# 2013 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Oklahoma





### 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.

### Oklahoma at a Glance



### Overall 2013 Yearbook Grade

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: B-

Area Grades	2013	2011
Area 1 Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers	С	С
Area 2 Expanding the Teaching Pool	C+	С
Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers	C+	B-
Area 4 Retaining Effective Teachers	C+	C <sup>1</sup>
Area 5 Exiting Ineffective Teachers	A	Α

Goal Breakdown	2013
★ Best Practice	1
Fully Meets	7
Nearly Meets	6
Partially Meets	5
Meets Only a Small Part	6
O Does Not Meet	6

	Progress on Goals Since 2011	
•	Progress has increased	2
<b>(2)</b>	No change in progress	28
•	Progress has decreased	1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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.

### **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers** Page 5 Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science Admission into Teacher Preparation **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** ■ Elementary teacher candidates must pass a science of All new teachers must pass a pedagogy test. reading test to ensure knowledge of effective reading instruction, and teacher preparation programs are required to address this critical topic. **Policy Weaknesses** Although teacher candidates are required to pass science and social studies teachers are not required to a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for pass content tests for each discipline they are licensed admission to teacher preparation programs, the test is to teach. not normed to the general college-going population. The state offers a K-12 special education certification Elementary teacher candidates are not required and does not require any content testing for special to pass a content test with individually scored education teacher candidates. subtests in each of the core content areas, including There are no requirements to ensure that student mathematics. teachers are placed with cooperating teachers who ■ Middle school teachers are allowed to teach on a K-8 were selected based on evidence of effectiveness. generalist license, with the exception of mathematics. ■ The teacher preparation program approval process Although secondary teachers must pass a content does not hold programs accountable for the quality of test to teach a core subject area, some secondary the teachers they produce. Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers Page 51 Alternate Route Eligibility Part-Time Teaching Licenses Alternate Route Preparation Licensure Reciprocity Alternate Route Usage and Providers **Policy Strengths** Admission requirements for alternate routes to Out-of-state teachers are required to meet the state's certification include evidence of subject-matter testing requirement to be licensed.

 Admission requirements for alternate routes to certification include evidence of subject-matter knowledge and offer flexibility for nontraditional candidates.

### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Alternate route programs do not provide efficient preparation that is geared toward the immediate needs of new teachers.
- Although there are no restrictions on providers, alternate route certification is limited to certain subjects and grades
- The state offers a license with minimal requirements that would allow content experts to teach part time, but its use is limited.

### How is Oklahoma Faring?

### Page 71 **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers** State Data Systems Tenure **Evaluation of Effectiveness** Licensure Advancement Frequency of Evaluations **Equitable Distribution Policy Strengths** Objective evidence of student learning is the All teachers must be evaluated annually. preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations. Tenure decisions are connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness. **Policy Weaknesses** ■ The state data system does not have the capacity No school-level data are reported that can help to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness. support the equitable distribution of teacher talent. Licensure advancement and renewal are not based on teacher effectiveness. **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers Page 101** Induction Compensation for Prior Work Experience Professional Development Differential Pay Pay Scales Performance Pay **Policy Strengths** ■ Teachers can receive performance pay as well as All new teachers receive mentoring. additional compensation for working in high-need Teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations are schools or shortage subject areas. placed on structured improvement plans. **Policy Weaknesses** Professional development is not aligned with findings ■ The state does not support additional compensation from teachers' evaluations. for relevant prior work experience. Teacher compensation is controlled by a state salary schedule based on years of experience and advanced degrees. Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers **Page 125 Extended Emergency Licenses** Reductions in Force Dismissal for Poor Performance **Policy Strengths** Performance is the top criterion for districts to consider ■ The state has taken steps to ensure that licensure testing ■ when determining which teachers to lay off during requirements are met by all teachers within one year. reductions in force, and a last hired, first fired layoff Ineffective classroom performance is grounds for policy is prohibited. dismissal, and teachers who are dismissed have only one opportunity to appeal.

igure A	Overall State Grade 2013	Overall State Grade 2011	Overall State Grade 2009
Florida	B+	В	С
Louisiana	В.	C-	C-
Rhode Island	В	В-	D
Tennessee	В	В-	C-
Arkansas	B-	C C	C-
Connecticut	В-	C-	D+
Georgia	В-	C	C-
Indiana	B-	C+	D
Massachusetts	В-	С	D+
Michigan	В-	C+	D-
New Jersey	В-	D+	D+
New York	В-	C	D+
Ohio	В-	C+	D+
OKLAHOMA	В-	C+ B-	D+ D+
Colorado	C+	C B-	D+ D+
Colorado Delaware			
	C+	C C	D
Illinois	C+		D+
Virginia	C+	D+	D+
Kentucky	С	D+	D+
Mississippi	С	D+	D+
North Carolina	С	D+	D+
Utah	С	C-	D
Alabama	C-	C-	C-
Arizona	C-	D+	D+
Maine	C-	D-	F
Minnesota	C-	C-	D-
Missouri	C-	D	D
Nevada	C-	C-	D-
Pennsylvania	C-	D+	D
South Carolina	C-	C-	C-
Texas	C-	C-	C-
Washington	C-	C-	D+
West Virginia	C-	D+	D+
California	D+	D+	D+
District of Columbia	D+	D	D-
Hawaii	D+	D-	D-
Idaho	D+	D+	D-
Maryland	D+	D+	D
New Mexico	D+	D+	D+
Wisconsin	D+	D	D
Alaska	D	D	D
lowa	D	D	D
Kansas	D	D	D-
New Hampshire	D	D-	D-
North Dakota	D	D	D-
Oregon	D	D-	D-
Wyoming	D	D	D-
Nebraska	D-	D-	D-
South Dakota	D-	D	D
Vermont	D-	D-	F
Montana	F	F	F

### 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

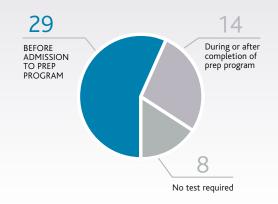
### BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



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:

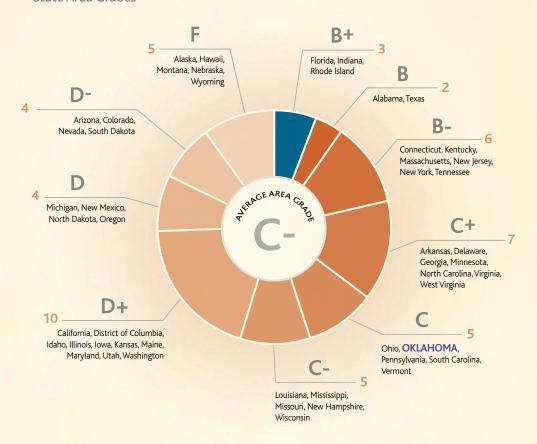


# **Area 1 Summary**



# 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.)

- 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: Oklahoma







#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma now requires candidates to meet one of the following requirements for admission to a teacher preparation program: achieve a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale in all liberal arts and science courses (minimum of 20 hours), earn passing scores on the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) or achieve a passing score on the Oklahoma General Education Test (OGET).

### **Supporting Research**

Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation State Requirements http://www.ok.gov/octp/Program\_Accreditation/Accreditation/State\_Requirements.html Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Policies and Procedures Manual Chapter 3 http://www.okhighered.org/state-system/policy-procedures/2013/Chapter%203-%20April%202013.pdf

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Consider implementing a sliding scale that uses both GPA and test scores.

Oklahoma should require candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, mathematics and writing prior to program admission. Rather than allowing candidates to meet a GPA requirement or pass an admissions test, Oklahoma should consider adopting a sliding scale that incorporates both GPA and test scores. This would allow flexibility for candidates to demonstrate academic ability. When using such multiple measures, a sliding scale that still ensures minimum standards would allow students to earn program admission through a higher GPA and lower test score, or vice-versa.

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

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

 Consider requiring 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, Oklahoma 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.

### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

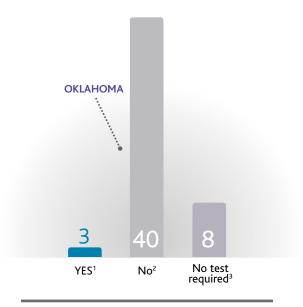
Oklahoma was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.



### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

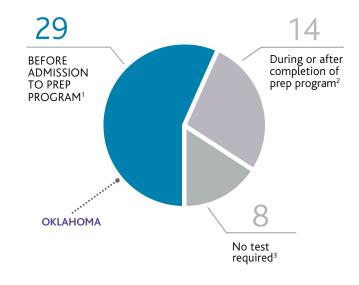
For admission to teacher preparation programs, Rhode Island and Delaware require a test of academic proficiency normed to the general collegebound population rather than a test that is normed just to prospective teachers. Delaware also requires teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or be in the top 50th 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?



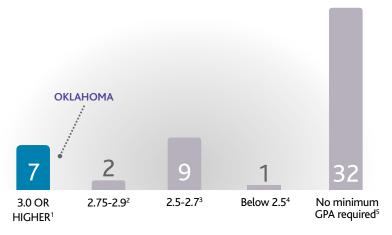
- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, 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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	3	26	14	8

<sup>1.</sup> 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, Mississippi<sup>6</sup>, New Jersey<sup>6</sup>, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, Pennsylvania<sup>8</sup>, Rhode Island<sup>6</sup>, Utah
- 2. Kentucky, Texas
- 3. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut<sup>9</sup>, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wisconsin<sup>10</sup>
- 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.
- 8. 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: Oklahoma



State Partly Meets Goal 🕟 Bar Raised for this Goal (🖨) Progress Since 2011





### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma has adopted the Common Core State Standards, which represent an effort to significantly raise the standards for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness. However, there is room for improvement when it comes to the state ensuring that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with these standards.

Oklahoma requires candidates to pass each of the two subtests that comprise the Certification Examinations for Oklahoma Educators (CEOE) general elementary content test. The first subtest includes reading and language arts; the second includes social studies; math; science; and health, fitness and the arts.

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

Elementary teacher candidates must have subject-area concentrations, which allow them to qualify as generalists.

### **Supporting Research**

Certification Examinations for Oklahoma Educators

www.ceoe.nesinc.com

Oklahoma Administrative Code 712:10-5-3

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Academic Affairs Procedure Handbook, 3.21.4

### **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.

Oklahoma should ensure that its elementary content test is appropriately aligned with the Common Core State Standards and require separate, meaningful passing scores for each area on the test. Although Oklahoma is on the right track by administering a two-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.

Oklahoma 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 having passed an adequate content test.

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

Oklahoma should establish more comprehensive coursework requirements for elementary teacher candidates that align with the Common Core State Standards to ensure that candidates will complete coursework relevant to the common topics in elementary grades. Oklahoma requires all candidates to complete general education courses that address the arts, communication, history, literature, philosophy, sciences, English, government and the social sciences. These are sensible requirements, but they may be too general to ensure that the courses used to meet them will focus on topics relevant to the PK-6 classroom. Oklahoma specifically requires that all elementary teacher candidates complete 12 credit hours each in social studies, English and science. (For math requirements, see Goal 1-D.) These

are also good requirements; however, the state's lack of specificity regarding these courses could lead to gaps in preparation. Notably, Oklahoma policy explicitly disallows professional education coursework from being counted toward fulfillment of this requirement, an important proviso that most states have overlooked.

Oklahoma relies on NCATE/CAEP standards, suggesting that the state uses the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) standards for approving its elementary programs. Unfortunately, ACEI standards fall far short of the mark by offering no mention of world and American history; world, British and American literature; American government; or grammar and composition. ACEI standards do mention important topics in science, but even in those areas, the standards consist mainly of extremely general competencies that programs should help teacher candidates to achieve. However, the state does articulate standards within the framework of its CEOE content test. These standards are better than those found in many states, alluding to important areas of academic knowledge. The tests require teachers to have in-depth knowledge of writing/grammar/composition, physical science, earth science, and biology/life science, American government, and geography. The test also mentions children's literature and historical and cultural traditions of visual art.

### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma asserted that its early childhood subject-area test assesses content knowledge in the areas of literacy, math, social studies, science and the fine arts.

#### **LAST WORD**

One subarea of Oklahoma's early childhood certification assessment is titled, "Learning Across the Curriculum." Within this subarea, there are competency areas that pertain to the subjects articulated in the state's response. However, there appears to be a greater focus on pedagogy and development than content. Although it is a sound approach to assess pedagogical knowledge in the context of specific content areas, that does not mean that such a test measures content knowledge. Further, the subareas within the Oklahoma assessment are not individually scored.

Figure 7	EEMENTARY CONTENT  SCORE FOR E. SPARTENT	Steinentay Content tees	Elementary content to	with /
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Wisconsin				
Wyoming				



### **TEXAMPLE 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.

<sup>3.</sup> 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.

Figure 9	ENGLISH	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES	FINE ARTS
Do states expect elementary teachers to have in-depth knowledge of	American Literature World British Literature Composition Children's Litera	Glemistry Physics General Physical Science Biology/Life Science	American History / American History / American Covernment World History (Ancient) World History (Modem) (Non-U-History)	Geography Art History Music
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Oregon			* * * * *	<b>★</b> □ ★
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Tennessee				<b>*</b>
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Virginia		* - * *	* * * * *	*
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			Subject mentioned	★ Subject covered in dept

Figure 10
What subjects does **Oklahoma** expect elementary teachers to know?

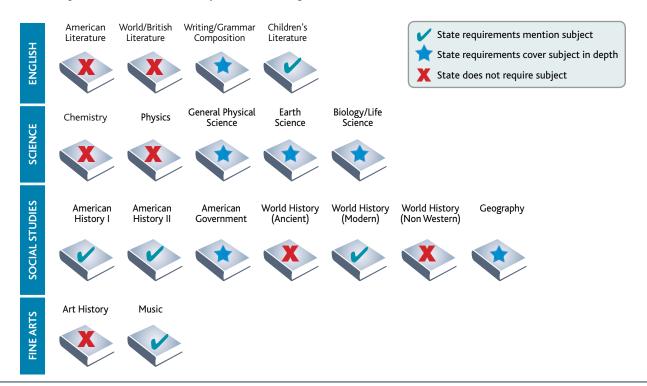
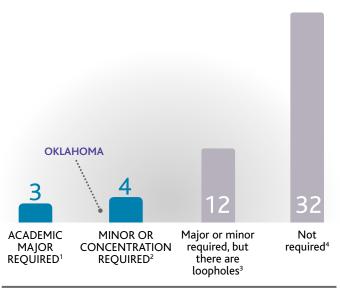


Figure 11

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: Oklahoma





State Meets Goal 🥋 Bar Raised for this Goal 😝 Progress Since 2011



### **ANALYSIS**

All early childhood and elementary education teacher candidates are required to pass the Oklahoma Reading Test as a condition of initial licensure. This test addresses all five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

In its competencies for elementary licensure, Oklahoma also requires all teacher preparation programs for elementary teacher candidates to address the science of reading.

### **Supporting Research**

HB 1581 (2010)

Competencies for Elementary Licensure http://ok.gov/sde/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/documents/files/Competencies.pdf

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Ensure that the science of reading test is meaningful.

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

### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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### **TOTAL SOLUTION** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

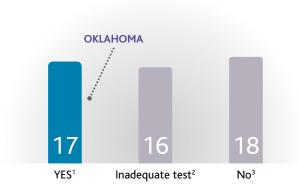
Fifteen states meet this goal by requiring that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Independent reviews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

<sup>1.</sup> Alabama's reading test spans the K-12 spectrum.

<sup>2.</sup> Teachers have until their second year to pass the reading test.

Figure 14

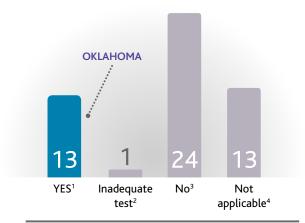
Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



- Strong Practice: Alabama<sup>4</sup>, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, 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: Alabama<sup>5</sup>, 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: Oklahoma



State Meets a Small Part Goal 🕟 Bar Raised for this Goal 🙌 Progress Since 2011





### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma requires all new elementary teachers to pass the elementary Oklahoma Subject Area Test. The state posts only a limited number of sample items, and a review of this material calls the rigor of its test into question; the test items representing elementary school content assess understanding at too superficial a level. Although the state subject-examination test requires passing scores on both of its subtests, one subtest combines mathematics, social studies, science, and health, fitness and the arts.

