught, does more to ensure subject-matter preparation than the requirements of most states.

NEXT STEPS FOR RHODE ISLAND:

■ Provide a broad liberal arts program of study to elementary special education candidates.

Rhode Island should ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess not only knowledge of effective learning strategies but also relevant knowledge of the subject matter at hand by requiring core-subject coursework relevant to the elementary classroom. Failure to ensure that teachers possess requisite content knowledge deprives special education students of the opportunity to reach their academic potential.

35

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming

16

Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, **RHODE ISLAND**, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin

0

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

Secondary special education teachers are frequently generalists who teach many core subject areas. While it may be unreasonable to expect secondary special education teachers to meet the same requirements for each subject they teach as other teachers who teach only one subject, Rhode Island's current policy of requiring limited subject-matter testing is unacceptable and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards. To provide a middle ground, Rhode Island should consider a customized HOUSSE route for new secondary special education teachers and look to the flexibility offered by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which allows for a combination of testing and coursework to demonstrate requisite content knowledge in the classroom.

1. Although the state does issue a K-12 certificate, candidates must meet discrete elementary and/or secondary requirements.

Figure 12

Do states distinguish between elementary and secondary special education teachers?

	DOES NOT OFFER A K-12 CERTIFICATION	Offers K-12 and grade-specific certification(s)	Offers only a K-12 certification
Alabama	■	□	□
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	■ ¹	□	□
New Mexico	□	□	■
New York	■	□	□
North Carolina	□	□	■
North Dakota	□	■	□
Ohio	□	□	■
Oklahoma	□	□	■
Oregon	■	□	□
Pennsylvania	■	□	□
RHODE ISLAND	■	□	□
South Carolina	□	□	■
South Dakota	□	■	□
Tennessee	□	□	■
Texas	■ ¹	□	□
Utah	□	□	■
Vermont	■	□	□
Virginia	□	□	■
Washington	□	□	■
West Virginia	■	□	□
Wisconsin	■	□	□
Wyoming	□	■	□
	16	10	25

Figure 13

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

Elementary Subject-Matter Test	
Required for an elementary special education license	Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Oregon ¹ , Pennsylvania ² , RHODE ISLAND , Texas, West Virginia ³ , Wisconsin
Required for a K-12 special education license	Colorado, Idaho
Secondary Subject-Matter Test(s)	
Tests in all core subjects required for secondary special education license	None
Test in at least one subject required for secondary special education license	Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York ⁴ , Oregon ¹ , Pennsylvania ² , RHODE ISLAND , West Virginia ³
Required for a K-12 special education license	None

1. Although Oregon requires testing, the state allows an "alternative assessment" option for candidates who fail twice.
2. In Pennsylvania, a candidate who opts for dual certification in elementary or secondary special education and as a reading specialist does not have to take a content test.
3. West Virginia also allows elementary special education candidates to earn dual certification in early childhood, which would not require a content test. Secondary special education candidates earning dual certification as a reading specialist are similarly exempted from the content test.
4. New York requires a multi-subject content test specifically geared to secondary special education candidates. It is divided into three subtests.

Critical Attention: Student Teaching



Rhode Island does not ensure that teacher preparation programs will provide teacher candidates with a high-quality summative clinical experience.

The importance of clinical practice in teacher preparation has become a major area of focus. Student teaching is the final clinical experience of teacher preparation, and teacher candidates have only one chance to experience the best possible placement. Student teaching will shape candidates' own performance as teachers and help determine the type of school in which they will choose to teach. A mediocre student teaching experience, let alone a disastrous one, can never be undone.

Central to the quality of the student teaching experience is the classroom teacher who serves as the teacher candidate's mentor, or cooperating teacher. Only strong teachers with evidence of their effectiveness, as assessed by objective measures of student learning and the teachers' principals, should be able to serve as cooperating teachers. Yet placement is much more likely to be the luck of the draw. NCTQ's recent study *Student Teaching in the United States* found that three out of four teacher preparation programs fail to require that cooperating teachers must be effective instructors.

Rhode Island fails to articulate any requirements for cooperating teachers, and although the state requires candidates to complete at least 12 weeks of student teaching, it is unclear whether Rhode Island requires this to be a full-time experience.

