2013 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Minnesota





Acknowledgments

STATES

State education agencies remain our most important partners in this effort, and their gracious cooperation has helped to ensure the factual accuracy of the final product. Every state formally received a draft of the *Yearbook* in July 2013 for comment and correction; states also received a final draft of their reports a month prior to release. All but two states responded to our inquiries. While states do not always agree with our recommendations, their willingness to engage in dialogue and often acknowledge the imperfections of their teacher policies is an important step forward.

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Executive Summary

The 2013 *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* includes the National Council on Teacher Quality's (NCTQ) full review of the state laws, rules and regulations that govern the teaching profession. This year's report measures state progress against a set of 31 policy goals focused on helping states put in place a comprehensive framework in support of preparing, retaining and rewarding effective teachers.

Minnesota at a Glance



Overall 2013 Yearbook Grade

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: C-

Area Grades	2013	2011
Area 1 Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers	C+	С
Area 2 Expanding the Teaching Pool	С	С
Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers	C-	C-
Area 4 Retaining Effective Teachers	D+	C-1
Area 5 Exiting Ineffective Teachers	F	F

Goal Breakdown	2013
★ Best Practice	0
Fully Meets	6
Nearly Meets	3
Partially Meets	8
Meets Only a Small Part	5
O Does Not Meet	9

	Progress on Goals Since 2011	
•	Progress has increased	1
(2)	No change in progress	30
•	Progress has decreased	0

¹ State teacher pension policy is no longer included in the State Teacher Policy Yearbook.

So that Area 4 grades can be compared, 2011 grades have been recalculated to exclude the pension goals.

Overall 2011 grades were not recalculated, as the impact was negligible.

	bared re	achers I	Page 5
Admission into Teacher Preparation		Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	
Elementary Teacher Preparation		Special Education Teacher Preparation	
Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction		Assessing Professional Knowledge	
Teacher Preparation in Mathematics		Student Teaching	
Middle School Teacher Preparation		Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	
Secondary Teacher Preparation			
Policy Strengths			
The state's elementary subject-matter te comprised of three subtests, and candida pass each subtest to pass the overall test	ites must	 The state's elementary content test inclued equivalent of a stand-alone mathematics All secondary teacher candidates must p. 	s subtest.
Elementary teacher candidates must pass of reading test to ensure knowledge of ef reading instruction.	s a science	test. All new teachers must pass a pedagogy t	est.
Policy Weaknesses			
Teacher candidates are not required to pa academic proficiency as a criterion for ad teacher preparation programs.		There are no requirements to ensure that teachers are placed with cooperating tea were selected based on evidence of effect	chers who
 Middle school teachers are allowed to tea generalist license in self-contained classre The state offers a K-12 special education 	ooms.	The teacher preparation program approve does not hold programs accountable for of the teachers they produce.	
Area 2: Expanding the Pool	of Teach	ners Pa	age 51
	of Teach		age 51
Alternate Route Eligibility	of Teach	Part-Time Teaching Licenses	age 51
Alternate Route Eligibility Alternate Route Preparation	of Teach		age 51
Alternate Route Eligibility Alternate Route Preparation	of Teach	Part-Time Teaching Licenses	age 51
Alternate Route Eligibility Alternate Route Preparation Alternate Route Usage and Providers	of Teach	Part-Time Teaching Licenses Licensure Reciprocity	<u> </u>
Alternate Route Eligibility Alternate Route Preparation Alternate Route Usage and Providers	• to	Part-Time Teaching Licenses	<u> </u>
Alternate Route Eligibility Alternate Route Preparation Alternate Route Usage and Providers Policy Strengths Admission criteria for the alternate route certification are selective and provide flex nontraditional candidates.	• to	Part-Time Teaching Licenses Licensure Reciprocity There are no limits on the usage of the stalternate route.	tate's
certification are selective and provide flex	e to xibility for efficient	Part-Time Teaching Licenses Licensure Reciprocity There are no limits on the usage of the state	tate's

How is **Minnesota** Faring?

Page 71 **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers** State Data Systems Tenure **Evaluation of Effectiveness** Licensure Advancement Frequency of Evaluations **Equitable Distribution Policy Weaknesses** requirements. Although the state has established a data system Annual evaluations for all teachers are not required. with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher Tenure decisions are not connected to evidence of effectiveness, it has not taken other meaningful steps to maximize the system's efficiency and teacher effectiveness. potential. Licensure advancement and renewal are not based Objective evidence of student learning is a on teacher effectiveness. significant component of teacher evaluations, but Little school-level data are reported that can help it is not the preponderant criterion, and the state support the equitable distribution of teacher talent. has failed to articulate other important evaluation Page 101 Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers Induction Compensation for Prior Work Experience Professional Development Differential Pay Pay Scales Performance Pay **Policy Strengths** Professional development is aligned with findings Districts are given full authority for how teachers are from teachers' evaluations, and teachers who receive paid, although they are not discouraged from basing unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured salary schedules solely on years of experience. improvement plans. Districts that participate in the state's performance pay program are required to prioritize performance in their salary schedules **Policy Weaknesses** ■ The state does not support additional compensation All new teachers do not receive mentoring or other for relevant prior work experience, working in highinduction support. need schools or teaching in shortage subject areas. **Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers Page 125 Extended Emergency Licenses** Reductions in Force Dismissal for Poor Performance **Policy Weaknesses** Seniority, rather than a teacher's performance in Teachers can teach for up to three years before the classroom, is considered in determining which having to pass required subject-matter tests. teachers to lay off during reductions in force. Ineffective classroom performance is not grounds for dismissal, and tenured teachers who are dismissed have multiple opportunities to appeal.

gure A	Grade 2013	Grade 2011	Overall State Crade 2009
	B+	B	c
	В	C-	C-
	В	B-	D
	В	B-	C-
	B-	C	C-
	B-	C-	D+
	B-	C	C-
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	B-	C	D+
	B-	C+	D-
	B-	D+	D+
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How to Read the Yearbook

GOAL SCORE

The extent to which each goal has been met:



Best Practice



Fully Meets



Nearly Meets



Partially Meets



Meets Only a Small Part



Does Not Meet

PROGRESS INDICATOR

Whether the state has advanced on the goal, policy has remained unchanged or the state has lost ground on that topic:



Goal progress has increased since 2011



Goal progress has decreased since 2011



Goal progress has remained the same since 2011

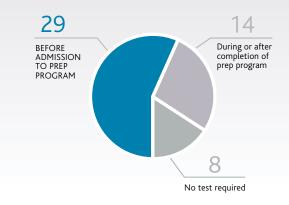
BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



Indicates the criteria to meet the goal have been raised since the 2011 Yearbook.

READING CHARTS AND TABLES:

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

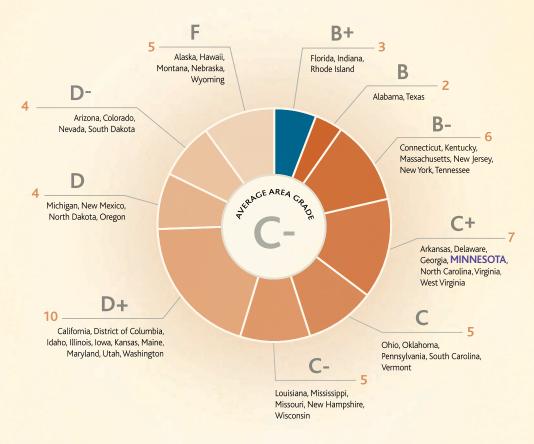


Area 1 Summary



How States are Faring on Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

- 1-A: Admission into Teacher Preparation
- 1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation
- 1-C: Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction
- 1-D: Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics
- 1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation

- 1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation
- 1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science
- 1-H: Special Education Teacher Preparation
- 1-I: Assessing Professional Knowledge
- 1-J: Student Teaching
- 1-K: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

Goal A – Admission into Teacher Preparation

The state should require teacher preparation programs to admit only candidates with strong academic records.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

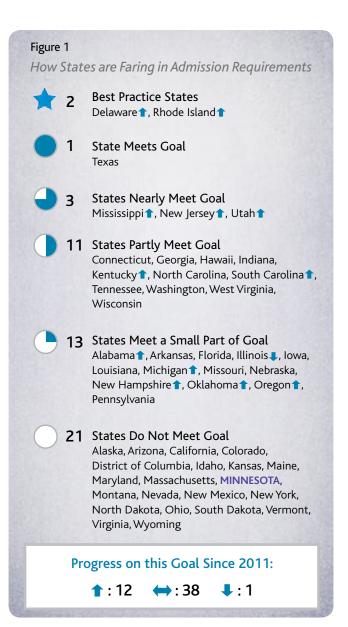
- 1. The state should require teacher candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- 2. All preparation programs in a state should use a common admissions test to facilitate program comparison, and the test should allow comparison of applicants to the general college-going population. The selection of applicants should be limited to the top half of that population.



The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



1-A Analysis: Minnesota



State Does Not Meet Goal





Bar Raised for this Goal (Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota does not require prospective teachers to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs. Rather, the basic skills assessment requirement is delayed until teacher candidates are ready to apply for licensure.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Rules 8710.0500

RECOMMENDATION

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

Teacher preparation programs that do not screen candidates invest considerable resources in individuals who may not be able to successfully complete the program and pass licensing tests. Candidates in need of additional support should complete remediation before entering the program to avoid the possibility of an unsuccessful investment of significant public tax dollars. Minnesota should require candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, mathematics and writing prior to program admission.

Require preparation programs to use a common test normed to the general college-bound population.

Minnesota should require 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, as well as facilitate program comparison.

 Consider requiring candidates to pass subject-matter tests as a condition of admission into teacher programs.

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

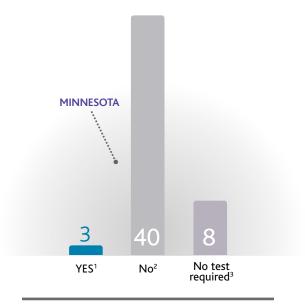
MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

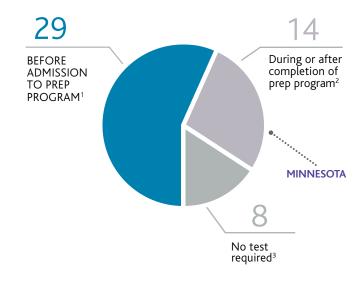
For admission to teacher preparation programs, Rhode Island and Delaware require a test of academic proficiency normed to the general collegebound population rather than a test that is normed just to prospective teachers. Delaware also requires teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or be in the top 50th percentile for general education coursework completed. Rhode Island also requires an average cohort GPA of 3.0, and beginning in 2016, the cohort mean score on nationally-normed tests such as the ACT, SAT or GRE must be in the top 50th percentile. In 2020, the requirement for the mean test score will increase from the top half to the top third.

Figure 2 Do states require an assessment of academic proficiency that is normed to the general college-going population?



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

Figure 3 When do states test teacher candidates' academic proficiency?



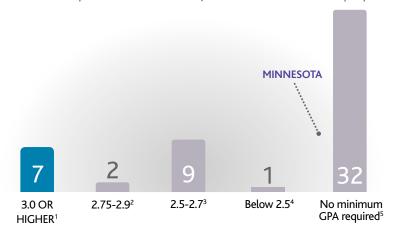
- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington,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

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^{1.} Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission with a 3.0 GPA.

Figure 5

Do states require a minimum GPA for admission to teacher prep?



- 1. Strong Practice: Delaware, Mississippi⁶, New Jersey⁶, Oklahoma⁷, Pennsylvania⁸, Rhode Island⁶, Utah
- 2. Kentucky, Texas
- 3. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut⁹, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wisconsin¹⁰
- 4. Louisiana
- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 6. The 3.0 GPA requirement is a cohort average; individual candidates must have a 2.75 GPA.
- 7. Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission by passing a basic skills test.
- Students can also be admitted with a combination of a 2.8 GPA and qualifying scores on the basic skills test or SAT/ACT.
- 9. Connecticut requires a B- grade point average for all undergraduate courses.
- 10. The GPA admission requirement is 2.5 for undergraduate and 2.75 for graduate programs.

Goal B − Elementary Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that its teacher preparation programs provide elementary teachers with a broad liberal arts education, providing the necessary foundation for teaching to the Common Core or similar state standards.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should require all elementary teacher candidates, including those who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license, to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure sufficient content knowledge of all core subjects.
- 2. The state should require that its approved teacher preparation programs deliver a comprehensive program of study in broad liberal arts coursework. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours to ensure appropriate depth in the core subject areas of English, science, social studies and fine arts. (Mathematics preparation for elementary teachers is discussed in Goal 1-D.)
- 3. The state should require elementary teacher candidates to complete a content specialization in an academic subject area. In addition to enhancing content knowledge, this requirement ensures that prospective teachers have taken higher level academic coursework.



The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



1-B Analysis: Minnesota



State Partly Meets Goal 🕟 Bar Raised for this Goal 😝 Progress Since 2011





ANALYSIS

Minnesota is on the right track when it comes to ensuring that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach a broad range of elementary content.

In Minnesota, elementary teachers are required to pass each of the three subtests that comprise the Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examinations (MTLE) Elementary Education test. The first subtest includes reading and communication arts; the second includes math and health/fitness and fine arts; and the third subtest includes science and social studies.

Regrettably, Minnesota only requires its early childhood education teacher candidates, who are allowed to teach up through grade 3, to pass the MTLE Early Childhood Education test, which is not an adequate content test.

In addition, Minnesota does not require its elementary teacher candidates to earn an academic content specialization.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examinations

www.mtle.nesinc.com

Minnesota Administrative Rules 8700.7600 and 8710.3200

RECOMMENDATION

 Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure sufficient content knowledge of all subjects.

Although Minnesota is on the right track by administering a three-part licensing test, thus making it harder for teachers to pass if they fail some subject areas, the state is encouraged to further strengthen its policy and require separate passing scores for each core subject on its multiple-subject test.

Minnesota is urged to require all early childhood education teacher candidates who teach elementary grades to pass an appropriate test, either the same test as other elementary teachers or a comparably rigorous one geared to early childhood content. It is especially worrisome that the state allows teachers up through grade 3 to teach without ever having passed an adequate content test.

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 Minnesota take higher-level academic coursework. The 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.

Provide broad liberal arts coursework relevant to the elementary classroom.