Regrettably, Oklahoma's early childhood education teachers, who are allowed to teach through grade 3, are not required to pass a content test.

Oklahoma also relies on NCATE/CAEP standards, suggesting that it uses Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) standards for approving its elementary programs. ACEI standards address content in mathematics foundations, but these standards lack the specificity needed to ensure that teacher preparation programs deliver other mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates.

Further, the framework for Oklahoma's elementary content test covers numbers and operations, data analysis, and basic concepts of geometry and algebra. However, the standards are not specifically geared to meet the needs of elementary teachers. And because the test does not report a specific math score, a teacher candidate could answer many math questions incorrectly and still pass the test.

### **Supporting Research**

Test Requirement www.ceoe.nesinc.com www.acei.org

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require all teacher candidates who teach elementary grades to pass a rigorous mathematics assessment.

Although Oklahoma is on the right track in requiring an elementary assessment with subtests, the state's efforts fall short by combining math with other subjects and not reporting a specific subscore for math. Oklahoma should strengthen its policy by testing mathematics content with a rigorous assessment tool, such as the test required in Massachusetts, that evaluates mathematics knowledge beyond an elementary school level and challenges candidates' understanding of underlying mathematics concepts. Such a test could also be used to allow candidates to test out of coursework requirements. Teacher candidates who lack minimum mathematics knowledge should not be eligible for licensure.

Oklahoma should also 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 these candidates to earn a passing score on a rigorous math assessment as well.

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

Oklahoma must ensure that new teachers are prepared to teach the mathematics content required by the Common Core State Standards. Although ACEI standards and the state's subject-matter test require some knowledge in key areas of mathematics, Oklahoma should require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers. This includes specific coursework in foundations, algebra and geometry, with some statistics coursework.

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma asserted that subtest two of its elementary education subject-area test measures knowledge in number operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, statistics and probability, and that the math portion of the subtest is weighted 45 percent of the total score. The state also noted that the practice selected-response questions and any practice constructed-response assignments included in this section are designed to provide an introduction to the nature of the questions. The practice test questions represent the various types of questions one may expect to see on an actual test; however, they are not designed to provide diagnostic information to help identify specific areas of individual strengths and weaknesses, or to predict performance on the test as a whole. Oklahoma added that these questions are not reflective of rigor but only reflect the types of questions an examinee will see.

#### **LAST WORD**

Even if the test is more rigorous than it appears from the published questions, it is still possible for candidates to compensate for weakness in mathematics because of the other subject matter included in the subtest and score.

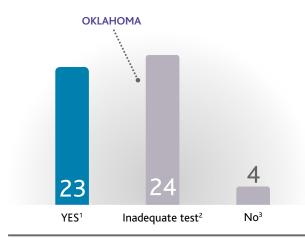


### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

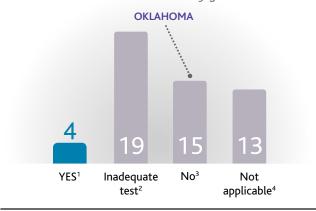
Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



- 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, Texas<sup>4</sup>, 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. Alaska<sup>5</sup>, Hawaii, Montana, Ohio<sup>6</sup>
- 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.)

- 1. 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: Oklahoma



State Meets a Small Part Goal



Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma requires teachers who teach a single subject in grades 5-8 to be certified at the middle or secondary level; candidates must earn a major in a content-related area. Regrettably, the state also allows middle school teachers to teach on a generalist 1-8 license, with the exception of mathematics.

All new middle school teachers in Oklahoma are also required to pass a content test to attain licensure. Those seeking the generalist license, however, are only required to pass the general content test for elementary education, which does not report subscores in each area. Therefore, there is no assurance that all middle school teachers will have sufficient knowledge in each subject they teach.

### **Supporting Research**

Test Requirement www.ceoe.nesinc.com

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Academic Affairs Procedure Handbook 3.21.4 www.okhighered.org/state-system/policy-procedures/part3.shtml

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

### Require content testing in all core areas.

Oklahoma 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.

#### Eliminate the generalist license.

Oklahoma 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. Adopting middle school teacher preparation policies for all such teachers will help 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.

Oklahoma should encourage middle school teachers who plan to teach multiple subjects to earn two minors in two core academic areas, rather than a single major. However, the state should retain its requirement for a subject-area major for middle school candidates who intend to teach a single subject.

### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.

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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.

<sup>1.</sup> Offers 1-8 license.

<sup>2.</sup> California offers a K-12 generalist license for all self-contained classrooms.

<sup>3.</sup> With the exception of mathematics.

<sup>4.</sup> 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.
- 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: Oklahoma



State Nearly Meets Goal



( Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

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

Unfortunately, Oklahoma permits a significant loophole to this important policy by allowing both combination science and combination social studies licenses, without requiring subject-matter testing for each subject area within these disciplines.

Social studies candidates may choose from the following combination certificates: U.S. history/Oklahoma history/government/economics; world history/geography; and psychology/sociology. They are required to pass the corresponding OSAT content test, which combines these subject areas and does not report subscores. (For the state's science loophole, see Goal 1-G.)

Further, to add an additional field to a secondary license, teachers must also pass a content test. However, as stated above, Oklahoma cannot guarantee content knowledge in each specific subject for secondary teachers who add combination science or combination social studies endorsements.

### **Supporting Research**

Certification Examinations for Oklahoma Educators

www.ceoe.nesinc.com

Certification Guide

www.ok.gov/sde/documents/2012-02-02/certification-guide-school-staff-assignments

Full (Subject Matter) Competencies for Licensure and Certification

http://sde.state.ok.us/teacher/profstand/pdf/Competencies.pdf

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

Oklahoma wisely requires subject-matter tests for most secondary teachers but should address any loopholes that undermine this policy (see Goal 1-G). This applies to the addition of endorsements as well.

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

States that allow combination social studies certifications—and only require combination social studies exams—are not ensuring that their secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. Oklahoma is on the right track in not offering a general social studies certification; however, its certification policy falls short because the required assessments combine subject areas and do not report separate scores for each subject area.

#### OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

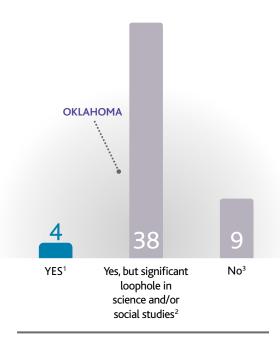
Oklahoma recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



#### \*\* 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.

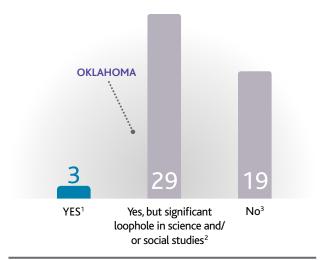
Figure 23 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



- 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 Carolina<sup>4</sup>, 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, Arizona<sup>5</sup>, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire<sup>5</sup>, Washington, Wyoming<sup>6</sup>
- 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.

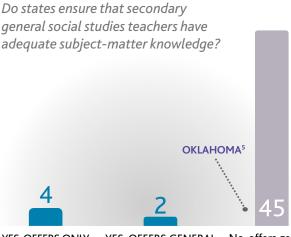
Figure 24

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



YES, OFFERS ONLY SINGLE SUBJECT SOCIAL STUDIES LICENSES<sup>1</sup> YES, OFFERS GENERAL No, offers general **SOCIAL STUDIES** LICENSE WITH ADEQUATE TESTING<sup>2</sup>

social studies license without adequate testing3

- 1. Strong Practice: Georgia, Indiana, South Dakota, Tennessee
- 2. Strong Practice: Minnesota<sup>4</sup>, 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, Oklahoma<sup>5</sup>, 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.)

- 1. 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: Oklahoma



State Partly Meets Goal



( Progress Since 2011

### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma does not offer a secondary certification in general science. However, the state does offer a physical science certification area. Candidates are required to pass the OSAT Physical Science test.