NEXT STEPS FOR RHODE ISLAND:

- **Ensure that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.**

In addition to the ability to mentor an adult, cooperating teachers in Rhode Island should also be carefully screened for their capacity to further student achievement. Research indicates that the only aspect of a student teaching arrangement that has been shown to have an impact on student achievement is the positive effect of selection of the cooperating teacher by the preparation program, rather than by the student teacher or school district staff.

- **Make the state's teacher evaluation system the basis for selecting cooperating teachers.**

Rhode Island requires objective measures of student growth to be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations. The state should therefore utilize its evaluation results, which provide evidence of effectiveness in the classroom, in the selection of effective cooperating teachers.

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

Rhode Island should require that student teaching be a full-time commitment, as requiring coursework and student teaching simultaneously does a disservice to both. Alignment with a school calendar for at least 10 weeks ensures both adequate classroom experience and exposure to a variety of ancillary professional activities.

48

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, 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, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

0

3

Florida, Indiana, Tennessee

Figure 14

Do states require the elements of a high-quality student teaching experience?

	COOPERATING TEACHER SELECTED BASED ON EFFECTIVENESS	FULL TIME STUDENT TEACHING LASTS AT LEAST 10 WEEKS
Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RHODE ISLAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3 28

1. Based on new REPA II regulations.

2. Candidates can student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

Critical Attention: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability



Rhode Island could do more to hold its teacher preparation programs accountable for the effectiveness of the teachers they produce.

Teacher preparation programs operate by virtue of state approval. As such, it is up to states to connect that approval to accountability measures that ensure that all approved programs meet minimum performance standards. Such an accountability system informs the public—including prospective teachers seeking a program as well as districts hiring graduates—by shining a light on high performers as well as identifying those programs performing poorly.

Further, as more states begin to raise expectations for teachers by way of evaluations focused on effectiveness, there is an even greater need to hold teacher preparation programs accountable for the effectiveness of the teachers they produce. Although the quality of both the subject-matter preparation and professional sequence is crucial, there are also additional measures that can provide the state and the public with meaningful, readily understandable indicators of how well programs are doing when it comes to preparing teachers to be successful in the classroom.

Rhode Island collects some program-specific, objective data that reflect traditional program performance and reports these data on its website. The state requires that programs “engage in regular and systematic evaluations, including, but not limited to, information obtained through student assessment, and collection of data from students, recent graduates, and other members of the professional community.” But Rhode Island has not established minimum performance standards for each category of data it collects that can be used for accountability purposes.

According to the state’s winning Race to the Top application, Rhode Island plans to integrate its new evaluation system with its longitudinal data system to link teachers’ impact on student growth to preparation programs and will use these data to support improvement or close programs that do not produce effective teachers. The state has also articulated that it will create publicly available educator preparation program report cards, which will include information on the impact of graduates on student growth and academic achievement. However, there is no evidence to date of specific policy to support and sustain these plans.

NEXT STEPS FOR RHODE ISLAND:

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

As one way to measure whether programs are producing effective classroom teachers, Rhode Island should consider the academic achievement gains of students taught by programs’ graduates, averaged over the first three years of teaching. Data that are aggregated to the institution (e.g., combining elementary and secondary programs) rather than disaggregated to the specific preparation program are not useful for accountability purposes. Such aggregation can mask significant differences in performance among programs. While Rhode Island has commendably outlined its intentions to collect this data in its RttT application, the state should codify these requirements.

37

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

12

Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, **RHODE ISLAND**, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas

2

Florida, Louisiana

■ **Collect other meaningful, program-level data that reflect program performance.**