Although Minnesota outlines a more specific set of content standards than most states, the state should either articulate an even more detailed set of standards or establish more comprehensive coursework requirements that are specifically geared to the areas of knowledge needed by PK-6 teachers. Further, the state should ensure that candidates will complete coursework relevant to the

common topics in elementary grades. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours in the core subject areas of English, science, social studies and fine arts. Minnesota does not specify any coursework requirements for general education or elementary teacher candidates, but it does specify that those in teacher preparation programs must "complete a program of general studies in the liberal arts and sciences equivalent to the requirement for persons enrolled in programs not preparing persons for teacher licensure," and that the "liberal arts curriculum of the institution incorporates multicultural and global perspectives."

In addition, Minnesota articulates standards that its approved teacher preparation programs must use to frame instruction in elementary content areas, including literature, science and health. However, these standards are too ambiguous and offer little guarantee that elementary teacher candidates will receive instruction in core topics like English literature, world history, or American history and government. Minnesota's MTLE content standards do articulate, for example, that elementary teachers must demonstrate knowledge of "children's and young adolescents' literature representing a range of genres, eras, perspectives, and cultures." The state also requires knowledge of "historical and modern perspectives" in both U.S. and world history.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 7	ELMENTARY CONTENT SCORE FOR E. SPARATENT	Steinentay Content tees	Elementary content to	mith /
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TOTAL STATE OF BEST PRACTICE

Indiana ensures that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades possess the requisite subjectmatter knowledge before entering the classroom. Not only are elementary teacher candidates required to pass a content test comprised of independently scored subtests, but the state also requires its early childhood education teachers—who are licensed to teach up through grade 3—to pass a content test comprised of four subtests. Elementary teacher candidates in Indiana must also earn either a major or minor in an academic content area.

1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.

2. The required test is a questionable assessment of content knowledge, instead emphasizing methods and instructional strategies.

4. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass content test.

^{3.} Massachusetts and North Carolina require a general curriculum test that does not report scores for each elementary subject. A separate score is

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These states do not offer a standalone early childhood certification that includes elementary grades or the state's early childhood certification is the de facto license to teach elementary grades.
 May pass either multiple subjects (subscores) or content knowledge (no subscores) test.

Do states expect elementary teachers to have in-depth knowledge of core content?	Figure 9				GLISH		/			NCE				OCIAL					/ !	FINE
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Figure 10
What subjects does Minnesota expect elementary teachers to know?

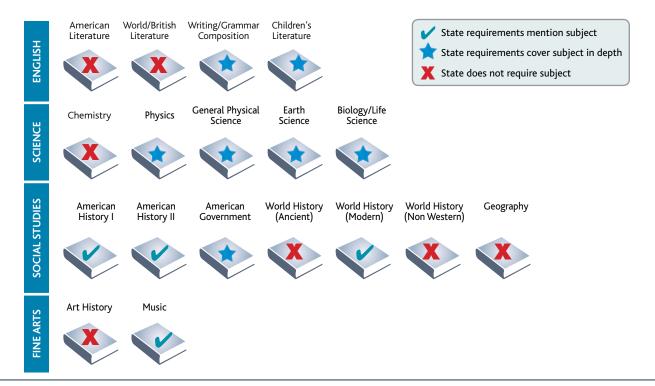
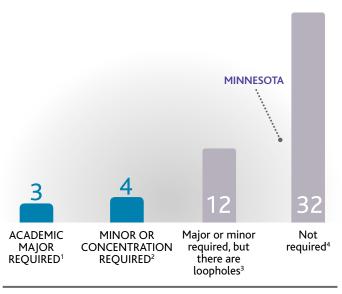


Figure 11

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



- 1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico
- 2. Strong Practice: Indiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Oklahoma
- 3. California, Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia
 - These states require a major, minor or concentration but there is no assurance it will be in an academic subject area.
- 4. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Goal C – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

The state should ensure that new elementary teachers know the science of reading instruction.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require that new elementary teachers, including those who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license, pass a rigorous test of reading instruction in order to attain licensure. The design of the test should ensure that prospective teachers cannot pass without knowing the five instructional components shown by scientifically based reading research to be essential to teaching children to read.
- 2. The state should require that teacher preparation programs prepare candidates in the science of reading instruction.



The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



1-C Analysis: Minnesota





State Meets Goal Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2011



ANALYSIS

Minnesota requires that all new elementary teachers pass the Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examination (MTLE) elementary education content test, which includes the equivalent of a stand-alone science of reading assessment.

Early childhood education teacher candidates in Minnesota, who are allowed to teach through grade 3, are required to pass the MTLE early childhood test, which also includes the equivalent of a stand-alone science of reading assessment.

In its standards for elementary teacher preparation, Minnesota also requires teacher preparation programs to address the science of reading.

Supporting Research

MTLE Test Requirements

www.mtle.nesinc.com

Minnesota Statutes 122A.06 and 122A.18

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that the science of reading test is meaningful.

To ensure that its science of reading test is meaningful, Minnesota should evaluate its passing score to make certain it reflects a high standard of performance.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

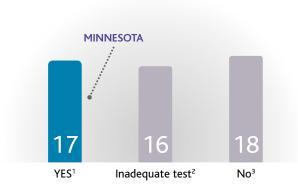
Fifteen states meet this goal by requiring that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Independent reviews of the assessments used by Connecticut and Massachusetts, confirm that these tests are rigorous measures of teacher candidates' knowledge of scientifically based reading instruction.

^{1.} Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum.

^{2.} Teachers have until their second year to pass the reading test.

Figure 14

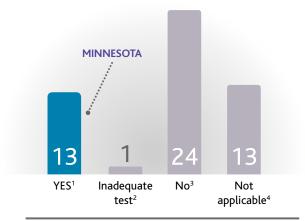
Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



- Strong Practice: Alabama⁴, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁵, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont
- Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming
- 4. Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum.
- $5. \, \text{Teachers}$ have until their second year to pass the reading test.

Figure 15

Do states measure knowledge of the science of reading for early childhood teachers who can teach elementary grades?



- Strong Practice: Alabama⁵, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- Idaho
- Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, lowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming
- 4. Alaska, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas These states do not offer a standalone early childhood certification that includes elementary grades or the state's early childhood certification is the de facto license to teach elementary grades.
- 5. Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum

Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

The state should ensure that new elementary teachers have sufficient knowledge of the mathematics content taught in elementary grades.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should require teacher preparation programs to deliver mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates. This content should be specific to the needs of the elementary teacher (i.e., foundations, algebra and geometry with some statistics).
- The state should require elementary teacher candidates, including those who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license, to pass a rigorous test of mathematics content in order to attain licensure.
- Such test can also be used to test out of course requirements and should be designed to ensure that prospective teachers cannot pass without sufficient knowledge of mathematics.



The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



1-D Analysis: Minnesota



State Nearly Meets Goal 🕟 Bar Raised for this Goal 😝 Progress Since 2011





ANALYSIS

Minnesota requires all elementary teacher candidates to pass the MTLE elementary content test. It includes a separately scored subtest in which mathematics accounts for 75 percent of the exam questions. Teacher candidates must pass each subtest to earn a passing score on the overall assessment. Although not quite a stand-alone test, the high concentration of mathematics question makes it unlikely that candidates can pass with insufficient math knowledge, provided the passing score is set with appropriate rigor.

Regrettably, early childhood education candidates in Minnesota, who are allowed to teach through grade 3, are only required to pass the early childhood assessment, which combines pedagogy and content and does not report an individual math subscore.

Supporting Research

MTLE Test Requirement

www.mtle.nesinc.com

RECOMMENDATION

Require early childhood education teacher candidates to pass a rigorous mathematics assessment as a condition of initial licensure.

Minnesota should ensure that early childhood education teacher candidates who teach its elementary grades possess the requisite knowledge of mathematics before entering the classroom. Therefore, the state should require them to earn a passing score on either the same test as other elementary teachers or a comparably rigorous one geared to early childhood mathematics content.

■ Ensure that the elementary math test is rigorous and specifically focuses on the knowledge and skills that elementary teachers need.

Minnesota should ensure that its mathematics assessment evaluates candidates' knowledge beyond an elementary school level, challenges their understanding of underlying concepts and requires candidates to apply knowledge in nonroutine, multistep procedures. Teacher candidates who lack minimum mathematics knowledge should not be eligible for licensure.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

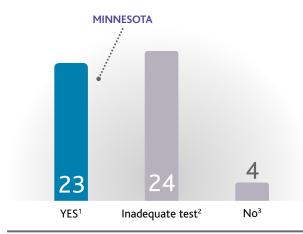


** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Eight states meet this goal by requiring that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades earn a passing score on an independently scored mathematics subtest. **Massachusetts's** MTEL mathematics subtest continues to set the standard in this area by evaluating mathematics knowledge beyond an elementary school level and challenging candidates' understanding of underlying mathematics concepts.

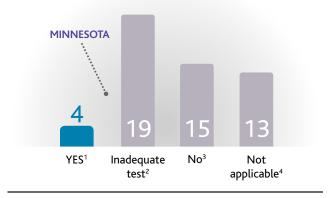
Figure 17

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas⁴, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia
- Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Alaska⁵, Hawaii, Montana, Ohio⁶
- 4. Test is not yet available for review.
- 5. Testing is not required for initial licensure.
- 6. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass an adequate content test.

Figure 18
Do states measure knowledge of math of early childhood teachers who can teach elementary grades?



- 1. Strong Practice: Florida, Indiana, New York, Virginia
- Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin
- 3. Arizona, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. Alaska, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas These states do not offer a standalone early childhood certification that includes elementary grades or the state's early childhood certification is the de facto license to teach elementary grades.

Goal E – Middle School Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should require that new middle school teachers pass a licensing test in every core academic area that they are licensed to teach.
- The state should not permit middle school teachers to teach on a generalist license that does not differentiate between the preparation of middle school teachers and that of elementary teachers.
- 3. The state should encourage middle school candidates who are licensed to teach multiple subjects to earn minors in two core academic areas rather than earn a single major. Middle school candidates licensed to teach a single subject area should earn a major in that area.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



1-E Analysis: Minnesota



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Although Minnesota's elementary license is typically valid for grades K-6, teacher candidates may teach grades 7 and 8 if they are in self-contained classrooms. Teachers with secondary certificates may teach grades 7 and 8 in those subjects for which valid licensure is held.

Minnesota now offers four new middle-level endorsements: communication arts and literature, mathematics, social studies and general science. Candidates must complete the equivalent of a minor in each subject area of licensure.

All new teachers in Minnesota are also required to pass the Minnesota subject-matter test to attain licensure. However, only secondary and middle-level candidates are required to pass single-subject content tests to attain licensure. Those seeking the elementary license are only required to pass the general content test for elementary education, in which subscores are not provided; therefore, there is no assurance that these middle school teachers will have sufficient knowledge about each subject they teach.

Supporting Research

Test Requirement

www.mtle.nesinc.com

Minnesota Administrative Rules 8710.0300, Subpart 8 and 8710.3310, .3320, .3330, .3340

RECOMMENDATION

Require content testing in all core areas.

Minnesota should require subject-matter testing for all middle school teacher candidates in every core academic area they intend to teach as a condition of initial licensure. To ensure meaningful middle school content tests, the state should set its passing scores to reflect high levels of performance.

Prepare middle school teachers to teach middle school.

Minnesota should not allow middle school teachers to teach on a generalist license that does not differentiate between the preparation of middle school teachers and that of elementary teachers. These teachers are less likely to be adequately prepared to teach core academic areas at the middle school level because their preparation requirements are not specific to the middle or secondary levels and they need not pass a subject-matter test in each subject they teach. Minnesota should ensure that students in grades 7 and 8 have teachers who are appropriately prepared to teach grade-level content, which is different and more advanced than what elementary teachers teach.

■ Strengthen middle school teachers' subject-matter preparation.

Minnesota should encourage middle school teachers who plan to teach multiple subjects to earn two minors in two core academic areas. Middle school candidates who intend to teach a single subject should earn a major in that area.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 20	K-8 LICENSE NOT OFER.	K.8 liense offered for	\$ /
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***** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Georgia, Mississippi, New Jersey and South Carolina ensure that all middle school teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach middle school-level content. None of these states offers a K-8 generalist license and all require passing scores on subject-specific content tests. Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina explicitly require at least two content-area minors, and New Jersey requires a content major along with a minor for each additional area of certification.

^{1.} Offers 1-8 license.

^{2.} California offers a K-12 generalist license for all self-contained classrooms.

^{3.} With the exception of mathematics.

^{4.} Oregon offers 3-8 license.

Figure 21		No, test does not report	z /	/
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- Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.
 Candidates teaching multiple subjects only have to pass the elementary test. Single-subject credential does not
- require test.
 3. For K-8 license, Idaho also requires a single-subject test.
- 4. 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.
- For nondepartmentalized classrooms, generalist in middle childhood education candidates must pass new assessment with three subtests.
- 6. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
- 7. Candidates opting for middle-level endorsement may either complete a major or pass a content test.

Goal F – Secondary Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require that secondary teachers pass a licensing test in every subject they are licensed to teach.
- 2. The state should require secondary social studies teachers to pass a subject-matter test of each social studies discipline they are licensed to teach.
- The state should require that secondary teachers pass a content test when adding subject-area endorsements to an existing license.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



1-F Analysis: Minnesota



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota requires that its secondary teacher candidates pass a content test to teach any core secondary subjects.

The state allows a general social studies license, and candidates are required to pass the MTLE Social Studies test, which is comprised of two subtests. The first subtest combines social studies skills, world history, and U.S. and Minnesota history. The second combines geography, government and citizenship, economics and behavioral sciences. Candidates must pass each subtest to pass the test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general social studies but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

To add an additional field to a secondary license, teachers must also pass a content test.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examinations

www.mtle.nesinc.com

Minnesota Administrative Rules 8710.0500, -4800

RECOMMENDATION

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

Minnesota should strengthen its policy regarding testing requirements for secondary social studies teachers and require a passing score for each subject area they are licensed to teach.

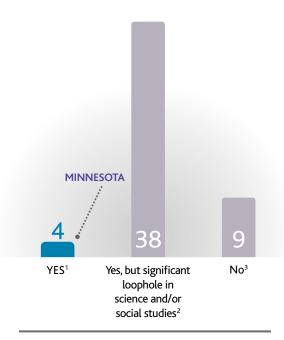
MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Georgia, Indiana and Tennessee require that all secondary teacher candidates pass a content test to teach any core secondary subject—both as a condition of licensure and to add an additional field to a secondary license. Further, none of these states offers secondary certification in general social studies; all teachers must be certified in a specific discipline. Also worthy of mention is **Missouri**, which now requires its general social studies teachers to pass a multi-content test with six independently scored subtests.