#### **Supporting Research**

Certification Examinations for Oklahoma Educators

www.ceoe.nesinc.com

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

By allowing a combination certification—and only requiring a comprehensive content exam— Oklahoma is not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. The state's required assessment combines physics and chemistry and does not report separate scores for each subject area.

### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma asserted that secondary science teachers must pass content tests for each discipline they are licensed to teach: chemistry, physics, physical science, earth science and biology, and that there are no combined science certifications or "umbrella" science examinations.

#### **LAST WORD**

As discussed in Goal 1-F, Oklahoma requires content tests for licenses in discrete subject areas, including the sciences. NCTQ further recognizes that Oklahoma does not offer a general science certification; however, its physical science endorsement requires an assessment that combines the subject areas of physics and chemistry without reporting individual subscores for each.

Figure 27 WITH ADEQUATE TESTING Do states ensure that secondary general science teachers have adequate subject-matter knowledge? Alabama Alaska Arizona П П П Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut П Delaware П District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois П П Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana Maine Maryland П П П Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi П П П Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada П New Hampshire П П П New Jersey П New Mexico П П П New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio П П **OKLAHOMA** Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island 1 South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П Vermont Virginia П Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming П 5 1 10 35



#### **TEXAMPLE 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.

<sup>1.</sup> Teachers with the general science license may only teach general science courses.

<sup>2.</sup> 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: Oklahoma



State Does Not Meet Goal



( Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma 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

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Academic Affairs Procedure Handbook, 3.22.4

#### **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 Oklahoma 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, Oklahoma should require a rigorous content test that reports separate passing scores for each content area. Oklahoma 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, Oklahoma'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, Oklahoma 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.

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma asserted that special education teachers must be certified not only in special education but also in the subject area and grade level in which they teach.

#### **LAST WORD**

It appears that the state response is referring to federal highly qualified requirements and not a state requirement for dual certification as the response implies. By tying requirements to highly qualified status, it appears that the state is putting the burden on districts to ensure that teachers have passed tests for the grades and subjects they teach. A license should mean that a teacher is prepared to teach any subjects or grades covered under that certificate.

Figure 29		Office K-12 and Brack-12 and Br	/s)u
Do states distinguish	₹,	<i>≥</i> /	tificatii
between elementary			y / é
and secondary special	SNO.	5 K-7	Sonly
education teachers?	1 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	0.0% 87.3%	Offers only a K-12
Alabama	DOES NOT OFFER		
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho Illinois			
Indiana			
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North Dakota			
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Oregon Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	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 leachers:							
Elementary Subject-Matter Test							
Required for an elementary special education license	Alabama, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania <sup>1</sup> , Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia <sup>2</sup> , 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 <sup>3</sup>						
Test in at least one subject required for secondary special education license	Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania <sup>1</sup> , Rhode Island, West Virginia <sup>2</sup>						
Required for a K-12 special education license	None						

- 1. 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: Oklahoma





State Meets Goal (+) Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma currently requires all new teachers to pass a pedagogy test, the Oklahoma Professional Teaching Exam, in order to attain licensure.

Oklahoma is participating in the Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA) consortium.

#### **Supporting Research**

http://www.ok.gov/octp/Certification\_Testing/index.html

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

While Oklahoma is commended for considering 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.

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

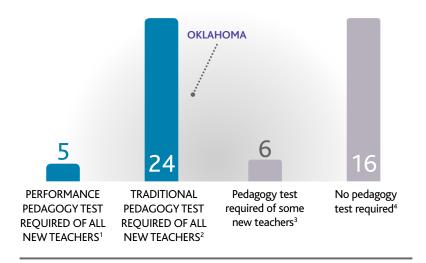
Oklahoma recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



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, Illinois<sup>5</sup>, New York, Tennessee<sup>6</sup>, Washington
- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina<sup>7</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia
- 3. Connecticut, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Utah<sup>8</sup>, 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: Oklahoma



State Partly Meets Goal



( Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Commendably, Oklahoma requires candidates to complete a minimum of 12 weeks of full-time student teaching. Cooperating teachers must have taught a minimum of three years in the field of their certification.

#### **Supporting Research**

State Requirements for Program Accreditation

www.ok.gov/octp/Program\_Accreditation/Accreditation/State\_Requirements.html

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

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.

Figure 34		/
3	4 CHER	STUDENT TEACHING ASS AT LEAST TO WEEK
Do states ensure a	V 6 75	24 A. J.
high-quality student	784711 1084 1084	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
teaching experience?	SELECTE STECTE	45754 45754
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Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
lowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		
Maine		
Maryland		
Massachusetts		
Michigan		
Minnesota		
Mississippi Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
Nevada		
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico		_
New York		
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio		
OKLAHOMA		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		1
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
, ,		
	5	32

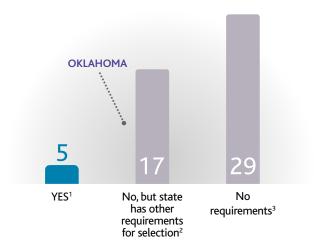


#### **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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.

<sup>1.</sup> West Virginia allows candidates to student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

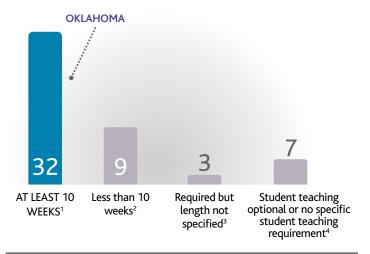
Figure 35
Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



- 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 Virginia<sup>s</sup>, 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
- 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, 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: ← : 38 **1**:13

## 1-K Analysis: Oklahoma



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



( Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma'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.

Most importantly, Oklahoma does not collect or report data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.

The state also fails to collect other objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs, and it does not apply any transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval. Oklahoma collects programs' annual summary licensure test pass rates (80 percent of program completers must pass their licensure exams). However, the 80 percent pass-rate standard, while common among many states, sets the bar quite low and is not a meaningful measure of program performance.

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

The state's website does include a report card that allows the public to review and compare traditional teacher preparation program performance.

In Oklahoma, national accreditation is required for program approval.

#### Supporting Research

Oklahoma Administrative Code 712:10-5-1 Title II State Reports

https://title2.ed.gov

**Annual Reports** 

http://www.ok.gov/octp/About\_OCTP/Annual\_Reports.html

www.ncate.org

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

As one way to measure whether programs are producing effective classroom teachers, Oklahoma 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 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 the state to establish precise minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category of data. Oklahoma should be mindful of setting rigorous standards for program performance, as its current requirement that 80 percent of program completers must pass their licensing exams is too low a bar. Programs should be held accountable for meeting rigorous standards, and there should be consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.

- Publish an annual report card on the state's website for all teacher preparation programs.
  - Oklahoma should produce an annual report card that shows all the data the state collects on individual teacher preparation programs, including for alternate routes, 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.
- Maintain full authority over the process for approving teacher preparation programs. Oklahoma should not cede its authority and must ensure that it is the state that considers the evidence of program performance and makes the decision about whether programs should continue to be authorized to prepare teachers.

#### OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Oklahoma asserted that accreditation status and results for educator preparation programs are posted on the state's Commission for Teacher Preparation (OCTP) website and in an annual report to the legislature. Educator preparation programs are required to report annually on progress toward continuous improvement and removal of "Areas for Improvement" designated in their accreditation report. The state added that certification exam pass rates are also published on the OCTP website, in an annual report to the legislature, and on the individual educator preparation programs' websites. Further, OCTP conducts an annual survey of first-year teachers and their administrators, and survey results provide information on candidates' preparedness for effective teaching and impact on student learning. Oklahoma also pointed out that educator preparation programs are looking forward to the emerging statewide student data system, which will allow for more data on their candidates' impact on student learning.