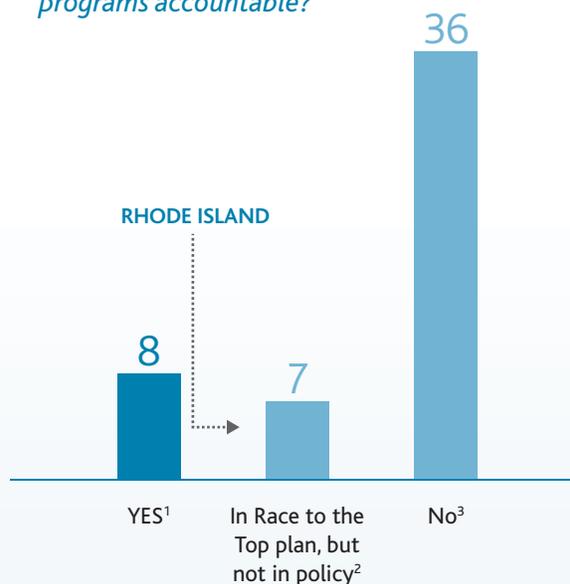
Although measures of student growth are an important indicator of program effectiveness, they cannot be the sole measure of program quality for several reasons, including the fact that many programs may have graduates whose students do not take standardized tests. The accountability system must therefore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

- Satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison;
- Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including academic proficiency, subject matter and professional knowledge tests;
- Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests; and
- Five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.

■ **Establish minimum standards of performance for accountability purposes.**

In order to make use of the data Rhode Island already collects and publishes for accountability purposes, it is critical that the state establish minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category of data. Programs should be held accountable for meeting rigorous standards, and there should be consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.

Figure 15
Do states use student achievement data to hold teacher preparation programs accountable?



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

Figure 16

Do states hold teacher preparation programs accountable?

	OBJECTIVE PROGRAM, SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED	MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE SET	DATA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE
Alabama	■	■ ¹	■ ²
Alaska	□	□	□
Arizona	■	□	□
Arkansas	□	□	□
California	□	□	□
Colorado ³	■	□	■
Connecticut	□	□	□
Delaware	■ ⁴	□	□
District of Columbia	□	□	□
Florida	■	■	■ ²
Georgia	■	□	■ ²
Hawaii	□	□	□
Idaho	□	□	□
Illinois	■	□	□
Indiana ⁵	■	□	□
Iowa	■	□	□
Kansas	□	□	□
Kentucky	■	□	■ ²
Louisiana	■	■	■
Maine ¹	■	□	□
Maryland	■ ⁴	□	□
Massachusetts	■	□	■
Michigan	■	■ ¹	■
Minnesota	■	□	□
Mississippi	■ ¹	□	□
Missouri	■	□	□
Montana	■ ¹	□	□
Nebraska	□	□	□
Nevada ¹	■	■	□
New Hampshire ⁶	□	□	□
New Jersey ¹	■	□	□
New Mexico	□	□	□
New York	□	□	□
North Carolina	■	□	■ ¹
North Dakota	□	□	□
Ohio ¹	■	□	■
Oklahoma	□	□	□
Oregon	□	□	□
Pennsylvania ¹	■	□	□
RHODE ISLAND¹	■	□	■
South Carolina ¹	■	□	■
South Dakota	□	□	□
Tennessee	■	□	■
Texas	■	□	■
Utah	□	□	□
Vermont	■	□	□
Virginia ¹	■	□	□
Washington	■ ⁴	□	□
West Virginia ¹	■	□	□
Wisconsin	■	□	■
Wyoming	□	□	□
33	5	15	

TEACHER PRODUCTION IN RHODE ISLAND

States have long established requirements for teacher preparation and licensure and have lately turned their attention toward accountability systems for preparation programs. But one topic that has received little attention from states is the issue of teacher production. From the number of teachers who graduate from preparation programs each year, only a subset are certified and only some of those certified are actually hired in the state; the relationship between these numbers has important implications for related policymaking.

States are rightly focused on areas of chronic teacher shortages, such as secondary mathematics and science, but little consideration is given to areas of consistent oversupply, particularly the overproduction in most states of elementary teachers. While it is certainly desirable to produce a big enough pool to give districts choice in hiring, the substantial oversupply in some teaching areas is not good for the profession. Limited resources are squandered on individuals who will not go on to teach, most critically the scarce supply of student teaching placements with effective cooperating teachers. Admissions criteria, licensure requirements and program accountability standards may be unnecessarily depressed if the dots are not connected from graduation to certification to actual employment in a district.