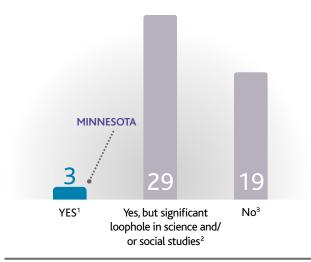
Figure 23 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



- 1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee
- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁴, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin [For more on loopholes, see Goal 1-G (science) and Figure 25 (social studies).}
- 3. Alaska, Arizona⁵, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire⁵, Washington, Wyoming⁶
- 4. Teachers may also have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
- 5. Candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.
- 6. Only secondary comprehensive social studies teachers must pass a content test.

Figure 24

Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area to add an endorsement?



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

Figure 25

Do states ensure that secondary general social studies teachers have adequate subject-matter knowledge? MINNESOTA4 YES, OFFERS ONLY YES, OFFERS GENERAL

SINGLE SUBJECT **SOCIAL** STUDIES LICENSES¹

SOCIAL STUDIES LICENSE WITH ADEQUATE TESTING²

No, offers general social studies license without adequate testing3

- 1. Strong Practice: Georgia, Indiana, South Dakota, Tennessee
- 2. Strong Practice: Minnesota⁴, Missouri
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma⁵, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Minnesota's test for general social studies is divided into two individually scored subtests.
- 5. Oklahoma offers combination licenses.

→ Goal G — Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science The state should ensure that secondary science teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should require secondary science teachers to pass a subject-matter test in each science discipline they are licensed to teach.
- If a general science or combination science certification is offered, the state should require teachers to pass a subject-matter test in each science discipline they are licensed to teach under those certifications.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



1-G Analysis: **Minnesota**



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Commendably, Minnesota does not offer certification in general science for secondary teachers.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 27	JEC .		f /	
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West Virginia		1		
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Wyoming				



EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

Missouri ensures that its secondary science teachers know the content they teach by taking a dual approach to general secondary science certification. The state offers general science certification but only allows these candidates to teach general science courses. Missouri also offers an umbrella certification—called unified science that requires candidates to pass individual subtests in biology, chemistry, earth science and physics. These certifications are offered in addition to single-subject licenses.

^{1.} Teachers with the general science license may only teach general science courses.

^{2.} Georgia's science test consists of two subtests.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal H − Special Education Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that special education teachers know the subject matter they are licensed to teach.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should not permit special education teachers to teach on a K-12 license that does not differentiate between the preparation of elementary teachers and that of secondary teachers.
- All elementary special education candidates should be required to pass a subjectmatter test for licensure that is no less rigorous than what is required of general education candidates.
- 3. The state should ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



1-H Analysis: Minnesota



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota only offers a K-12 special education certification.

The state does not require content testing for any of its special education teacher candidates.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Rule 8700.7600

RECOMMENDATION

End licensure practices that fail to distinguish between the skills and knowledge needed to teach elementary grades and secondary grades.

It is virtually impossible and certainly impractical for Minnesota to ensure that a K-12 special education teacher knows all the subject matter he or she is expected to be able to teach, especially considering state and federal expectations that special education students should meet the same high standards as other students. While the broad K-12 umbrella may be appropriate for teachers of low-incidence special education students, such as those with severe cognitive disabilities, it is deeply problematic for the overwhelming majority of high-incidence special education students, who are expected to learn grade-level content.

Require that elementary special education candidates pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.

To ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess sufficient knowledge of the subject matter at hand, Minnesota should require a rigorous content test that reports separate passing scores for each content area. Minnesota should also set these passing scores to reflect high levels of performance. Failure to ensure that teachers possess requisite content knowledge deprives special education students of the opportunity to reach their academic potential.

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, Minnesota's current policy of requiring no subject-matter testing is problematic and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards. To provide a middle ground, Minnesota 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.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 29		Offes K-12 and	/s) _{ho}
Do states distinguish	BOESNOT OFFERA	<i>≥</i> /	rificati
between elementary	5		3 / 3 × 3
and secondary special	ER TIE	s K-1	Sonly
education teachers?	2008 27.7.	Offer Take	Offer entific
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Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
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Hawaii			
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Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine			
Maryland			
Massachusetts			
Michigan			
MINNESOTA			
Mississippi			
Missouri			
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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			
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Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
J . 8	4.0	-	20
	16	7	28



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Unfortunately, NCTQ cannot award "best practice" honors to any state's policy in the area of special education. However, two states—New York and Rhode Island—are worthy of mention for taking steps in the right direction in ensuring that all special education teachers know the subject matter they are required to teach. Both states require that elementary special education candidates pass the same elementary content tests, which are comprised of individual subtests, as general education elementary teachers. Secondary special education teachers in New York must pass a newly developed multisubject content test for special education teachers comprised of three separately scored sections. Rhode Island requires its secondary special education teachers to hold certification in another secondary area.

Figure 30

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

,	joi special education teachers:				
Elementary Subject-Matter Test					
Required for an elementary special education license	Alabama, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania ¹ , Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia ² , Wisconsin				
Required for a K-12 special education license	Colorado, Idaho, North Carolina				
Secondary	Subject-Matter Test(s)				
Tests in all core subjects required for secondary special education license	New York ³				
Test in at least one subject required for secondary special education license	Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania ¹ , Rhode Island, West Virginia ²				
Required for a K-12 special education license	None				

- 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.
- 2. West Virginia also allows elementary special education candidates to earn dual certification in early childhood, which would not require a content test. Secondary special education candidates earning a dual certification as a reading specialist are similarly exempted.
- 3. New York requires a multi-subject content test specifically geared to secondary special education candidates. It is divided into three subtests.

Figure 29:

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal I – Assessing Professional Knowledge

The state should use a licensing test to verify that all new teachers meet its professional standards.

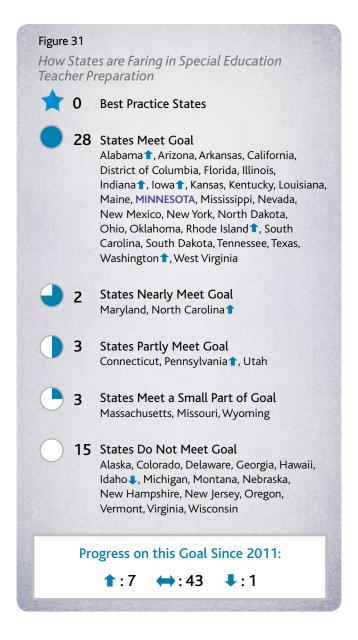
Goal Component

(The factor considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

 The state should assess new teachers' knowledge of teaching and learning by means of a pedagogy test aligned to the state's professional standards.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



1-I Analysis: Minnesota



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota requires all teachers to pass a pedagogy exam under the Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examinations (MTLE) in order to attain licensure.

Minnesota has also participated in the Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA) consortium and has indicated that it will allow or require the use of edTPA in licensure. The edTPA is a requirement for preparation program approval.

Supporting Research

http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/Home.aspx http://aacte.org/index.php?/Programs/

RECOMMENDATION

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

While Minnesota is commended for requiring the use of a performance-based assessment, the state should proceed with caution until additional data are available on the Teacher Performance Assessment. Additional research is needed to determine how the edTPA compares to other teacher tests as well as whether the test's scores are predictive of student achievement. The track record on similar assessments is mixed at best. The two states that currently require the Praxis III performance-based assessment report pass rates of about 99 percent. Given that it takes significant resources to administer a performance-based assessment, a test that nearly every teacher passes is of questionable value.

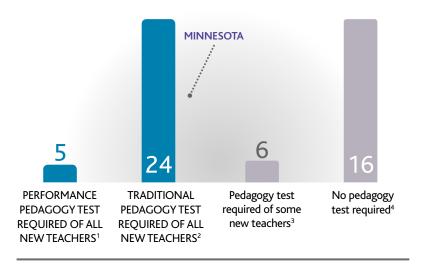
MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



Although NCTQ has not singled out one state's policies for "best practice" honors, it commends the many states that require a pedagogy assessment to verify that all new teachers meet professional standards.

Figure 32

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



- 1. Strong Practice: California, Illinois⁵, New York, Tennessee⁶, Washington
- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina⁷, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia
- 3. Connecticut, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Utah⁸, Wyoming
- 4. Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin
- 5. Beginning in 2015.
- 6. Teachers may pass either the edTPA or a Praxis pedagogy test.
- $7. \\ Teachers have until their second year to pass if they attempt to pass during their first year.$
- 8. Not required until teacher advances from a Level One to a Level Two license.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal J − Student Teaching

The state should ensure that teacher preparation programs provide teacher candidates with a high quality clinical experience.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should require that student teachers only be placed with cooperating teachers for whom there is evidence of their effectiveness as measured by consistent gains in student learning.
- 2. The state should require that teacher candidates spend at least 10 weeks student teaching.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



1-J Analysis: Minnesota



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Commendably, Minnesota requires candidates to complete at least 10 full weeks of student teaching. However, the state does not address the qualifications of cooperating teachers.

Minnesota is in the process of revising the rule that governs both institutional (unit) and program approval. According to the draft rule, a selection process for school-based partner sites and cooperating teachers must be established by the institution to assure that partners model effective instructional practices, and cooperating teachers model the incorporation of state P-12 student academic standards in their teaching. The draft rule also requires, for initial licensure, a student teaching period of at least 12 continuous weeks, which must be full time and face to face and could be split into two placements.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Administrative Rules 8700.7600, Subp. 5a (C)

Draft Rule

http://mn.gov/board-of-teaching/board-operations/initiatives/index.jsp

RECOMMENDATION

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 Minnesota 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.

■ Use evidence from the state's teacher evaluation system to select cooperating teachers.

Minnesota requires objective measures of student growth to be a significant 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.

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

Unless preparation programs can establish true satellite campuses to closely supervise student teaching arrangements, placement in foreign or otherwise novel locales should be supplementary to a standard student teaching arrangement. Outsourcing the arrangements for student teaching makes it impossible to ensure the selection of the best cooperating teacher and adequate supervision of the student teacher and may prevent training of the teacher on relevant state instructional frameworks.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 34	ONER	VDENT TEACHING STS AT LEAST TO WEEK
Do states ensure a	7 G . 2 G .	AG-172
high-quality student	84 77 845 WESS	\\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\
teaching experience?	COOFE SPIECTE	STUDEI LASTS A;
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Colorado		
Connecticut		
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Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		1
Wisconsin		
Wyoming	Ш	Ш

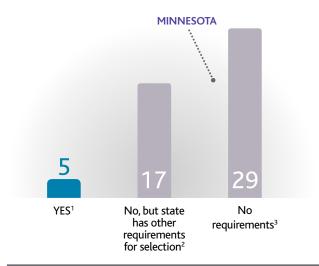


EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Florida, Rhode Island and Tennessee not only require teacher candidates to complete at least 10 weeks of full-time student teaching, but they also all require that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.

 $1. West \ Virginia \ allows \ candidates \ to \ student \ teach \ for \ less \ than \ 12 \ weeks \ if \ determined \ to \ be \ proficient.$

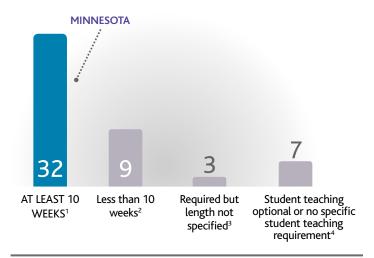
Figure 35
Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



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

Figure 36

Is the student teaching experience of sufficient length?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia⁵, Wisconsin
- 2. Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Illinois, New Hampshire, Utah
- 4. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Maryland, Montana
- 5. West Virginia allows candidates to student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

▶Goal K – Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

The state's approval process for teacher preparation programs should hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should collect data that connects student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.
 Such data can include value added or growth analyses conducted specifically for this purpose or evaluation ratings that incorporate objective measures of student learning to a significant extent.
- 2. The state should collect other meaningful data that reflect program performance, including some or all of the following:
 - a. Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including academic proficiency, subject-matter and professional-knowledge tests;
 - b. Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests;
 - c. Satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison and
 - d. Five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.
- 3. The state should establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data. Programs should be held accountable for meeting these standards, with articulated consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.
- 4. The state should produce and publish on its website an annual report card that shows all the data the state collects on individual teacher preparation programs.
- 5. The state should retain full authority over its process for approving teacher preparation programs.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

Figure 37 How States are Faring in Teacher Preparation Program Accountability **Best Practice States** State Meets Goal Louisiana 10 States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama, Colorado, Delaware 1, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina 1, Ohio 1, Rhode Island 1, Tennessee, Texas States Partly Meet Goal Indiana 1, Kentucky, Massachusetts 1, Michigan, Nevada, South Carolina, Washington 1, Wisconsin 1 18 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, California 1, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas 1, Maine 1, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire 1, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon 1, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia 14 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, MINNESOTA, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: **1**:13 **:** 38

1-K Analysis: Minnesota



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota's approval process for its traditional and alternate route teacher preparation programs does not hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

Minnesota is in the process of revising the rule that governs both institutional (unit) and program approval.

According to the draft rule, each unit must submit a program effectiveness report that includes the following: use of first-year teacher and school administrator survey data, and evidence that aggregated data from multiple assessments are regularly analyzed for program evaluation purposes.

All preparation programs, including alternate route programs, require the edTPA for accountability purposes. Candidates must be measured in three areas: planning for instruction and assessment, engaging students and supporting learning and assessing student learning.

Minnesota does not apply any transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval.

Further, in the past three years, no programs in Minnesota have been identified as low performing—an additional indicator that programs lack accountability.

The state's website does not include a report card that allows the public to review and compare program performance.

Minnesota maintains control over its approval process.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Rule 8700.7600

RECOMMENDATION

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

As one way to measure whether programs are producing effective classroom teachers, Minnesota 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.

■ Gather other meaningful 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, such as:

- 1. Evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching;
- 2. Satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison;
- 3. Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including academic proficiency, subject matter and professional knowledge tests;

- 4. Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests; and
- 5. Five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.
- Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.

Merely collecting the types of data described above is insufficient for accountability purposes. The next and perhaps more critical step is for Minnesota to establish precise 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. Although Minnesota requires the edTPA, without standards for performance, it lacks any usefulness for accountability purposes.

Publish an annual report card on the state's website.