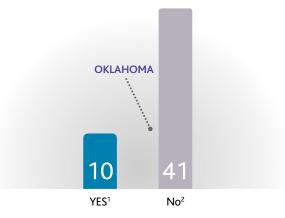
Figure 38	OBJECTIVE PROGRAM.		
Do states hold teacher	% 4 20 20 20	25.0	A DI A
preparation programs	TVE PAT	1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	PUBL
accountable?	SPECIFIC.	MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE SC-	DATA PUBLICIY AVAILUBLE ON WEBSTT
Alabama		<b>1</b>	
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Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia Florida			2
Georgia Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			2
Louisiana			2
Maine	1		
Maryland	3		
Massachusetts			
Michigan		1	
Minnesota			
Mississippi	1		
Missouri		П	ī
Montana	1		
Nebraska			
Nevada <sup>1</sup>			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey	1		
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			2
North Dakota			
Ohio <sup>1</sup>			
OKLAHOMA			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania	1		
Rhode Island			
South Carolina <sup>1</sup>			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
	<u></u> 1		
Virginia			
Washington			
Washington West Virginia	1		
Washington West Virginia Wisconsin	1		
Washington West Virginia	1		



### **TEXAMPLES 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<sup>a</sup>, Hawaii<sup>a</sup>, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland<sup>a</sup>, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York<sup>3</sup>, 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, Maryland<sup>1</sup>, 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

Vil W
W
W
1. National accreditation can be substituted for state approval.
2. For institutions with 2,000 or more full-time equivalent students

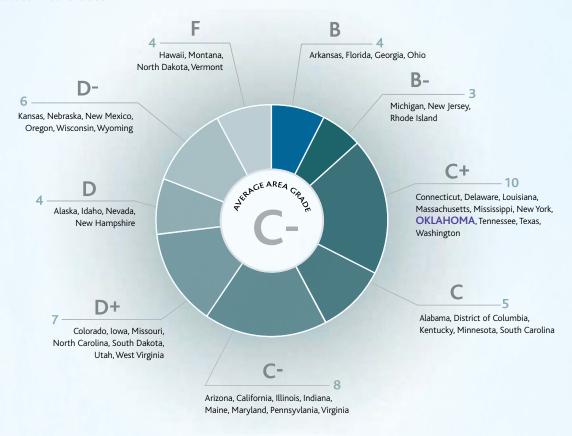
Figure 41		/_	National accreditation is required for program approval
What is the relationship between state program	STATE HAS ITS OWN	Overtap of accrediation	reditation, rogram ap
approval and national	HAS.1.	/ dde a,	al acc
accreditation?	STATE PPROU	Overla nd stail	Nation, "quirec
Alabama		* /	
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Arizona	$\overline{\Box}$		
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California		<b>1</b>	
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia			
Hawaii Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine		1	
Maryland			2
Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Mississippi		<b>1</b>	
Missouri			
Montana			
Nebraska Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
OKLAHOMA			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	7	31	13
		,	

# **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: Oklahoma



State Nearly Meets Goal 🏻 🧑 Bar Raised for this Goal 🛮 (📛) Progress Since 2011





#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma offers two alternate routes to certification: the state-sponsored Alternative Placement Program and the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE). The Alternative Placement Program requires applicants to have a minimum 2.5 GPA. ABCTE does not require candidates to demonstrate prior academic performance other than passing a basic skills test, which is required for both routes.

Both routes also require applicants to pass a subject-matter test prior to admission.

Candidates for the Alternative Placement Program must have a major in the subject area they plan to teach or can demonstrate content knowledge by passing a test. The program also requires two years minimum of relevant work experience. ABCTE does not require a major or specific coursework; as a result there is no need for a test-out option.

#### Supporting Research

Oklahoma Alternative Teacher Program http://ok.gov/sde/faqs/oklahoma-alternative-placement-program Application Packet Oklahoma Alternative Teacher Program http://ok.gov/sde/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/AltPlacePacket.pdf Oklahoma Code 70-6-122.3

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Increase academic requirements for admission.

While a minimum GPA requirement is a first step toward ensuring that candidates are of good academic standing, the current standard of 2.5 does not serve as a sufficient indicator of past academic performance. The standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Some accommodation in this standard may be appropriate for career changers. A rigorous test appropriate for candidates who have already completed a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be ideal.

#### Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

While Oklahoma is commended for requiring all applicants to demonstrate content knowledge on a subject-matter test, 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. At a minimum, the state should eliminate the basic skills test requirement or accept the equivalent in SAT or ACT scores.

#### Consider flexibility in work-experience requirement.

Oklahoma should consider using a candidate's years of experience as a factor in the admission process rather than as a requirement. Even though the state has lowered the number of years required, any work-experience requirement may disqualify potentially talented candidates unnecessarily. Recent graduates, who may demonstrate high academic ability and strong content knowledge but lack the minimum years of experience, would be needlessly excluded from the alternate route programs under this requirement.

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

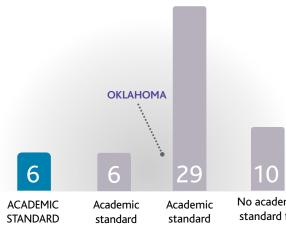
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#### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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?



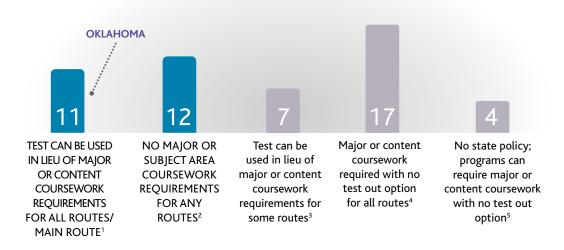
**EXCEEDS THAT** OF TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS FOR ALL ROUTES/ MAIN ROUTE1

exceeds that of traditional programs for some routes<sup>2</sup> too low for all routes<sup>3</sup> No academic standard for any route4

- 1. Strong Practice: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island
- 2. Alabama, Illinois<sup>5</sup>, Indiana, Kentucky<sup>6</sup>, 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: Oklahoma



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal (



**Progress Since 2011** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Candidates in the Alternative Placement Program must complete an individual coursework plan based on their degree level and relevant work experience. Candidates with a bachelor's degree must complete 18 college credit hours or 270 clock hours, and those with a master's degree must complete 12 college credit hours or 180 clock hours of coursework.

Oklahoma requires the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) to provide candidates with access to workshops, an experienced teacher-advisor and optional access to comprehensive subject-matter refresher courses.

The state specifically prohibits programs from requiring student teaching or a practice-teaching experience. Alternative Placement Program candidates are required to participate in the Oklahoma Teacher Residency program, a year-long mentoring experience for all new teachers.

ABCTE must provide new teachers with an intensive mentoring and induction program.

Candidates are eligible for a standard certificate upon completion of the program, which must be within three years.

#### Supporting Research

Alternative Placement Program http://www.ok.gov/sde/faqs/oklahoma-alternative-placement-program

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Establish coursework guidelines for all 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.

Alternate route programs should not be permitted to overburden the new teacher by requiring multiple courses to be taken simultaneously during the school year. The state should also ensure that the program can be completed within two years.

■ Ensure program completion in fewer than two years.

Oklahoma should consider shortening the length of time it takes an alternate route teacher to earn standard certification. The route should allow candidates to earn full certification no later than the end of the second year of teaching.

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

Although Oklahoma is recognized for requiring a mentoring program, the state should ensure that new teachers are able to receive this support. Induction guidelines should 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.

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 47		RELEVANT COURCE	REASONABLE PROGRAMILE	PRACTICE TEACHING	MIENSIVE SUPPORT
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### **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.
- 2. 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: Oklahoma



State Partly Meets Goal ( Progress Since 2011



#### **ANALYSIS**

Although it does not place restrictions on providers, Oklahoma limits the usage of its alternate routes.

Oklahoma's Alternative Placement program limits the types of available certificates. Elementary-Secondary Certificates for grades PK-12 include: English as a second language, foreign language and reading specialist (master's degree required for reading specialist certification). Secondary Certificates for grades 6-12 include: English, mathematics, science and social studies.

Oklahoma's American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence can only be used for certification to teach biology, chemistry, English language arts, general science, mathematics, physics, U.S. history and world history for grade levels 6-12.

The state does allow a diversity of providers, including Teach For America and the American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence and outlines course requirements in both credit hours and clock hours.

#### **Supporting Research**

Oklahoma Code 70-6-122.3; .4

Application for the Oklahoma Alternative Placement Program http://ok.gov/sde/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/AltPlaceApp.pdf

http://ok.gov/sde/faqs/american-board-certification-teacher-excellence-abcte

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### Broaden alternate route usage.