Maryland's "Teacher Staffing Report" provides a model for other states. Published biennially, the report has been tracking staffing trends in the state for almost three decades. While its primary purpose is to determine teacher shortage areas, it also identifies areas of surplus. By collecting hiring data from districts, Maryland has a rich set of data that can inform policy decisions.

The latest edition of the "Teacher Staffing Report" can be found at: <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/certification/progapproval/mtsr>.

Rhode Island teacher production data: NCTQ was unable to find any published data on teacher production in Rhode Island that connects program completion, certification and hiring statistics.

1. Traditional preparation only.
2. Reported institutional data do not distinguish between candidates in the traditional and alternate route programs.
3. Required, but not yet available.
4. Alternate routes only.
5. Based on new REPA II regulations.
6. New Hampshire is in the process of adopting new reporting requirements.

Figure 17

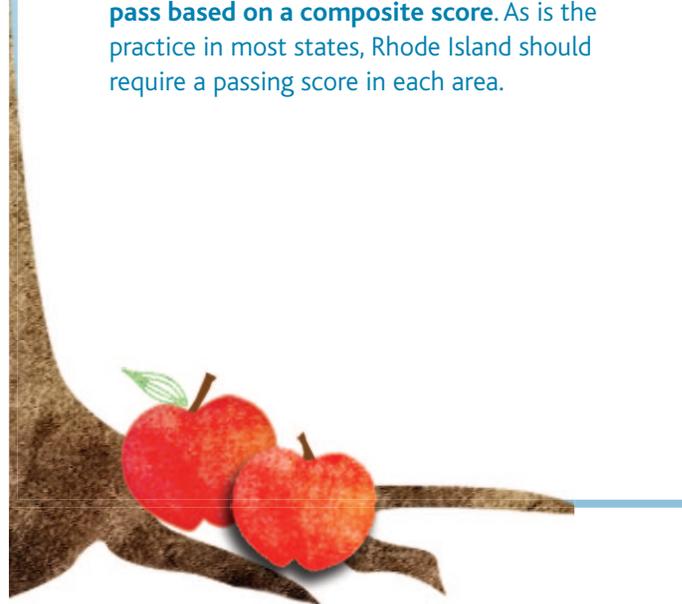
What is the relationship between state program approval and national accreditation?

	STATE HAS ITS OWN APPROVAL PROCESS	Overlap of accreditation and state approval	National accreditation is required for program approval
Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RHODE ISLAND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	8	31	12



There are some areas where a small adjustment would result in significantly stronger policy. Here are some issues that represent low-hanging fruit, policies that can be addressed in relatively short order.

- To ensure adequate subject-area knowledge, Rhode Island should **require secondary teachers who obtain certification in general social studies to pass individual content tests** (or a composite test that reports individual subscores), for each discipline they will be licensed to teach, as noted in the secondary critical attention section.
- To ensure that teacher candidates have strong reading, mathematics and writing skills, Rhode Island should **close the loophole that allows candidates with a deficient score in one area of the state's basic skills test to pass based on a composite score**. As is the practice in most states, Rhode Island should require a passing score in each area.



1. National accreditation can be substituted for state approval.

Alternate Routes to Certification

The policies discussed in the “Critical Attention” section of this report primarily focus on traditional teacher preparation programs because such programs presently train the vast majority of new teachers. Of course, there are some teachers that attain licensure outside of these traditional programs. Alternate routes to certification were developed based on the idea that there should be pathways into the teaching profession for nontraditional candidates who are able to demonstrate strong subject-area knowledge and an above-average academic background.

Unfortunately, most states have considerable work to do to make their alternate routes viable pathways into the teaching profession. Considerable variation remains in both the quality of states’ routes and how much of an alternative to traditional preparation such routes actually provide.

A high-quality, genuinely alternative licensure pathway should be rigorous yet flexible in admissions, focused and deliberate in preparation, and open to broad usage across subjects and grades.

State policy for alternate routes to teacher licensure should ensure that:

- Strong academic performance and subject-matter-knowledge testing are prerequisites for program admission.
- Subject-area majors are not required or candidates have the option to test out of any subject-area coursework requirements.
- Coursework is streamlined and not overly burdensome, and it meets the immediate needs of new teachers.
- Program length is reasonable (no more than two years). Practice teaching and/or intensive mentoring is required.
- Limits are not placed on the subjects and/or grades an alternate route teacher can teach, and alternate route providers are not restricted to colleges and universities; districts and nonprofits should be permitted to offer programs as well.