Minnesota should produce an annual report card that shows all the data the state collects on individual teacher preparation programs, which should be published on the state's website at the program level for the sake of public transparency. Data should be presented in a manner that clearly conveys whether programs have met performance standards.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 38	OBJECTIVE PROGRAM.		. /
Do states hold teacher	\$ <u>\$</u>		
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preparation programs accountable?	SPECIFIC)	MINIMUM STANDARDS COR PERCORMANCE COR	DATA PUBLICIY AVAILABLEOV WERE
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Arizona			
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Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
Iowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			2
Louisiana			2
Maine	1		
Maryland	3		
Massachusetts			
Michigan		1	
MINNESOTA			
Mississippi	1		
Missouri			
Montana	1		
Nebraska			
Nevada ¹			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey	1		
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			2
North Dakota			
Ohio ¹			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania	1		
Rhode Island			
South Carolina ¹			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas Utah			
Vermont			
	1		
Virginia Washington			
West Virginia	1		
Wisconsin			

Wyoming			
Wyoming	36	4	19



****** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

NCTQ is not awarding "best practice" honors to any state's policy in the area of teacher preparation program accountability. However, the following states should be commended for collecting data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Texas.

Figure 39 Do states connect student achievement data to teacher preparation programs?



- 1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia^a, Hawaii^a, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland^a, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York³, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Included in state's Race to the Top plan, but not in policy or yet implemented.

 $^{1. \} For \ traditional \ preparation \ programs \ only.$

^{2.} State does not distinguish between alternate route programs and traditional preparation programs in public reporting.

^{3.} For alternate routes only.

Figure 40

Which states collect meaningful data?

STUDENT LEARNING GAINS

Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas

EVALUATION RESULTS FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES

Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas

AVERAGE RAW SCORES ON LICENSING TESTS

Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia

SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland¹, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia

TEACHER RETENTION RATES

Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas

1. For alternate route only

Figure 41

What is the relationship between state program

approval and national

П

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П

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П

П

accreditation?

Alabama Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

California

Colorado

Delaware

Florida

Georgia

Hawaii

Indiana

Idaho Illinois

Connecticut

District of Columbia

National accreditation is required for program approval

П

П

 \Box

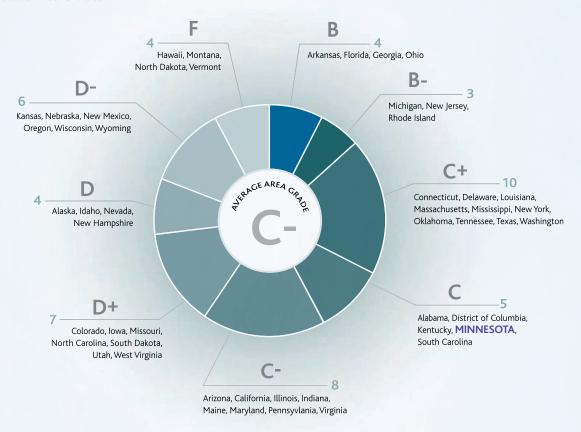
Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine П Maryland П Massachusetts Michigan П П **MINNESOTA** Mississippi Missouri Montana П П Nebraska Nevada П П New Hampshire New Jersey П П New Mexico П П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П Oklahoma П Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П Vermont Virginia П Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 1. National accreditation can be substituted for state approval. 2. For institutions with 2,000 or more full-time equivalent students 7 31 13 MINNESOTA NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2013: 49

Area 2 Summary



How States are Faring in Expanding the Pool of Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility

2-B: Alternate Route Preparation

2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers

2-D: Part-Time Teaching Licenses

2-E: Licensure Reciprocity

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Goal A − Alternate Route Eligibility

The state should require alternate route programs to exceed the admission requirements of traditional preparation programs while also being flexible to the needs of nontraditional candidates.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- With some accommodation for work experience, alternate route programs should set a rigorous bar for program entry by requiring that candidates take a rigorous test to demonstrate academic ability, such as the GRE.
- All alternate route candidates, including elementary candidates and those having a major in their intended subject area, should be required to pass the state's subject-matter licensing test.
- 3. Alternate route candidates lacking a major in the intended subject area should be able to demonstrate subject-matter knowledge by passing a test of sufficient rigor.



The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



2-A Analysis: Minnesota



State Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2011



ANALYSIS

Minnesota requires candidates for alternate routes to have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Waivers for this requirement may be granted for candidates meeting specific criteria that have not yet been determined.

In addition, Minnesota now requires that all alternate route candidates pass a content-area and a pedagogy examination prior to admission. Candidates must also pass a test of basic skills.

Neither a major nor specific coursework is required; as a result there is no need for a test-out option.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Statutes 122A.245

RECOMMENDATION

■ Ensure that pending waivers for minimum GPA requirements are appropriate.

Waiver criteria should offer accommodation to career changers with relevant work experience. Alternatively, the state could require one of the standardized tests of academic proficiency commonly used in higher education for graduate admissions, such as the GRE.

Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

Minnesota is commended for requiring all applicants to demonstrate content knowledge on a subject-matter test. However, the state's requirement that alternate route candidates pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffectual. 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. A test designed for individuals who already have a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be a much more appropriate measure of academic standing. The state should eliminate the basic skills test requirement or, at a minimum, accept the equivalent in SAT or ACT scores.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

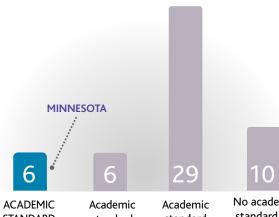
Are states' alternate	STANDA EXCEDS	S / SE	REQUIR.
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lexible in admissions?	ACADEM SANDARD FOR	SUBECT-MATTER	NO MAJOR REQUIRED IN LIEU OF MAJOR SE
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lowa			-
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Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey	*	*	
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New York			
North Carolina North Dakota			
Ohio		<u> </u>	<u></u>
Oklahoma		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Oregon			
Pennsylvania		*	
Rhode Island	*		*
South Carolina		*	
South Dakota		*	
Tennessee			*
Texas			
Utah Vermont			
Virginia		→	
Washington		-	<u>+</u>
West Virginia		*	
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

The District of Columbia and Michigan require candidates to demonstrate aboveaverage academic performance as a condition of admission to an alternate route program, with both requiring applicants to have a minimum 3.0 GPA. In addition, neither requires a content-specific major; subjectarea knowledge is demonstrated by passing a test, making their alternate routes flexible to the needs of nontraditional candidates.

Figure 44 Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



STANDARD EXCEEDS THAT OF TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS FOR ALL ROUTES/ MAIN ROUTE1

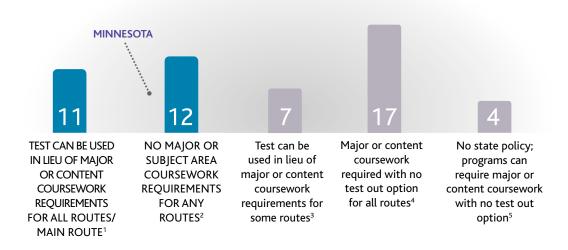
standard exceeds that of traditional programs for some routes² standard too low for all routes³

No academic standard for any route4

- 1. Strong Practice: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island
- 2. Alabama, Illinois⁵, Indiana, Kentucky⁶, New York, Pennsylvania
- 3. Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah
- 5. Illinois' routes are in the process of converting to a single new license.
- 6. Only one of Kentucky's eight alternate routes has a 3.0 GPA requirement.

Figure 45

Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



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

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

➤ Goal B – Alternate Route Preparation

The state should ensure that its alternate routes provide efficient preparation that is relevant to the immediate needs of new teachers, as well as adequate mentoring and support.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should ensure that the amount of coursework it either requires or allows is manageable for a novice teacher. Anything exceeding 12 credit hours of coursework in the first year may be counterproductive, placing too great a burden on the teacher. This calculation is premised on no more than 6 credit hours in the summer, three in the fall and three in the spring.
- 2. The state should ensure that alternate route programs offer accelerated study not to exceed six (three credit) courses for secondary teachers and eight (three credit) courses for elementary teachers (exclusive of any credit for practice teaching or mentoring) over the duration of the program. Programs should be limited to two years, at which time the new teacher should be eligible for a standard certificate.
- 3. All coursework requirements should target the immediate needs of the new teacher (e.g., seminars with other grade-level teachers, training in a particular curriculum, reading instruction, classroom management techniques).
- 4. The state should require intensive induction support, beginning with a trained mentor assigned full time to the new teacher for the first critical weeks of school and then gradually reduced over the course of the entire first year. The state should support only induction strategies that can be effective even in a poorly managed school: intensive mentoring, seminars appropriate to grade level or subject area, a reduced teaching load and frequent release time to observe effective teachers. Ideally, candidates would also have an opportunity to practice teach in a summer training program.



The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.



Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

2-B Analysis: Minnesota



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal (



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota requires that alternate route programs provide a minimum of 200 instructional hours to candidates before they can assume classroom responsibilities. The state provides no specific guidelines about the nature of the coursework for its alternate route except to say that it should be research-based and focused on best practices. There is also no limit on the overall amount of coursework, nor on the amount of coursework a candidate can be required to take while also teaching.

The state requires alternate route programs in partnership with districts to provide "intensive, ongoing, and multiyear mentoring and induction support for new teachers," but no further details or definitions are articulated.

Candidates are issued a two-year limited term license while completing the alternate route program. In some cases the state will renew this limited license one additional time for a one-year term. Upon completion, alternate route candidates may be recommended for the standard teaching certificate.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Statutes 122A.245

RECOMMENDATION

Establish coursework guidelines for alternate route preparation programs.

Simply mandating coursework without specifying the purpose can inadvertently send the wrong message to program providers—that "anything goes" as long as credits are granted. However constructive, any course that is not fundamentally practical and immediately necessary should be eliminated as a requirement. Appropriate coursework should include grade-level or subject-level seminars, methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction.

Ensure that new teachers are not burdened by excessive requirements.

While requiring some preparation prior to entering the classroom is important, Minnesota requires alternate route candidates to take a considerable amount of coursework before they begin teaching, an amount more typically associated with a traditional preparation program. All coursework requirements should be manageable for career changers and other nontraditional candidates and contribute to the immediate needs of new teachers.

Ensure that new teachers are supported in the first year of teaching.

Minnesota should provide more detailed induction guidelines to ensure that new teachers will receive the support they need to facilitate their success in the classroom. Effective strategies include practice teaching prior to teaching in the classroom, intensive mentoring with full classroom support in the first few weeks or months of school, a reduced teaching load and release time to allow new teachers to observe experienced teachers during each school day.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 47		RELEVANT COURCE	REASONABLE PROGRAMILE	PRACTICE TEACHING	INTENSIVE SUPPORT
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Wisconsin					
Wyoming			*		



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Delaware and **New Jersey** ensure that alternate routes provide efficient preparation that meets the needs of new teachers. Both states require a manageable number of credit hours, relevant coursework, a field placement and intensive mentoring.

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

➤ Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

The state should provide an alternate route that is free from limitations on its usage and allows a diversity of providers.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should not treat the alternate route as a program of last resort or restrict the availability of alternate routes to certain subjects, grades or geographic areas.
- The state should allow districts and nonprofit organizations other than institutions of higher education to operate alternate route programs.
- 3. The state should ensure that its alternate route has no requirements that would be difficult to meet for a provider that is not an institution of higher education (e.g., an approval process based on institutional accreditation).

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



2-C Analysis: Minnesota



State Nearly Meets Goal 😩



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Although it does not limit the usage of its alternate route, Minnesota does place restrictions on providers.

Minnesota is commended for having no restrictions on the usage of its alternate route with regard to subject, grade or geographic areas.

School districts or charter schools may create and implement an alternative teacher preparation program; however, it must be in partnership with a college or university. Nonprofit providers are prohibited from operating an alternate route independently. A school district may partner with a nonprofit only after the district has consulted with a college or university.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Statutes 122A.245

RECOMMENDATION

Encourage diversity of alternate route providers.

Minnesota should specifically authorize alternate route programs run by local school districts and nonprofits, as well as institutions of higher education. Districts should be able to provide training without a required partnership with colleges and universities. For example, districts may want to provide training in a specific curriculum, something that most colleges and universities are reluctant to do.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

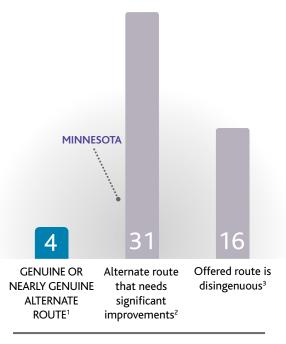
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For some alternate routes For most c	or most widely 🌟 F	or all alternate ro



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Twenty-three states meet this goal, and although NCTQ has not singled out one state's policies for "best practice" honors, it commends all states that pemit both broad usage and a diversity of providers for their alternate routes.

Figure 50 Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification?



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

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Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

➤ Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

The state should offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- Either through a discrete license or by waiving most licensure requirements, the state should license individuals with content expertise as part-time instructors.
- All candidates for a part-time teaching license should be required to pass a subjectmatter test.
- 3. Other requirements for this license should be limited to those addressing public safety (e.g., background screening) and those of immediate use to the novice instructor (e.g., classroom management training).

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



2-D Analysis: Minnesota



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota does not offer a license with minimal requirements that would allow content experts to teach part time.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Minnesota should permit individuals with deep subject-area knowledge to teach a limited number of courses without fulfilling a complete set of certification requirements. The state should verify content knowledge through a rigorous test and conduct background checks as appropriate, while waiving all other licensure requirements. Such a license would increase districts' flexibility to staff certain subjects, including many STEM areas, that are frequently hard to staff or may not have high enough enrollment to necessitate a full-time position.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 53 Do states offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part-time? YES Š Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine П П Maryland Massachusetts П Michigan **MINNESOTA** Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey П П New Mexico **New York** North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon П П Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 10 12 29



TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

Georgia offers a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time. Individuals seeking this license must pass a subject-matter test and will be assigned a mentor.

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Goal E − Licensure Reciprocity

The state should help to make licenses fully portable among states, with appropriate safeguards.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should offer a standard license to fully certified teachers moving from other states, without relying on transcript analysis or recency requirements as a means of judging eligibility. The state can and should require evidence of effective teaching in previous employment.
- 2. The state should uphold its standards for all teachers by insisting that certified teachers coming from other states meet its own testing requirements.
- The state should accord the same license to teachers from other states who completed an approved alternate route program as it accords teachers prepared in a traditional preparation program.
- 4. Consistent with these principles of portability, state requirements for online teachers based in other states should protect student interests without creating unnecessary obstacles for teachers.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



2-E Analysis: Minnesota



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Commendably, Minnesota does not grant any waivers of its testing requirements. All out-of-state teachers, no matter how many years of experience they have, must meet Minnesota's passing scores on licensing tests.