Oklahoma should reconsider grade-level and subject-area restrictions on its alternate route. Alternate routes should not be programs of last resort for hard-to-staff subjects, grade levels or geographic areas but rather a way to expand the teacher pipeline throughout the state.

#### OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Oklahoma recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 49	ROSS	S / S
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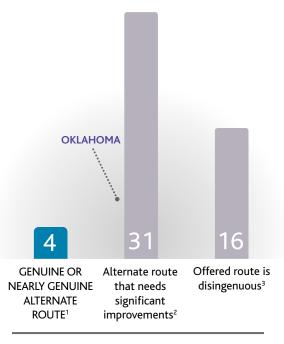


#### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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
- 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: Oklahoma



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma authorizes an adjunct license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.

Candidates for an adjunct license must be "persons with distinguished qualifications in their field." Oklahoma does not provide any additional guidelines for adjunct requirements; however, adjunct teachers are not required to meet standard certification requirements.

The state limits an adjunct teacher to 90 clock hours of classroom teaching per semester.

#### **Supporting Research**

Oklahoma Statutes 70-6-122.3(F)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### Require applicants to pass a subject-matter test.

Oklahoma is commended for offering a license that increases 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. Although this license is designed to enable distinguished individuals to teach, Oklahoma should still require a subject-matter test. While documentation provided by the applicant may show evidence of expertise in a particular field, only a subject-matter test ensures that individuals granted this license know the specific content they will need to teach.

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma recognized the factual accuracy of this 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: Oklahoma



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma requires out-of-state teacher candidates to meet the state's testing requirements. The state does offer a possible waiver in that teachers may request a review of tests already passed to assess comparability.

Teachers with comparable out-of-state certificates are eligible for Oklahoma's provisional certificate. Applicants must have at least one year of successful experience or participate in the state's Resident Teacher Program. A residency committee (made up of a school administrator, a teacher consultant, and a teacher educator from a nearby college or university) evaluates each new teacher in Oklahoma at the end of the first year of teaching and recommends whether he or she should be granted full certification in Oklahoma.

In addition, transcripts are required for all applicants. However, it is not clear whether the state analyzes transcripts to determine whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route or whether additional coursework will be required.

Oklahoma 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.

Although Oklahoma articulates that teachers providing instruction under its Supplemental Online Course Program must be certified in the content area by the state, it is not clear whether teachers outside Oklahoma must meet the state's certification requirements.

#### **Supporting Research**

Oklahoma Statute 70-6-190
Out-of-State Credential

http://ok.gov/sde/faqs/traditional-certification-general-questions#15

OAR 210:15-34-1

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Accord the same license to out-of-state alternate route teachers as would be accorded to traditionally prepared teachers.

Regardless of whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route, all certified out-of-state teachers should receive equal treatment. Oklahoma 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 Oklahoma.

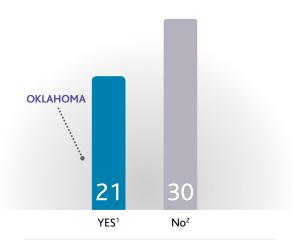
■ Require evidence of effective teaching when determining eligibility for full certification.

Rather than rely on transcripts to assess credentials, Oklahoma 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. Oklahoma should ensure that online teachers based in other states are at least equally as qualified as those who teach in the state. However, Oklahoma 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. **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Oklahoma recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 55

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



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska<sup>3</sup>, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine<sup>4</sup>, Massachusetts<sup>3</sup>, Minnesota, New York<sup>5</sup>, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas<sup>3</sup>, Utah, Washington<sup>6</sup>, Wisconsin
- Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana', Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Allows one year to meet testing requirements.
- 4. Maine grants waiver for basic skills and pedagogy tests.
- 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.

What do states require of teachers transferring from other states? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia П Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Г Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota П Ohio **OKLAHOMA** Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island П South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas П П Utah П Vermont П Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 6 44 11

Figure 56

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

<sup>1.</sup> State conducts transcript reviews.

<sup>2.</sup> Recency requirement is for alternate route.

<sup>3.</sup> For traditionally prepared teachers only.

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#### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

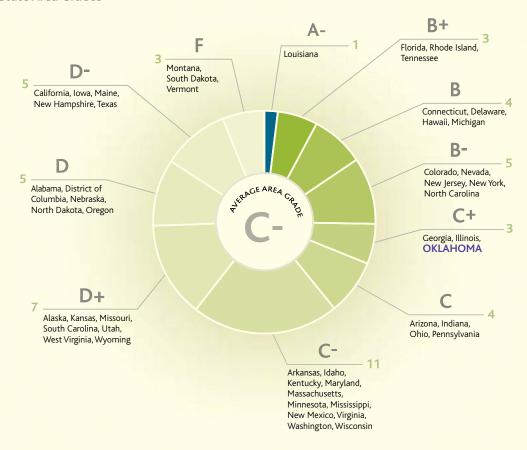
Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet Alabama's and Texas's own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate 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-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness
- 3-C: Frequency of Evaluations

- 3-D: Tenure
- 3-E: Licensure Advancement
- 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.
- 2. 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: Oklahoma



State Does Not Meet Goal 💮 Bar Raised for this Goal





Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma does not have a data system that can be used to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Oklahoma has two of three necessary elements that would allow for the development 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 it has the capacity to match student test records from year to year in order to measure student academic growth. Although Oklahoma assigns teacher identification numbers, it cannot match individual teacher records with individual student records.

Oklahoma does not have a teacher of record definition. However, the state's teacher-student data link can connect more than one educator to a particular student in a given course, and it does have in place a process for teacher roster verification.

Oklahoma does not publish data on teacher production that connects program completion, certification and hiring statistics.

## **Supporting Research**

Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

## Develop capacity of state data system.

Oklahoma should ensure that its state data system is able to match individual teacher records with individual student records.

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, Oklahoma 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.

#### 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. Oklahoma 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, Oklahoma will form a rich set of data that can inform policy decisions.

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

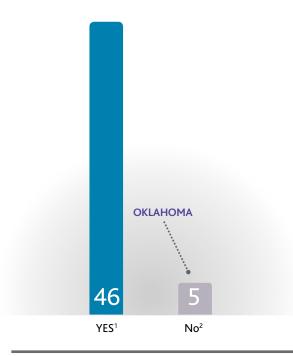
#### **LAST WORD**

This analysis was revised subsequent to the state's review based on updated data from the Data Quality Campaign.

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?



<sup>1.</sup> 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

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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.
- 2. 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: Oklahoma





State Meets Goal (🖨) Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Commendably, Oklahoma requires that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations. By school year 2013-2014, districts must develop teacher evaluation systems based on the statewide system of evaluation, the Oklahoma Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Evaluation System (TLE).

The state requires that 50 percent of the ratings of teachers must be based on quantitative components: 35 percent based on student academic growth using multiple years of standardized test data, as available, and 15 percent based on other academic measurements, such as a value-added model score, surveys and student competition.

For teachers in grades and subjects for which there is no state-mandated testing measure to create a quantitative assessment for the quantitative portion of the TLE, an assessment using objective measures of teacher effectiveness must be used, including student performance on unit or end-of-year tests. Emphasis shall be placed on the observed qualitative assessment as well as the contribution to the overall school academic growth.

Five rating categories must be used: superior, highly effective, effective, needs improvement and ineffective.

Classroom observations are required.

## **Supporting Research**

Oklahoma Statutes 70-6-101.10, -16

Other Academic Measures

http://www.ok.gov/sde/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/documents/files/TLE\_e-Brochure.pdf

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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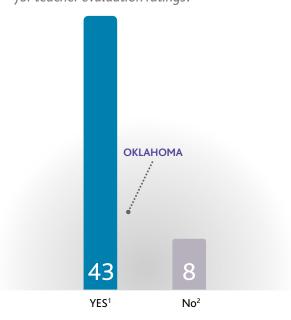
<sup>2.</sup> Explicitly defined for the 2013-2014 school year.

 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.