Rhode Island has one alternate route, which has the characteristics of a strong program and provides an accelerated, relevant and flexible pathway into the profession (see Figure 19). The route has no restrictions on use for grades, subject areas or providers. The admissions requirements for Rhode Island’s alternate route exceed those for traditional preparation programs and allow flexibility for nontraditional candidates.

New certification rules require that, beginning in 2015, alternate route programs have to ensure that candidates meet eligibility requirements for their certificate area prior to entering an approved program, which includes having “passed all subject matter testing requirements.”

Rhode Island permits institutions of higher education, professional organizations and private service providers, such as The New Teacher Project, to offer alternate route programs. The state is commended for structuring its programs to allow a diversity of providers.

NEXT STEPS FOR RHODE ISLAND:

■ Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

While Rhode Island has modified its requirements so that candidates for postbaccalaureate or nondegree programs do not have to take the basic skills test if they have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (or have completed Master's degrees with at least a 3.0 GPA), the state should consider doing away with the assessment, as basic skills tests measure minimum competency—essentially those skills that a person should have acquired in middle school—and are inappropriate for candidates who have already earned a bachelor's degree.

■ Ensure reasonable program length.

Rhode Island should consider shortening the length of time it takes a candidate to earn standard certification. The route should allow candidates to earn full certification no later than the end of the second year of teaching.

Figure 18

Do states provide real alternate pathways to certification?

	GENUINE OR NEARLY GENUINE ALTERNATE ROUTE	Alternate route that needs significant improvements	Offered route is disingenuous
Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RHODE ISLAND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	6	26	19

Figure 19

What are the characteristics of states' alternate routes?

	PREREQUISITE OF STRONG ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE	VERIFICATION OF SUBJECT-MATTER KNOWLEDGE	AVAILABILITY OF TEST OUT OPTIONS	STREAMLINED COURSEWORK	RELEVANT COURSEWORK	REASONABLE PROGRAM LENGTH	PRACTICE TEACHING AND/OR INTENSIVE MENTORING	BROAD USAGE	DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS
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	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