However, other aspects of the state's policy create obstacles for teachers from other states seeking licensure in Minnesota. Teachers with valid, out-of-state certificates may be eligible for Minnesota's professional certificate. The state routinely reviews the college transcripts of licensed out-of-state teachers, an exercise that often leads the state to require additional coursework before it will offer an equivalent license. States that reach a determination about an applicant's licensure status on the basis of the course titles listed on the applicant's transcript may end up mistakenly equating the amount of required coursework with the teacher's qualifications.

Minnesota is also a participant in the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement, which outlines which other states' certificates will be accepted by the receiving state. This agreement is not a collection of two-way reciprocal acceptances, nor is it a guarantee that all certificates will be accepted by the receiving state, and is therefore not included in this analysis.

The state does not articulate specific certification requirements for out-of-state teachers who teach online courses to Minnesota students.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Administrative Rules, 8710.0400

RECOMMENDATION

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

Minnesota should consider discontinuing its requirement for the submission of transcripts. Transcript analysis is likely to result in additional coursework requirements, even for traditionally prepared teachers; alternate route teachers, on the other hand, may have to virtually begin anew, repeating some, most or all of a teacher preparation program in Minnesota. Regardless of whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route, all certified out-of-state teachers should receive equal treatment.

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

Rather than rely on transcripts to assess credentials, Minnesota should instead require that evidence of teacher effectiveness be considered for all out-of-state candidates. Such evidence is especially important for candidates who come from states that make student growth at least a significant factor of a teacher evaluation (see Goal 3-B).

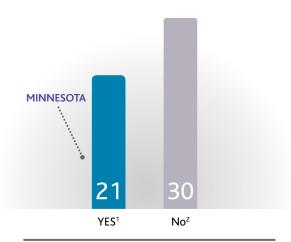
Ensure that requirements for online teachers are as rigorous as those for in-state teachers.

Minnesota should ensure that online teachers based in other states are at least equally as qualified as those who teach in the state. However, Minnesota should balance the interests of its students in having qualified online instructors with making certain that these requirements do not create unnecessary obstacles for out-of-state teachers.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 55

Do states require all out-of-state teachers to pass their licensure tests?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska³, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine⁴, Massachusetts³, Minnesota, New York⁵, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas³, Utah, Washington⁶, Wisconsin
- Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana⁷, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyorning
- 3. Allows one year to meet testing requirements.
- 4. Maine grants waiver for basic skills and pedagogy tests.
- 5. Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification; all others given two years to meet testing requirements.
- 6. Waiver for teachers with National Board Certification.
- 7. No subject-matter testing for any teacher certification.

Figure 56	UCENSE RECIPROCI	Submission of trac	s / sipts
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Wyoming	3		
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Figure 56

^{1.} State conducts transcript reviews.

^{2.} Recency requirement is for alternate route.

^{3.} For traditionally prepared teachers only.

^{4.} Teachers with less than 3 years' experience are subject to transcript review.

Figure 57 Do states treat out-of-state teachers the same whether they were prepared in a traditional or an alternate route program? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Illinoi	Figure 57	S	540	ate / h
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

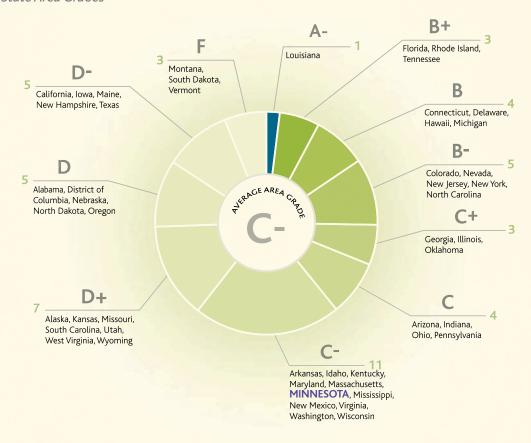
Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet Alabama's and Texas's own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate route teachers. Also worthy of mention is **Delaware** for its reciprocity policy that limits the evidence of "successful" experience it will accept to evaluation results from states with rigorous requirements similar to its own.

Area 3 Summary



How States are Faring in Identifying Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

- 3-A: State Data Systems 3-D: Tenure
- 3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness 3-E: Licensure Advancement
- 3-C: Frequency of Evaluations 3-F: Equitable Distribution

Goal A – State Data Systems

The state should have a data system that contributes some of the evidence needed to assess teacher effectiveness.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should establish a longitudinal data system with at least the following key components:
 - a. A unique statewide student identifier number that connects student data across key databases across years;
 - b. A unique teacher identifier system that can match individual teacher records with individual student records and
 - c. An assessment system that can match individual student test records from year to year in order to measure academic growth.
- Student growth or value-added data provided through the state's longitudinal data system should be considered among the criteria used to determine teachers' effectiveness.
- To ensure that data provided through the state data system is actionable and reliable, the state should have a clear definition of "teacher of record" and require its consistent use statewide.
- 4. Data provided through the state's longitudinal data system should be used to publicly report information on teacher production.



The components for this goal have changed since 2011. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



3-A Analysis: Minnesota







Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota has a data system with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Minnesota has all three necessary elements of a student- and teacher-level longitudinal data system. The state has assigned unique student identifiers that connect student data across key databases across years and has assigned unique teacher identifiers that enable it to match individual teacher records with individual student records. It also has the capacity to match student test records from year to year in order to measure student academic growth.

Minnesota defines teacher of record as the educator responsible for awarding a mark and credit for the section. The state's teacher-student data link can connect more than one educator to a particular student in a given course, but it does not have in place a process for teacher roster verification.

Minnesota does not publish data on teacher production that connects program completion, certification and hiring statistics. In its annual "Education Statistics Summary," Minnesota publishes only the total number of new teachers (newly licensed and first teaching assignment) for that particular year.

Supporting Research

Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org Summary http://education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/Data.jsp

RECOMMENDATION

Develop a definition of "teacher of record" that can be used to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

To ensure that data provided through the state data system are actionable and reliable, Minnesota should articulate a definition of teacher of record and require its consistent use throughout the state. The state's definition should reflect instruction rather than grading, and Minnesota should develop a process for teacher roster verification.

Publish data on teacher production.

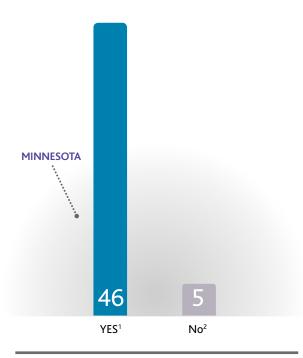
From the number of teachers who graduate from preparation programs each year, only a subset are certified, and only some of those certified are actually hired in the state. While it is certainly desirable to produce a big enough pool to give districts a choice in hiring, the substantial oversupply in some teaching areas is not good for the profession. Minnesota should look to Maryland's "Teacher Staffing Report" as a model whose primary purpose is to determine teacher shortage areas, while also identifying areas of surplus. By collecting similar hiring data from its districts, Minnesota will form a rich set of data that can inform policy decisions.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 59

Do states' data systems have the basic elements needed to assess teacher effectiveness: unique

needed to assess teacher effectiveness: unique teacher and student identifiers that can be matched to test records over time?



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

2. Colorado, Maine, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota

Figure 60		/	1 / S
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Hawaii and New York have all three necessary elements of a student- and teacher-level longitudinal data system. Both states have developed definitions of "teacher of record" that reflect instruction. Their data links can connect multiple teachers to a particular student, and there is a process for teacher roster verification. In addition, Hawaii and New York publish teacher production data. Also worthy of mention is Maryland for its "Teacher Staffing Report," which serves as a model for other states. The report's primary purpose is to determine teacher shortage areas, while also identifying areas of surplus.

Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

The state should require instructional effectiveness to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should either require a common evaluation instrument in which evidence of student learning is the most significant criterion or should specifically require that student learning be the preponderant criterion in local evaluation processes. Evaluation instruments, whether state or locally developed, should be structured so as to preclude a teacher from receiving a satisfactory rating if found ineffective in the classroom.
- Evaluation instruments should require classroom observations that focus on and document the effectiveness of instruction.
- 3. The state should encourage the use of student surveys, which have been shown to correlate strongly with teacher effectiveness.
- 4. The state should require that evaluation instruments differentiate among various levels of teacher performance. A binary system that merely categorizes teachers as satisfactory or unsatisfactory is inadequate.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



3-B Analysis: Minnesota



State Partly Meets Goal (Progress Since 2011



ANALYSIS

Although the state requires student performance data to be a factor, Minnesota stops short of requiring that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations. The state requires districts to develop their own teacher evaluation process consistent with the state's framework, or if one cannot be agreed on, they must adopt the state's model.

By school year 2014-2015, Minnesota will require that an agreed-on value-added assessment model count for 35 percent of teacher evaluation results. For grade levels and subject areas for which value-added data are not available, state or local measures of student growth must be established. The state model uses student learning goals. A shared performance goal is also incorporated for all teachers, and at least three performance levels must be used.

The state's model rounds out the scoring with teacher practice (planning, instruction, environment and professionalism) counting for 45 percent and student engagement (including student surveys) counting for 20 percent. Regrettably, it allows teachers to direct how they are observed, and they may choose their raters.

Classroom observations are required.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Statute 122A.40

Overview of State Model

http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Welcome/AdvBCT/TeacEvalWorkGrp/

RECOMMENDATION

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

Minnesota's evaluation system falls short by failing to require that evidence of student learning be the most significant criterion. The state should either require a common evaluation instrument in which evidence of student learning is the most significant criterion, or it should specifically require that student learning be the preponderant criterion in local evaluation processes. This can be accomplished by requiring objective evidence to count for at least half of the evaluation score or through other scoring mechanisms, such as a matrix, that ensure that nothing affects the overall score more. Whether state or locally developed, a teacher should not be able to receive a satisfactory rating if found ineffective in the classroom.

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

Although Minnesota requires classroom observations, the state should articulate guidelines that ensure that the observations focus on effectiveness of instruction. The primary component of a classroom observation should be the quality of instruction, as measured by student time on task, student grasp or mastery of the lesson objective and efficient use of class time.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 63	REQUIRES THAT STUDENT PREPONDERANT GROUENT	Requires thet student criterion (explicit) is a contraction.	Requires that student semicant achievement summer to the trucket without control of the trucket with	Requires some object.	iden _{Ge}
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The state has an ESEA waiver requiring an evaluation system that includes student achievement as a significant factor. However, no specific guidelines or policies have been articulated.

^{2.} Explicitly defined for the 2013-2014 school year.

Figure 64 Type of suriey not specified Is survey data used as part of teacher evaluations? Alabama Alaska¹ Arizona П П П Arkansas California Colorado 2 Connecticut³ П П Delaware П П District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois \Box П П Indiana Iowa1 Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana П Maine 2 Maryland П П П П Massachusetts Michigan П **MINNESOTA** Mississippi П П П Missouri 2 Montana П Nebraska Nevada П П New Hampshire П П П New Jersey П New Mexico П П П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П П П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina П П South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming П 2 14 11 6 33

Figure 65

Do states require more than two categories for teacher evaluation ratings?



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

Input from students, teachers and peers is required, but there is no explicit indication that this must come from surveys.

^{2.} Explicitly allowed but not required.

 $^{{\}it 3. Requires parent or peer surveys; whole-school student learning or student surveys.}\\$



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

NCTQ has not singled out any one state for "best practice" honors. Many states continue to make significant strides in the area of teacher evaluation by requiring that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion. Because there are many different approaches that result in student learning being the preponderant criterion, all 19 states that meet this goal are commended for their efforts.

Figure 66 Do states direct how teachers should be evaluated? Alabama Alaska Arizona П Arkansas California П П Colorado Connecticut П Delaware П District of Columbia П П Florida Georgia П Hawaii П П Idaho П П Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland П П Massachusetts Michigan П П **MINNESOTA** Mississippi Missouri Montana П Nebraska Nevada П П New Hampshire П New Jersey П New Mexico П П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming П П 9 12 30

New Hampshire is in the process of developing a state model/criteria for teacher evaluations.

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^{1.} Maryland requires multiple observers for ineffective teachers.

 $^{{\}it 2. Multiple evaluators are explicitly allowed but not required.}$

➤ Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require that all teachers receive a formal evaluation rating each year.
- 2. While all teachers should have multiple observations that contribute to their formal evaluation rating, the state should ensure that new teachers are observed and receive feedback early in the school year.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



3-C Analysis: Minnesota



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Although Minnesota's statute specifically articulates an annual evaluation requirement, it also speaks to a three-year professional review cycle that includes the following: an individual growth and development plan, a peer review process, the opportunity to participate in a professional learning community and at least one summative evaluation performed by a qualified and trained evaluator. It is, therefore, unclear whether what occurs in the years without a summative evaluation will result in an adequate review of teacher performance.

Classroom observations are required; however, it does not appear they are guaranteed to occur on an annual basis for veteran teachers.

New teachers must be evaluated at least three times a year, and the first evaluation must occur within the first 90 days of teaching services.

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure annual review of teacher performance.

Minnesota should clarify its requirements regarding the three-year professional review cycle to ensure that a tenured teacher's performance is adequately reviewed, especially for those years when a summative evaluation is not required.

Base evaluations on multiple observations.

To guarantee that annual evaluations are based on an adequate collection of information, Minnesota should require multiple observations for all teachers, even those who have nonprobationary status.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 69
Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?

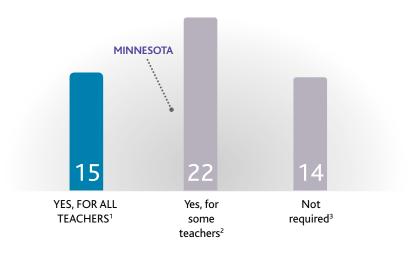


- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland³, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia
- ${\it 3. Regulations sunset on September 30, 2014.}$

Figure 70 Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Ilowa 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 Ohio Clahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Ohio Cyginia Wisconsin Wyoming 28 444	Figure 70		/ 4
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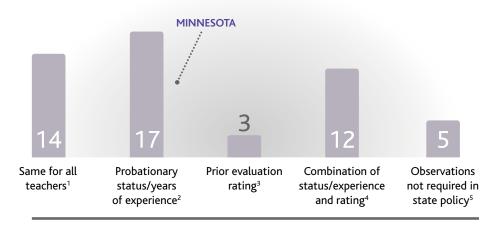
Figure 71

Do states require multiple classroom observations?