Figure 64 Type of suriey not specified Is survey data used as part of teacher evaluations? Alabama Alaska<sup>1</sup> Arizona П П П Arkansas California Colorado 2 Connecticut<sup>3</sup> 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 П **OKLAHOMA** Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina П П South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah П Vermont Virginia П Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming П 2 14 11 6 33

Figure 65

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



- 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
- 2. 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.

<sup>2.</sup> Explicitly allowed but not required.

 $<sup>{\</sup>it 3. Requires parent or peer surveys; whole-school student learning or student surveys.}\\$ 



## **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.

Figure 67		/	EVALUATORS MUST BE .	HERS
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<sup>1.</sup> Maryland requires multiple observers for ineffective teachers.

 $<sup>{\</sup>it 2. Multiple evaluators are explicitly allowed but not required.}$ 

## ➤ 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: Oklahoma





State Meets Goal (🖨) Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Commendably, all teachers in Oklahoma must be evaluated at least annually.

Nonprobationary teachers are required to be evaluated once a year. New teachers in Oklahoma must be evaluated twice a year. The first evaluation must be completed by November 15 and the second by February 10.

## Supporting Research

Oklahoma Statutes 70-6-101.10

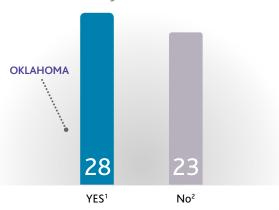
## **RECOMMENDATION**

Base evaluations on multiple observations.

To guarantee that annual evaluations are based on an adequate collection of information, Oklahoma should require multiple observations for all teachers, even those who have nonprobationary status. Further, as evaluation instruments become more data driven, it may not be feasible to issue multiple formal evaluation ratings during a single year. Applicable student data will likely not be available to support multiple ratings.

## **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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

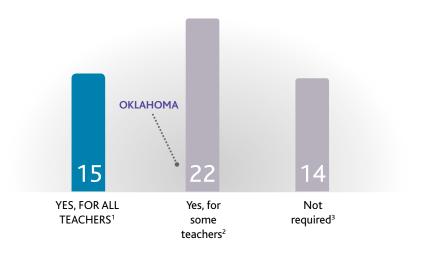


- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland<sup>3</sup>, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 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 Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio OKLAHOMA Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia	,
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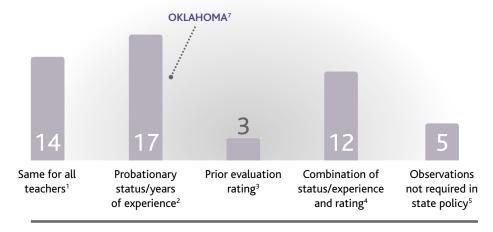
Figure 71

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?



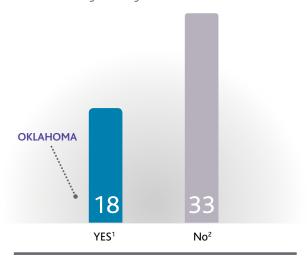
- Alabama, District of Columbia<sup>6</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas<sup>7</sup>, California<sup>7</sup>, Colorado, Florida, Kansas<sup>7</sup>, Minnesota<sup>7</sup>, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, Oregon, Pennsylvania<sup>7</sup>, South Carolina, South Dakota<sup>7</sup>, Utah<sup>7</sup>, Washington, West Virginia<sup>8</sup>
- 3. Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio
- 4. Arizona<sup>9</sup>, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts<sup>7</sup>, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas<sup>7</sup>, Virginia<sup>7</sup>, Wisconsin<sup>7</sup>
- 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 Dakota<sup>3</sup>, 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, Virginia<sup>4</sup>, 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: Oklahoma



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma is on the right track in connecting tenure decisions to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

The state requires that career teachers have one of the following: a rating of superior as measured by the Oklahoma Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Evaluation System for two of three years, with no rating below effective; or an average rating of at least effective for a four-year period, with a rating of at least effective for the last two years.

Because Oklahoma's teacher evaluation ratings are centered primarily on evidence of student learning (see Goal 3-B), basing tenure decisions on these evaluation ratings ensures that classroom effectiveness is appropriately considered.

However, the state has created a loophole by essentially waiving these requirements and allowing the principal of a school to petition for career-teacher status, absent the requirements stated above.

## **Supporting Research**

Oklahoma Statute 70-6-101.3

## **RECOMMENDATION**

## ■ Ensure that the probationary period is adequate.

To ensure that tenure decisions are based on adequate assessment and sufficient evidence of teacher effectiveness in the classroom, Oklahoma should consider extending the time before teachers can earn tenure, making certain that probationary teachers earn at least three consecutive effective ratings prior to the award of tenure.

## Reconsider waiver of effectiveness requirements at principal request.

It is not unreasonable that Oklahoma wants to build some principal discretion into its tenure process. But rather than waive the effectiveness requirements, the state should consider allowing principals to extend the probationary period for teachers they think warrant further time to develop. This would prevent the dismissal of probationary teachers against a principal's judgment while still holding all teachers to the state's standards of effective performance.

## OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

How long before a teacher earns tenure?							STATE ONLY AWARDS
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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.

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Wyoming	11		31

## 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: Oklahoma



State Does Not Meet Goal



ۻ Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

In Oklahoma, to advance from a License, a one-year credential initially issued to educators with no teaching experience, to a Standard Certificate, teachers are required to have at least one year of teaching experience, complete the Resident Teacher Program and pass the professional education competency examination and the general education and subject-area competency exams.

Oklahoma does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Oklahoma teachers must renew their licenses every five years by acquiring professional development points.

## **Supporting Research**

http://ok.gov/sde/teacher-certification

Section 70-3-104.6. and Sections 70-6-154.1:189; 190

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Oklahoma 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. The state should use evidence of effectiveness from teacher evaluations as a factor in determining whether teachers advance to the next licensure level (see Goal 3-B). However, states must consider carefully how to use this evidence, as the standard for denying licensure—the right to practice in the state—should not necessarily be the same standard that might result in termination from a particular position.

Discontinue licensure requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

While targeted requirements may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Oklahoma's nonspecific coursework requirements for license renewal merely call for teachers to complete a certain amount of seat time. These requirements do not correlate with teacher effectiveness.

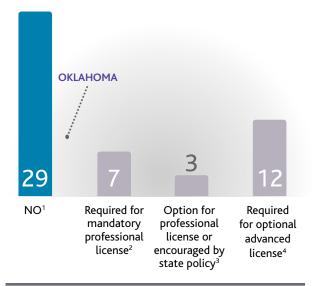
## **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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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

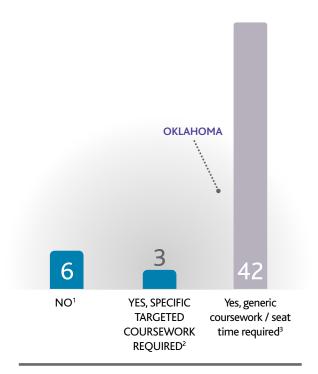
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?



- 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

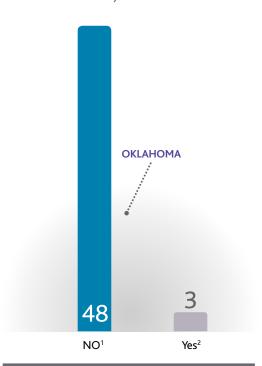
Do states require teachers to take additional coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



- 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, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina<sup>4</sup>, 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?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut<sup>3</sup>, 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, Wyoming
- 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: Oklahoma



State Does Not Meet 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. Oklahoma does not report school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent. Oklahoma 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. Oklahoma 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.

Oklahoma does report on the percentage of teachers on emergency credentials, the educational attainment of teachers, and the percentage of classes taught by highly qualified teachers in high-and low-poverty schools. However, these data are reported only at the district and not the school, level.

## **Supporting Research**

2010-2011 District Academic Performance Index (API) and Accountability Report Cards https://apps.sde.ok.gov/apireports/APIreports2011/04I075.PDF

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

## ■ Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

The state should make aggregate school-level data about teacher performance—from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness—publicly available. Given that Oklahoma 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.

Oklahoma 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 Oklahoma 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.