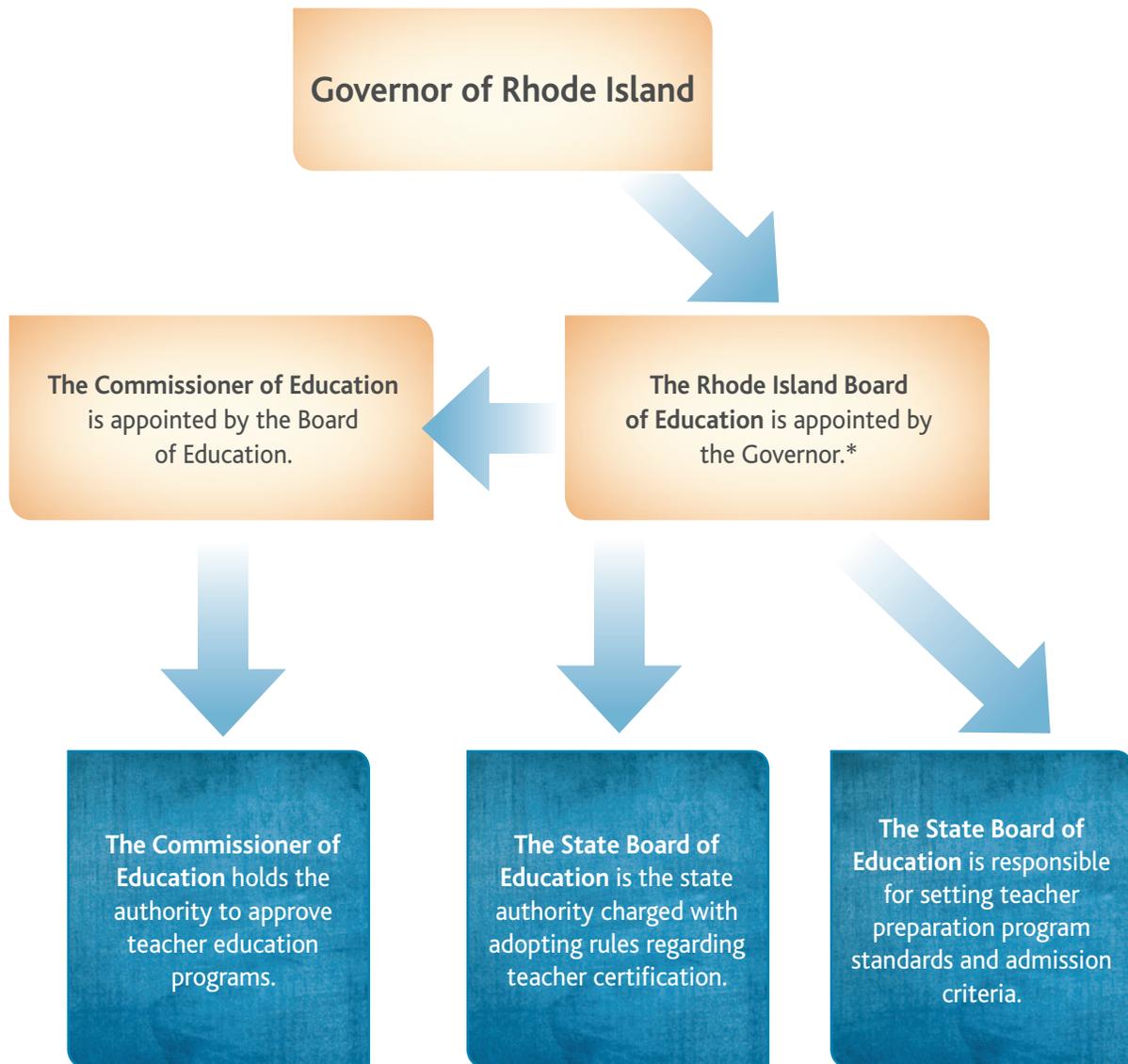
☐ For some alternate routes ☐ For most or most widely used alternate routes ★ For all alternate routes

Alternate Route Policy Checklist for States

1.	Set high standards and provide flexibility for meeting them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Screen candidates based on academic ability.✓ Set a higher standard for entry than is set for traditional teacher preparation.✓ Require candidates to pass the state's subject-matter licensing test.✓ Don't require a major in the intended subject area; instead, allow candidates to demonstrate subject-matter knowledge on a rigorous test.
2.	Provide streamlined preparation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Limit coursework (ideally to no more than 12 credits a year).✓ Require that the alternate route is an accelerated course of study.✓ Ensure that all coursework requirements target the immediate needs of the new teacher✓ Offer candidates an opportunity to practice teach in a summer training program.✓ Provide intensive mentoring.
3.	Remove regulatory obstacles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Allow for a diversity of alternate route providers.✓ Don't limit the use of alternate routes to shortage areas or to certain grades or subjects.

Figure 20

Authority for Teacher Preparation in Rhode Island



*As of January 1, 2013, the Rhode Island Board of Regents was replaced by a State Board of Education.

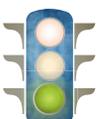
Critical Attention Summary for Rhode Island



Red		AUTHORITY
ADMISSION INTO PREPARATION PROGRAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require that preparation programs use a common admissions test normed to the general college-bound population and limit acceptance to those candidates demonstrating academic ability in the top 50th percentile. 	State Board of Education
ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREPARATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure new content test sufficiently measures knowledge of all subjects. Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction. Require preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers. Require a content specialization in an academic subject area. 	State Board of Education
STUDENT TEACHING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning. Require at least 10 weeks of full-time student teaching. 	State Board of Education



Yellow		AUTHORITY
SECONDARY TEACHER PREPARATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach. 	State Board of Education
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge. 	State Board of Education
TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect performance data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs and other meaningful, program-level data that reflect program performance. Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards. 	Commissioner of Education



Green		AUTHORITY
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREPARATION		State Board of Education



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