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

Figure 72
What is the determining factor for frequency of observations?



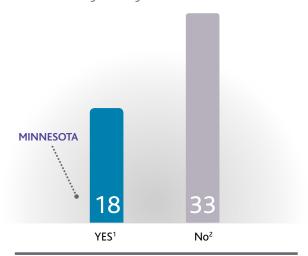
- Alabama, District of Columbia⁶, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas⁷, California⁷, Colorado, Florida, Kansas⁷, Minnesota⁷, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma⁷, Oregon, Pennsylvania⁷, South Carolina, South Dakota⁷, Utah⁷, Washington, West Virginia⁸
- 3. Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio
- 4. Arizona⁹, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts⁷, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas⁷, Virginia⁷, Wisconsin⁷
- 5. Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming
- 6. Depends on LEA requirements.
- 7. Frequency is based on evaluation cycle, not year.
- 8. No observations required after year 5.
- 9. Second observation may be waived for tenured teachers with high performance on first observation.



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

NCTQ is not awarding "best practice" honors for frequency of evaluations but commends Alabama, Hawaii, Idaho, Mississippi, New Jersey, Tennessee and Washington. These states not only require annual evaluations and multiple observations for all teachers, but they also ensure that new teachers are observed and receive feedback during the first half of the school year.

Figure 73 Do states require that new teachers are observed early in the year?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota³, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia
- 2. Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia⁴, Wisconsin,
- 3. New teachers must be evaluated early in the year; observations not explicit.
- 4. Teachers in their first year are informally evaluated early in the year.

Goal D - Tenure

The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

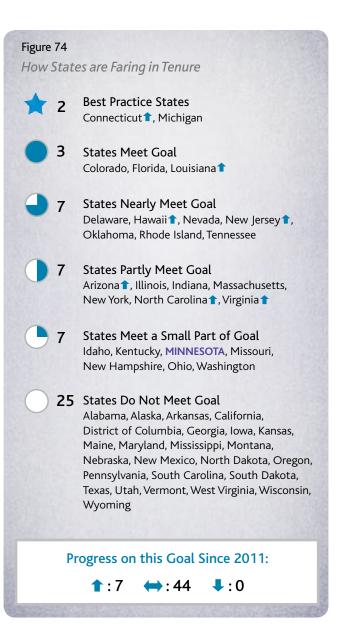
Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- A teacher should be eligible for tenure after a certain number of years of service, but tenure should not be granted automatically at that juncture.
- 2. Evidence of effectiveness should be the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.
- The minimum years of service needed to achieve tenure should allow sufficient data to be accumulated on which to base tenure decisions; four to five years is the ideal minimum.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



3-D Analysis: Minnesota



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota does not connect tenure decisions to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Minnesota has a three-year probationary period. At the conclusion of this period, the school board consults with the peer review committee charged with evaluating the probationary teacher to determine whether to renew the annual contract. The board and an exclusive representative of the teachers in the school district must develop a peer review process for probationary teachers through joint agreement.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Statute 122A.40, Subd. 5 and 6, and 122A.41, Subd. 2

RECOMMENDATION

- Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions. Minnesota should make evidence of effectiveness, rather than the number of years in the classroom, the most significant factor when determining this leap in professional standing.
- Require a longer probationary period. Minnesota should extend its probationary period, ideally to five years. This would allow sufficient time to collect data that adequately reflect teacher performance.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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- 1. Idaho limits teacher contract terms to one year.
- A teacher can receive up to a 4-year contract if deemed proficient on evaluation.
- Teachers must hold an educator license for at least seven years and have taught in the district at least three of the last five years.
- 4. Teachers may also earn career status with an average rating of at least effective for a four-year period and a rating of at least effective for the last two years.
- While technically not on annual contracts, Rhode Island teachers who receive two years of ineffective ratings are dismissed.
- 6. Local school board may extend up to five years.
- 7. At a district's discretion, a teacher may be granted tenure after the second year if he/she receives one of the top two evaluation ratings.



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Connecticut and Michigan appropriately base tenure decisions on evidence of teacher effectiveness. In Connecticut, tenure is awarded after four years and must be earned on the basis of effective practice as demonstrated in evaluation ratings. Michigan requires a probationary period of five years, with teachers having to earn a rating of effective or highly effective on their three most recent performance evaluations. Both states require that student growth be the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.

- 1. Florida only awards annual contracts.
- 2. North Carolina has recently eliminated tenure. The state requires some evidence of effectiveness in awarding multipleyear contracts.
- 3. Oklahoma has created a loophole by essentially waiving student learning requirements and allowing the principal of a school to petition for career-teacher status.

Figure 76		<pre> /</pre>	/	
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Goal E – Licensure Advancement

The state should base licensure advancement on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should base advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license on evidence of effectiveness.
- 2. The state should not require teachers to fulfill generic, unspecified coursework requirements to advance from a probationary to a nonprobationary license.
- 3. The state should not require teachers to have an advanced degree as a condition of professional licensure.
- 4. Evidence of effectiveness should be a factor in the renewal of a professional licenses.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



3-E Analysis: Minnesota



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



ANALYSIS

Minnesota's requirements for licensure advancement and renewal are not based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Minnesota's initial license issued to teachers in the state is the First Professional license. The Professional license is then renewed by successfully completing at least 125 clock hours of professional development, which now must be in the following areas: positive behavioral intervention strategies; accommodations and modifications to meet student needs; warning signs for mental illness in children; technology and in-service preparation in scientifically based reading instruction, and effective integration of technology with student learning.

Beginning July 1, 2012, all individuals who were employed as teachers during any part of the five-year period immediately preceding the license renewal must include evidence of work that demonstrates professional reflection and growth in best-teaching practices. The applicant must include a reflective statement of professional accomplishment and the applicant's own assessment of professional growth in their license renewal materials.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Teacher Licensing Information
http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/EdExc/Licen/index.html
Minnesota Administrative Rules 8710.0300

Minnesota Statutes Section 122A.09

RECOMMENDATION

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

Minnesota should require evidence of teacher effectiveness to be a factor in determining whether teachers can renew their licenses or advance to a higher-level license. Minnesota's requirement for renewal requirement for professional reflection on evidence of effectiveness does not constitute an objective measure of teacher effectiveness.

Discontinue license requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

While Minnesota's targeted coursework requirements in accommodations and scientifically based reading instruction may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Minnesota's other general, nonspecific coursework requirements for license advancement and renewal merely call for teachers to complete a certain amount of seat time. These requirements do not correlate with teacher effectiveness.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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- Evidence of effectiveness is required for license renewal but not for conferring of professional license.
- 2. Illinois allows revocation of licenses based on ineffectiveness.
- Maryland uses some objective evidence through their evaluation systems for renewal, but advancement to professional license is still based on earning an advanced degree.

Figure 79

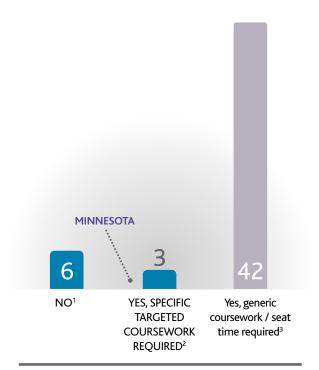
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?



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

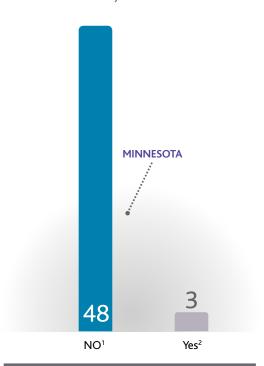
Figure 80

Do states require teachers to take additional coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



- Strong Practice: Hawaii, Louisiana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Tennessee
- 2. Strong Practice: California, Georgia, Minnesota
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississispip, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina⁴, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Some required coursework is targeted.

Figure 81 Do states award lifetime licenses?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut³, 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 Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin,
- 2. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia
- 3. Although teachers in Connecticut must renew their licenses every five years, there are no requirements for renewal.



TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

Rhode Island is integrating certification, certification renewal and educator evaluations. Teachers who receive poor evaluations for five consecutive years are not eligible to renew their licenses. In addition, teachers who consistently receive "highly effective" ratings will be eligible for a special license designation.

→ Goal F — Equitable Distribution

The state should publicly report districts' distribution of teacher talent among schools to identify inequities in schools serving disadvantaged children.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should make aggregate school-level data about teacher performance —from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness as described in Goal 3-B publicly available.
- 2. In the absence of such an evaluation system, the state should make the following data publicly available:
 - a. An "Academic Quality" index for each school that includes factors research has found to be associated with teacher effectiveness such as:
 - · percentage of new teachers;
 - percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once;
 - percentage of teachers on emergency credentials:
 - average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions and
 - teachers' average ACT or SAT scores
 - b. The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area.
 - c. The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school.
 - d. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school, by district and by reasons that teachers leave.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



3-F Analysis: Minnesota



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



(🛑) Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Providing comprehensive reporting may be the state's most important role for ensuring the equitable distribution of teachers among schools. Minnesota reports little school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

Minnesota does not require districts to publicly report aggregate school-level data about teacher performance, nor does the state collect and publicly report most of the other data recommended by NCTQ. Minnesota does not provide a school-level teacher-quality index that demonstrates the academic backgrounds of a school's teachers and the ratio of new to veteran teachers. The state also does not report on teacher absenteeism or turnover rates.

Minnesota does report on the percentage of teachers with fewer than three years of experience and the percentage of highly qualified teachers. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. The state is also commended for comparing the percentage of highly qualified teachers at high- and low-poverty schools statewide.

Supporting Research

2012 Data for Educators

http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/Reports.jsp

2012 Data for Parents

http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/Reports.jsp

RECOMMENDATION

Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

Minnesota should make aggregate school-level data about teacher performance—from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness—publicly available. Given that Minnesota requires teacher evaluations to be based to a significant extent on evidence of student learning (see Goal 3-B), such data about the effectiveness of a school's teachers can shine a light on how equitably teachers are distributed across and within school districts.

Publish other data that facilitate comparisons across schools.

Minnesota should collect and report other school-level data that reflect the stability of a school's faculty, including the rates of teacher absenteeism and turnover.

Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

As Minnesota does with highly qualified teachers, the state should provide comparative data for schools with similar poverty and minority populations. This would yield a more comprehensive picture of gaps in the equitable distribution of teachers.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

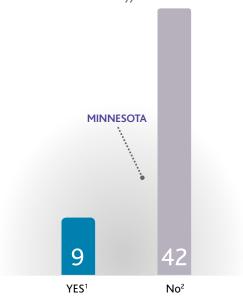
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** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 84 Do states publicly report school-level data about teacher effectiveness?

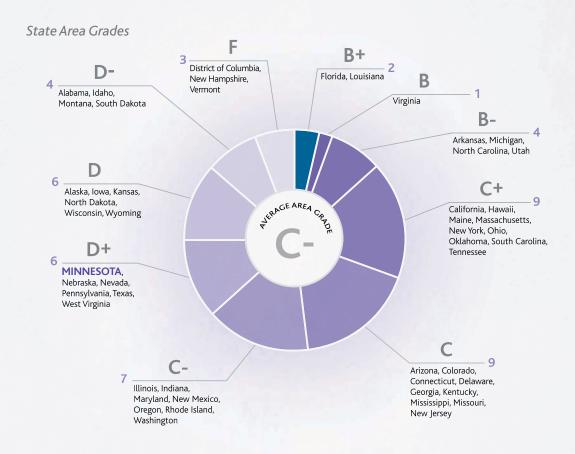


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas³, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts⁴, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida⁵, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah⁵, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Reporting of teacher effectiveness data will begin in 2017.
- 4. Massachusetts' evaluation system is not based primarily on evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- 5. Reports data about teacher effectiveness at the district level.

Area 4 Summary



How States are Faring in Retaining Effective Teachers





Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

➤ Goal A – Induction

The state should require effective induction for all new teachers, with special emphasis on teachers in high-need schools.

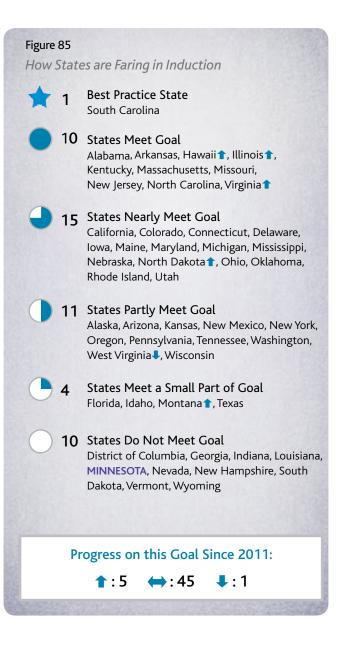
Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should ensure that new teachers receive mentoring of sufficient frequency and duration, especially in the first critical weeks of school.
- Mentors should be carefully selected based on evidence of their own classroom effectiveness and subject-matter expertise. Mentors should be trained, and their performance as mentors should be evaluated.
- Induction programs should include only strategies that can be successfully implemented, even in a poorly managed school. Such strategies include intensive mentoring, seminars appropriate to grade level or subject area, a reduced teaching load and frequent release time to observe effective teachers.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



4-A Analysis: Minnesota



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota does not require a mentoring program or any other induction program for its new teachers. Local districts may choose to use allotted funds to provide a staff development program or they may use the money for in-service training on violence prevention. If local districts decide to provide staff development activities, they must "provide opportunities for teacher-to-teacher mentoring" as part of staff development activities. The state has developed guidelines for mentoring and induction programs.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Educator Induction Guidelines

http://teachersupportpartnershipmn.org/pdf/TSP%20guidelines%20final%203%2031%2009.pdf
Minnesota Statutes 122A.60

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that a high-quality mentoring experience is available to all new teachers, especially those in low-performing schools.

Minnesota should ensure that all new teachers—and especially any teacher in a low-performing school—receive mentoring support, especially in the first critical weeks of school.

Set specific parameters.

To ensure that all teachers receive high-quality mentoring, Minnesota should set a timeline in which mentors are assigned to all new teachers throughout the state, soon after the commencing of teaching, to offer support during those first critical weeks of school. Mentors should be required to be trained in a content area or grade level similar to that of the new teacher, and the state should mandate a method for performance evaluation.

Require induction strategies that can be successfully implemented, even in poorly managed schools.

To ensure that the experience is meaningful, Minnesota should make certain that induction includes strategies such as intensive mentoring, seminars appropriate to grade level or subject area and a reduced teaching load and/or frequent release time to observe other teachers.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

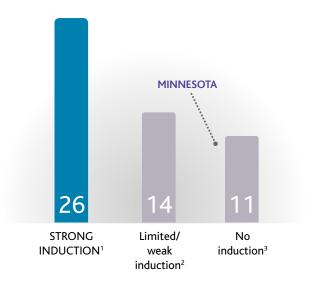
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TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 87 Do states have policies that articulate the elements of effective induction?



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

➤ Goal B – Professional Development

The state should ensure that teachers receive feedback about their performance and require professional development to be based on needs identified through teacher evaluations.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance.
- 2. The state should require that all teachers who receive a rating of ineffective/ unsatisfactory or needs improvement on their evaluations be placed on an improvement plan.
- 3. The state should direct districts to align professional development activities with findings from teachers' evaluations.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



4-B Analysis: Minnesota



State Partly Meets Goal (🛑)



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota requires that staff development activities be coordinated with "the evaluation process and teachers' evaluation outcomes." Teachers not meeting the standards evaluated under the state's evaluation framework must be given "support to improve through a teacher improvement process that includes established goals and timelines." While Minnesota's evaluation model, which will be piloted during the 2013-2014 school year, provides ample opportunities for feedback between evaluator and teacher regarding evaluation results, the framework does not specify that teachers even receive copies of their evaluations or other feedback.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Statutes Section 122A.40 and Section 122A.41 State Teacher Model Implementation Handbook http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/EdExc/EducEval/TeachEval/index.html

RECOMMENDATION

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

When developing guidelines for the state's Teacher Improvement Process, Minnesota should ensure that the plans focus on performance areas that directly connect to student learning and identify noted deficiencies, define specific action steps necessary to address these deficiencies and describe how and when progress will be measured.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

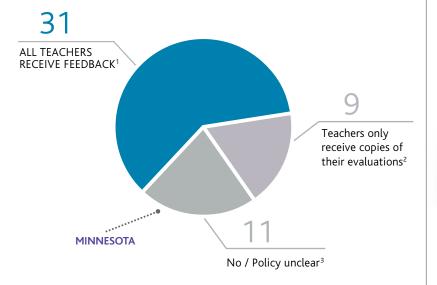
Louisiana and North Carolina require that teachers receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations and direct districts to connect professional development to teachers' identified needs. Both states also require that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement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

- 1. Improvement plans are required for tenured teachers only.
- 2. Improvement plans are required only for teachers teaching for four years or more.
- 3. Wisconsin's educator effectiveness system includes many of these $\,$ elements, but is still in the pilot stage. Full implementation will not begin until 2014-2015.

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Figure 90

Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?

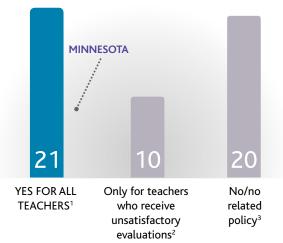


- Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska, California, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania
- 3. Alabama, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin⁴
- 4. Wisconsin's educator effectiveness system requires that teachers receive feedback, but it is still in the pilot stages. Full implementation will not begin until 2014-15.

Figure 91

Do states require that teacher evaluations

inform professional development?



- Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas
- Alabama, California, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin⁴
- Wisconsin's educator effectiveness system requires that evaluations inform professional development, but it is still in the pilot stages. Full implementation will not begin until 2014-15.

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

> Goal C − Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- While the state may find it appropriate to articulate teachers' starting salaries, it should not require districts to adhere to a statedictated salary schedule that defines steps and lanes and sets minimum pay at each level.
- The state should discourage districts from tying additional compensation to advanced degrees. The state should eliminate salary schedules that establish higher minimum salaries or other requirements to pay more to teachers with advanced degrees.
- 3. The state should discourage salary schedules that imply that teachers with the most experience are the most effective. The state should eliminate salary schedules that require that the highest steps on the pay scale be determined solely be seniority.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



4-C Analysis: Minnesota



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota does not address salary requirements, seemingly giving local districts the authority for pay scales and eliminating barriers such as state salary schedules and other regulations that control how districts pay teachers.

However, districts that participate in the state's Quality Compensation for Teachers Program (Q Comp) must have an "alternative teacher professional pay system." Such a pay system must "reform the 'steps and lanes' salary schedule" to ensure that at least 60 percent of any salary increase is based on teacher performance.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Statute 122A.414

Minnesota Quality Compensation for Teachers (Q Comp) http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/SchSup/QComp/

RECOMMENDATION

Expand requirement for salary schedule reform to include all districts.

Minnesota should require all districts, not just those participating in Q Comp, to emphasize teacher effectiveness in their salary schedules. The state should discourage all districts from basing teacher pay solely on advanced degrees and years of experience.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Florida and Indiana allow local districts to develop their own salary schedules while preventing districts from prioritizing elements not associated with teacher effectiveness. In Florida, local salary schedules must ensure that the most effective teachers receive salary increases greater than the highest salary adjustment available. Indiana requires local salary scales to be based on a combination of factors and limits the years of teacher experience and content-area degrees to account for no more than one-third of this calculation.

on years of service, experience and training.

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^{1.} Colorado gives districts the option of a salary schedule, a performance pay policy or a combination of both. 2. Rhode Island requires that local district salary schedules are based

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- 1. For advanced degrees earned after April 2014.
- 2. Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training".
- 3. Texas has a minimum salary schedule based on years of experience. Compensation for advanced degrees is left to district discretion.
- 4. Beginning in 2015-2016.

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

▶ Goal D – Compensation for Prior Work Experience

The state should encourage districts to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience.

Goal Component

(The factor considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

1. The state should encourage districts to compensate new teachers with relevant prior work experience through mechanisms such as starting these teachers at an advanced step on the pay scale. Further, the state should not have regulatory language that blocks such strategies.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



4-D Analysis: Minnesota



State Does Not Meet Goal



(
Progress Since 2011)

ANALYSIS

Minnesota does not encourage local districts to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience. However, the state does not seem to have regulatory language blocking such strategies.

RECOMMENDATION

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

While still leaving districts with the flexibility to determine their own pay scales, Minnesota should encourage districts to incorporate mechanisms such as starting these teachers at a higher salary than other new teachers. Such policies would be attractive to career changers with related work experience, such as in the STEM subjects.

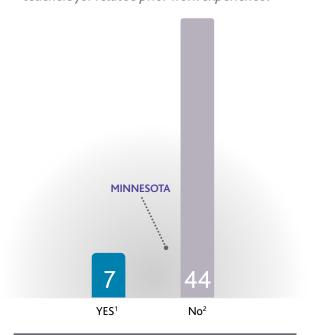
MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

North Carolina compensates new teachers with relevant prior-work experience by awarding them one year of experience credit for every year of full-time work after earning a bachelor's degree that is related to their area of licensure and work assignment. One year of credit is awarded for every two years of work experience completed prior to earning a bachelor's degree.

Figure 96

Do states direct districts to compensate teachers for related prior work experience?



- 1. Strong Practice: California, Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas, Washington
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii³, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Hawaii's compensation is limited to prior military experience.

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal E − Differential Pay

The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in shortage and high-need areas.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 2. The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in high-need schools.
- 3. The state should not have regulatory language that would block differential pay.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



4-E Analysis: Minnesota



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota neither supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects nor offers incentives to teach in high-need schools. However, the state has no regulatory language that would directly block districts from providing differential pay.

RECOMMENDATION

■ Support differential pay initiatives for effective teachers in both subject-shortage areas and high-need schools.

Minnesota should encourage districts to link compensation to district needs. Such policies can help districts achieve a more equitable distribution of teachers.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 98		HIGH NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT	
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Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in subject shortage areas.

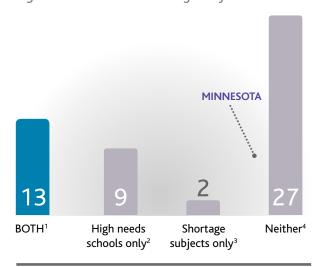
^{2.} South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in high-need schools.



TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

Georgia supports differential pay by which teachers can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. The state is especially commended for its compensation strategy for math and science teachers, which moves teachers along the salary schedule rather just providing a bonus or stipend. The state also supports differential pay initiatives to link compensation more closely with district needs and to achieve a more equitable distribution of teachers.

Figure 99 Do states support differential pay for teaching in high need schools and shortage subjects?



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal F − Performance Pay

The state should support performance pay, but in a manner that recognizes its appropriate uses and limitations.

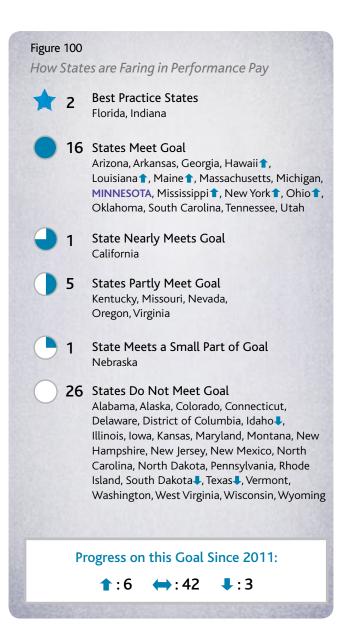
Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should support performance pay efforts, rewarding teachers for their effectiveness in the classroom.
- 2. The state should allow districts flexibility to define the criteria for performance pay provided that such criteria connect to evidence of student achievement.
- 3. Any performance pay plan should allow for the participation of all teachers, not just those in tested subjects and grades.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



4-F Analysis: Minnesota



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota supports a performance pay initiative. The state allows local districts to implement an alternative teacher professional pay system, Quality Compensation for Teachers (Q Comp), in which 60 percent of compensation is determined by teacher performance. Performance is based on schoolwide student achievement gains, measure of student achievement and objective teacher evaluations.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Statute 122A.414 Subd 2
Minnesota Quality Compensation for Teachers (Q Comp)
http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/SchSup/QComp/

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 101	PERFORMANCEFACTORD	PERCORMANCE BONUES	Performance pay pemint	State supported per-	en /
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****** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

An increasing number of states are supporting performance pay initiatives. Florida and **Indiana** are particularly noteworthy for their efforts to build performance into the salary schedule. Rather than award bonuses, teachers' salaries will be based in part on their performance in the classroom.

^{1.} Nebraska's initiative does not go into effect until 2016.

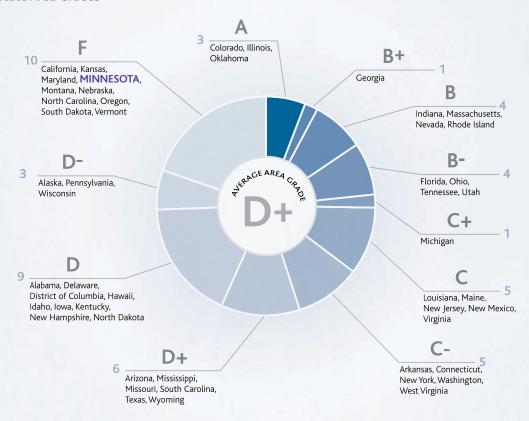
^{2.} Nevada's initiative does not go into effect until 2015-2016.

Area 5 Summary



How States are Faring in Exiting Ineffective Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

- **5-A: Extended Emergency Licenses**
- 5-B: Dismissal for Poor Performance
- 5-C: Reductions in Force

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal A − Extended Emergency Licenses

The state should close loopholes that allow teachers who have not met licensure requirements to continue teaching.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- Under no circumstances should a state award a standard license to a teacher who has not passed all required subject-matter licensing tests.
- 2. If a state finds it necessary to confer conditional or provisional licenses under limited and exceptional circumstances to teachers who have not passed the required tests, the state should ensure that requirements are met within one year.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



5-A Analysis: Minnesota



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Minnesota allows in-state teachers who have not met licensure requirements to teach under temporary limited licenses if a particular position cannot be filled by a licensed teacher. Applicants must have "completed a college or university degree with at least a minor in the area for which teacher licensure is requested." This license is also available for out-of-state teachers who have not passed Minnesota licensing tests.

The limited license may be renewed twice. For renewal, in-state and out-of-state teachers must verify that they have taken the skills area examination, and that they are participating in an approved remedial assistance program for support in the test areas that were not passed.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Administrative Rules 8710.1250; 8710.0400

RECOMMENDATION

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

All students are entitled to teachers who know the subject matter they are teaching. Permitting individuals who have not yet passed state licensing tests to teach neglects the needs of students, instead extending personal consideration to adults who may not be able to meet minimal state standards. Minnesota should ensure that all teachers pass licensing tests—an important minimum benchmark for entering the profession—before entering the classroom.

Limit exceptions to one year.

There might be limited and exceptional circumstances under which conditional or emergency licenses need to be granted. In these instances, it is reasonable for a state to give teachers up to one year to pass required licensing tests. Minnesota's current policy puts students at risk by allowing teachers to teach on a temporary limited license for three years without passing required licensing tests, especially since the state's policy acknowledges that some of these teachers are permitted to continue teaching despite having failed all or some sections of the required examinations.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

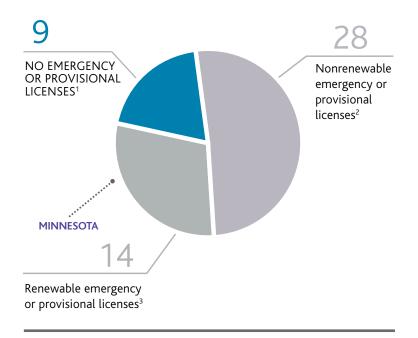
Figure 103		/	/	
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Colorado, **Illinois**, **Mississippi**, and **New Jersey** require all new teachers to pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure.

Figure 104

Do states still award emergency licenses?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alaska⁴, Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, Montana⁵, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Carolina
- Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota⁶, Ohio⁶, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island⁶, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin
- 4. Alaska does not require subject-matter testing for initial certification.
- 5. Montana does not require subject-matter testing for certification.
- 6. License is renewable, but only if licensure tests are passed.

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

> Goal B − Dismissal for Poor Performance

The state should articulate that ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal and ensure that the process for terminating ineffective teachers is expedient and fair to all parties.

Goal Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should articulate that teachers may be dismissed for ineffective classroom performance. Any teacher that receives two consecutive ineffective evaluations or two such ratings within five years should be formally eligible for dismissal, regardless of tenure status.
- 2. A teacher who is terminated for poor performance should have an opportunity to appeal. In the interest of both the teacher and the school district, the state should ensure that this appeal occurs within a reasonable time frame.
- 3. There should be a clear distinction between the process and accompanying due process rights for teachers dismissed for classroom ineffectiveness and the process and accompanying due process rights for teachers dismissed or facing license revocation for felony or morality violations or dereliction of duties.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy

How States are Faring in Dismissal for Poor Performance **Best Practice States** Florida, Oklahoma State Meets Goal Indiana States Nearly Meet Goal Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, New York, Rhode Island, Tennessee 20 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska ↑, Arizona ↑, Arkansas ↑, Connecticut ↑, Delaware, Georgia 1, Louisiana 1, Maine 1, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey 1, New Mexico ♠, Ohio, Pennsylvania ♠, Virginia ♠, Washington ↑, West Virginia ↑, Wisconsin, Wyoming States Meet a Small Part of Goal Idaho 1, MINNESOTA 1, New Hampshire, North Carolina 1, Utah 17 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, California, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont Progress on this Goal Since 2011: **1**: 16 **\(:** 35 **↓**:0

5-B Analysis: Minnesota



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

In Minnesota, teachers may be dismissed for "inefficiency" as it pertains to the state's evaluation system; however, there is no explicit definition that ties inefficiency to classroom ineffectiveness. No teacher can be dismissed for poor performance until given adequate time to correct his or her performance. However, the state does not distinguish the due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance from those facing other charges commonly associated with license revocation, such as a felony and/or morality violations. The process is the same regardless of the grounds for cancellation, which include "inefficiency in teaching; neglect of duty, or persistent violation of school laws, rules, regulations, or directives; conduct unbecoming a teacher which materially impairs the teacher's educational effectiveness; and other good and sufficient grounds rendering the teacher unfit to perform the teacher's duties."

Tenured teachers who are terminated may appeal multiple times. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher has 14 days to file the first appeal. The state does not specify a time frame for this hearing except that it must be "held upon appropriate and timely notice to the teacher." An appeal for judicial review is possible, but the state does not specify a time frame or the procedures for this appeal.

Supporting Research

Minnesota Statute 122A.40 Subdivision 8, 9, 13-17

RECOMMENDATION

- Specify that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.
 - Even though Minnesota links "inefficiency in teaching" to the state's annual evaluation process, the state should more explicitly define teacher ineffectiveness so that districts have clear parameters for terminating consistently poor performers.
- Ensure that teachers terminated for poor performance have the opportunity to appeal within a reasonable time frame.
 - Nonprobationary teachers who are dismissed for any grounds, including ineffectiveness, are entitled to due process. However, cases that drag on for years drain resources from school districts and create a disincentive for districts to attempt to terminate poor performers. Therefore, the state must ensure that the opportunity to appeal occurs only once, as it is in the best interest of both the teacher and the district that a conclusion is reached within a reasonable time frame.
- Distinguish the process and accompanying due process rights between dismissal for classroom ineffectiveness and dismissal for morality violations, felonies or dereliction of duty.
 - While nonprobationary teachers should have due process for any termination, it is important to differentiate between loss of employment and issues with far-reaching consequences that could permanently affect a teacher's right to practice. Minnesota should ensure that appeals related to classroom effectiveness are decided only by those with educational expertise.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

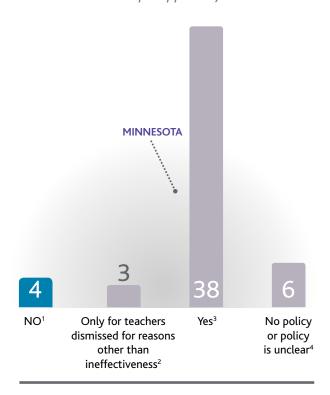
Florida and Oklahoma clearly articulate that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal. In both states, teachers are eligible for dismissal after two annual ratings of unsatisfactory performance. Each state has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed to be ineffective is expedited. Teachers facing dismissal have only one opportunity to appeal.

Figure 106 Do states articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal? Alabama Alaska Arizona П Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut П Delaware П District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois П Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan **MINNESOTA** Mississippi П Missouri Montana П Nebraska Nevada П New Hampshire П New Jersey New Mexico П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island П South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 29 22

^{1.} A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not articulated that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

Figure 107

Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



- 1. Strong Practice: Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Wisconsin
- 2. Teachers in these states revert to probationary status following ineffective evaluation ratings, meaning that they no longer have the due process right to multiple appeals: Colorado, Indiana, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. District of Columbia, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada⁵, Utah, Vermont
- Though a teacher returns to probationary status after two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations, Nevada does not articulate clear policy about its appeals process.

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal C − Reductions in Force

The state should require that its school districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off when a reduction in force is necessary.

Goal Component

(The factor considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

1. The state should require that districts consider classroom performance and ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off.

Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at: nctq.org/statepolicy



5-C Analysis: Minnesota



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

In Minnesota, the factors used by districts to determine which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force consider a teacher's tenure status and seniority. School districts may only lay off tenured teachers after notice has been given to nontenured teachers. Nontenured teachers are placed on "unrequested leave first in the inverse order of their employment." Tenured teachers are also placed on "unrequested leave of absence in fields in which they are licensed in inverse order in which they were employed by the school district."

Supporting Research

Minnesota Statute 122A.40 Subdivision 11

RECOMMENDATION

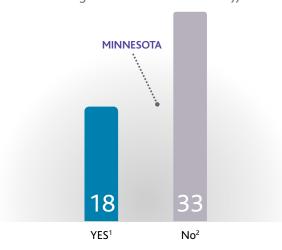
- Require that districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.
 - Minnesota can still leave districts flexibility in determining layoff policies, but it should do so within a framework that ensures that classroom performance is considered.
- Ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off.

 While it is not unreasonable to lay off probationary teachers before those with tenure, doing so based solely on seniority and without also considering performance risks sacrificing effective teachers while maintaining low performers, putting adult interests before student needs. Further, because probationary teachers draw lower salaries, the state may be mandating that districts dismiss a larger number of effective probationary teachers rather than a smaller group of ineffective tenured teachers to achieve the same budget reduction.

MINNESOTA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 109

Do districts have to consider performance in determining which teachers are laid off?



- Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts³, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio³, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington
- Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Tenure is considered first.

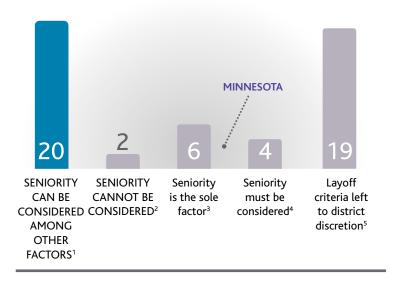




Colorado, **Florida**, and **Indiana** all specify that in determining which teachers to lay off during a reduction in force, classroom performance is the top criterion. These states also articulate that seniority can only be considered after a teacher's performance is taken into account.

Figure 111

Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?



- Strong Practice: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts⁶, Michigan, Missouri⁶, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio⁶, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington
- 2. Strong Practice: Louisiana, Utah
- 3. Hawaii, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin⁷
- 4. California, Kentucky, New Jersey, Oregon
- 5. Alabama, Alaska⁶, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska⁶, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming
- 6. Nontenured teachers are laid off first.
- 7. Only for counties with populations of 500,000 or more and for teachers hired before 1995.

Goals and Keywords

GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Te	achers
1-A: Admission into Teacher Preparation	The state should require teacher preparation programs to admit only candidates with strong academic records.	admission requirements, academic proficiency measures, basic skills tests, GPA
1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that its teacher preparation programs provide elementary teachers with a broad liberal arts education, providing the necessary foundation for teaching to the Common Core or similar state standards.	license/certification, elementary teachers, early childhood teachers, content tests, elementary coursework/standards, content specialization requirements
1-C: Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	The state should ensure that new elementary teachers know the science of reading instruction.	license/certification, elementary teachers, early childhood teachers, science of reading tests, science of reading coursework/standards
1-D: Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	The state should ensure that new elementary teachers have sufficient knowledge of the mathematics content taught in elementary grades.	license/certification, elementary teachers, early childhood teachers, math content tests, math coursework/standards
1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.	license/certification, middle school teachers, content tests, K-8 licenses, content specialization requirements
1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate gradelevel content.	license/certification, secondary teachers, secondary social studies, content tests, endorsements
1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	The state should ensure that secondary science teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach.	license/certification, secondary general science, content tests, combination sciences
1-H: Special Education Teacher Preparation	The state should ensure that special education teachers know the subject matter they are licensed to teach.	license/certification, special education teachers, content tests, K-12 special education license, elementary special education, secondary special education
1-I: Assessing Professional Knowledge	The state should use a licensing test to verify that all new teachers meet its professional standards.	license/certification, pedagogy, professional standards/knowledge, performance assessments, edTPA
1-J: Student Teaching	The state should ensure that teacher preparation programs provide teacher candidates with a high quality clinical experience.	student teaching, cooperating teachers, clinical preparation, placements
1-K: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	The state's approval process for teacher preparation programs should hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.	teacher preparation programs, program accountability, student achievement, standard of performance, public reporting, national accreditation

Goals and Keywords

GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching F	Pool
2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility	The state should require alternate route programs to exceed the admission requirements of traditional preparation programs while also being flexible to the needs of nontraditional candidates.	alternate route programs, admission requirements, GPA, academic proficiency measures, subject-matter test, flexibility, test-out
2-B: Alternate Route Preparation	The state should ensure that its alternate routes provide efficient preparation that is relevant to the immediate needs of new teachers, as well as adequate mentoring and support.	alternate route programs, coursework requirements, length of program, studen practice teaching, induction, mentoring
2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers	The state should provide an alternate route that is free from limitations on its usage and allows a diversity of providers.	alternate routes; subject, grade or geographic restrictions; college or university providers; district-run programs; non-profit providers
2-D: Part-Time Teaching Licenses	The state should offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.	part-time license/certificate, adjunct license
2-E: Licensure Reciprocity	The state should help to make licenses fully portable among states, with appropriate safeguards.	license reciprocity, license portability, out-of-state teachers, testing requirements, online teachers
	AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teac	hers
3-A: State Data Systems	The state should have a data system that contributes some of the evidence needed to assess teacher effectiveness.	longitudinal data systems, definition of teacher of record, teacher production
3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness	The state should require instructional effectiveness to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.	teacher evaluation, teacher effectivenes. student learning, classroom observations surveys, rating categories
3-C: Frequency of Evaluations	The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.	teacher evaluation, evaluation frequency classroom observations, feedback
3-D: Tenure	The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.	tenure, probationary period, continuing contracts, teacher effectiveness
3-E: Licensure Advancement	The state should base licensure advancement on evidence of teacher effectiveness.	probationary license, professional licens license renewal, evidence of teacher effectiveness, coursework requirements
3-F : Equitable	The state should publicly report districts' distribution of teacher talent among schools to identify	public reporting, aggregate school-level data, evaluation ratings, school report cards, teacher absenteeism rate,

Goals and Keywords

GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teacl	hers
4-A: Induction	The state should require effective induction for all new teachers, with special emphasis on teachers in high-need schools.	mentoring, induction, mentor selection, reduced teaching load, release time
4-B: Professional Development	The state should ensure that teachers receive feedback about their performance and should require professional development to be based on needs identified through teacher evaluations.	feedback from observations/evaluations, professional development linked to evaluations results, improvement plans
1-C : Pay Scales	The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.	teacher compensation, salary schedules, pay scales, steps and lanes, advanced degrees, years of experience, teacher performance
4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience	The state should encourage districts to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience.	teacher compensation, relevant work experience
4-E: Differential Pay	The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in shortage and high-need areas.	teacher compensation, differential pay, shortage subject areas, high-need schoo
4-F: Performance Pay	The state should support performance pay, but in a manner that recognizes its appropriate uses and limitations.	teacher compensation, performance pay, teacher performance, student achievement
	AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teach	ners
5-A: Extended Emergency Licenses	The state should close loopholes that allow teachers who have not met licensure requirements to continue teaching.	emergency licenses, provisional certificates, loopholes, subject-matter tests
5-B: Dismissal for Poor Performance	The state should articulate that ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal and ensure that the process for terminating ineffective teachers is expedient and fair to all parties.	dismissal, ineffectiveness, poor performance, appeals, due process
5-C: Reductions in Force	The state should require that its school districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off when a reduction in force is necessary.	reduction in force, layoffs, teacher performance, seniority

Teacher Policy Priorities for Minnesota

AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
Require that teacher preparation programs screen candidates prior to admission by using a common test normed to the general college-bound population, and limit acceptance to those candidates demonstrating academic ability in the top 50th percentile.	Goal 1-
Eliminate the generalist K-8 license, and require all middle school teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.	Goal 1-
Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and ensure that both elementary and secondary special education teachers possess adequate and appropriate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.	Goal 1-I
Ensure that cooperating teachers for student teaching placements have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.	Goal 1-
Hold teacher preparation programs accountable by collecting data that connect student achievement gains to programs, as well as other meaningful data that reflect program performance, and by establishing the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.	Goal 1-
AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool	
Establish guidelines for alternate route programs that require preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. Ensure programs provide intensive induction support to alternate route teachers.	Goal 2-
Eliminate licensure obstacles for out-of-state teachers.	Goal 2-
AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	
Require student growth to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.	Goal 3-I
Formally evaluate all teachers annually.	Goal 3-0
Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.	Goal 3-I
Base licensure advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license and licensure renewal on evidence of effectiveness.	Goal 3-I
Publish aggregate school-level teacher evaluation ratings from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness.	Goal 3-

AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers		
Require effective induction for all new teachers, including mentoring of sufficient frequency and duration.	Goal 4-A	
Link professional development activities to findings in individual teacher evaluations, and place teachers with ineffective or needs improvement ratings on structured improvement plans.	Goal 4-B	
Support differential pay initiatives for effective teachers in both shortage subject areas and high-need schools.	Goal 4-E	

AREA 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers		
■ Ensure that all teachers pass required subject-matter licensing tests before they enter the classroom.	Goal 5-A	
■ Make ineffective classroom performance grounds for dismissal.	Goal 5-B	
Require teacher effectiveness as a factor when determining which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force.	Goal 5-C	