## Report data at the school level.

Oklahoma should ensure that it is reporting all currently collected data at the school level, rather than aggregated by district.

## **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

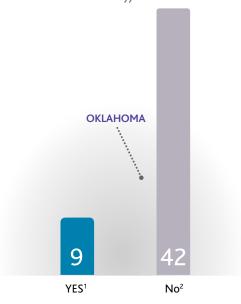
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## **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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?

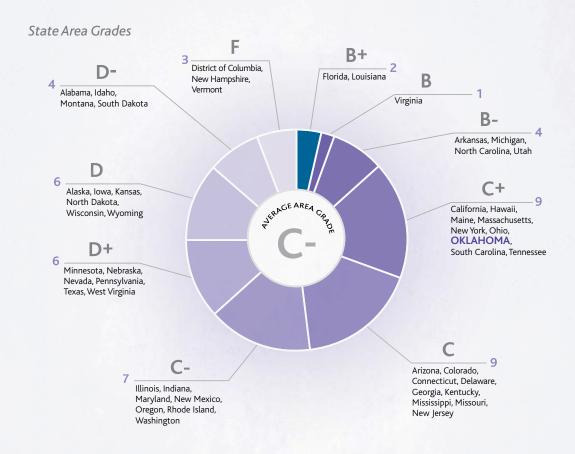


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas³, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts<sup>4</sup>, Missouri, New York, North Carolina,
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida<sup>5</sup>, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, 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



# Topics Included In This Area 4-A: Induction 4-B: Professional Development 4-E: Differential Pay 4-C: Pay Scales 4-F: Performance Pay

# 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.
- 3. 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: Oklahoma



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma requires that all new teachers receive mentoring. New teachers must participate in a mentoring program for at least one year, and mentors are assigned soon after the commencing of teaching. The principal of each school selects mentors, who must possess at least two years' teaching experience and participate in additional training, and pair them with new teachers; it is expected that they share similar experiences in subject matter. Mentors are compensated.

## **Supporting Research**

Oklahoma Statutes 70-6-106.1; 70-6-182 (12); 70-6-195

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

To ensure that the experience is meaningful, Oklahoma 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. The state should also mandate a method for performance evaluation.

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

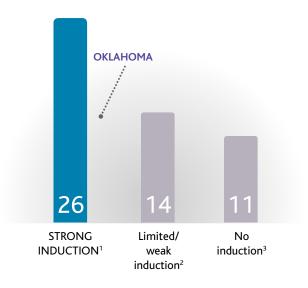
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## **TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE**

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: Oklahoma



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma requires that teachers receive copies of their evaluations upon completion. The state does not specify that professional development activities must be aligned with findings from teacher evaluations. The state does require "comprehensive remediation plans and instructional coaching for all teachers rated as needs improvement or ineffective."

#### **Supporting Research**

Oklahoma Statute Section 70-6-101.10-.16

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance.
  - Although Oklahoma requires teachers to receive copies of their evaluations, this only ensures that teachers will receive their ratings, not necessarily feedback on their performance. Oklahoma should specify that teachers should receive specific feedback on identified strengths and areas that need improvement.
- Ensure that professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.
  - Professional development that is not informed by evaluation results may be of little value to teachers' professional growth and aim of increasing their effectiveness in the classroom. Oklahoma should ensure that districts utilize teacher evaluation results in determining professional development needs and activities.

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**



#### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

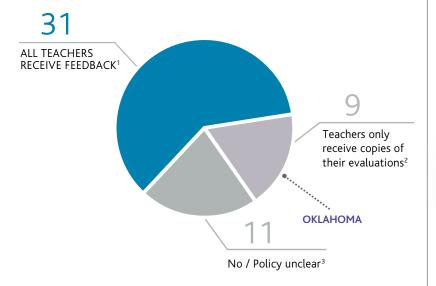
Louisiana and North Carolina require that teachers receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations and direct districts to connect professional development to teachers' identified needs. Both states also require that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement 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

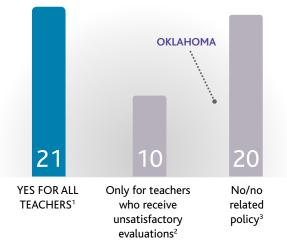
Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?



- 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, Wisconsin<sup>4</sup>
- 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, Wisconsin<sup>4</sup>
- 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: Oklahoma



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

To determine teachers' salaries, Oklahoma provides local districts with a Minimum Salary Schedule. Because the salary schedule provided by the state is based on teachers' years of experience and earned advanced degrees, the state in effect mandates how districts will pay teachers.

#### **Supporting Research**

State Minimum Teacher Salary Schedule 2013-2014

http://ok.gov/sde/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/documents/files/2013-2014\_State\_Minimum\_Salary\_Schedule.pdf

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Give districts flexibility to determine their own pay structure and scales.
  - While Oklahoma may find it appropriate to articulate the starting salary that a teacher should be paid, it should not require districts to adhere to a state-dictated salary schedule.
- Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.
  - The inclusion of advanced degrees in the state schedule is particularly problematic, as this sends a clear message to both districts and teachers that attaining such degrees is desirable and should be rewarded; exhaustive research has shown unequivocally that advanced degrees do not have an impact on teacher effectiveness. Further, by establishing a guideline for teacher salaries that includes advanced degrees, the state limits the ability of districts to structure their pay scale in ways that do emphasize teacher effectiveness.
- Discourage salary schedules that imply that teachers with the most experience are the most effective.

Similarly, Oklahoma's salary schedule sends a message to districts that the highest step on the pay scale should be determined solely by seniority.

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**



#### **TEXAMPLES 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.

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<sup>1.</sup> Colorado gives districts the option of a salary schedule, a performance pay policy or a combination of both.

<sup>2.</sup> Rhode Island requires that local district salary schedules are based on years of service, experience and training.

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- 1. For advanced degrees earned after April 2014.
- $\begin{tabular}{ll} 2. Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training". \end{tabular}$
- 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: Oklahoma



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma 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, Oklahoma 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.

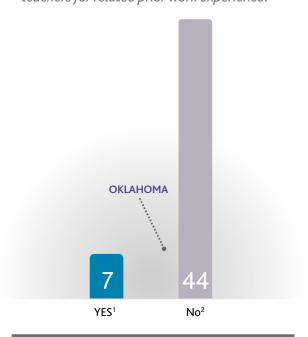
#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

### **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: Oklahoma



State Meets Goal



**Progress Since 2011** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. According to state statute, "Districts shall be encouraged to provide compensation schedules to reflect district policies and circumstances, including differential pay for different subject areas." Teachers of mathematics, science or other critical-needs areas are eligible for loan forgiveness.

Oklahoma also supports differential pay for those teaching in high-need schools but leaves it up to the school district to determine the specifics: "Districts shall be encouraged to provide completed schedules to reflect district policies and circumstances, including...special incentives for teachers in districts with specific geographical attributes."

Teachers who are National Board Certified are eligible to receive a \$5,000 annual supplement. However, this differential pay is not tied to high-need schools or subject-area shortages.

#### **Supporting Research**

Oklahoma Statutes 70-5-141; 70-698.3

Commission for Teacher Preparation - Financial Information http://www.ok.gov/octp/National\_Board\_Certification/Financial\_Information/index.html

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Consider tying National Board supplements to teaching in high-needs schools.

This differential pay could be an incentive to attract some of the state's most effective teachers to low-performing schools.

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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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.

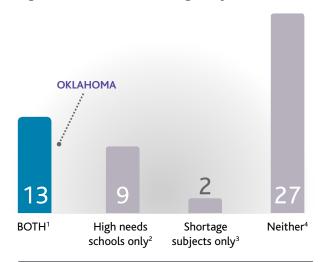
<sup>2.</sup> South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in high-need schools.



#### **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: Oklahoma



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma supports performance pay. School districts may implement incentive pay plans that reward teachers for increasing student and school growth in achievement. Teacher awards will be based on achieving either a superior or highly effective rating under the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Evaluation System (TLE) and grade-level, subject-area or school-level performance.

#### **Supporting Research**

Oklahoma Statutes 70-5-141; 70-5-141.4

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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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.

<sup>1.</sup> Nebraska's initiative does not go into effect until 2016.

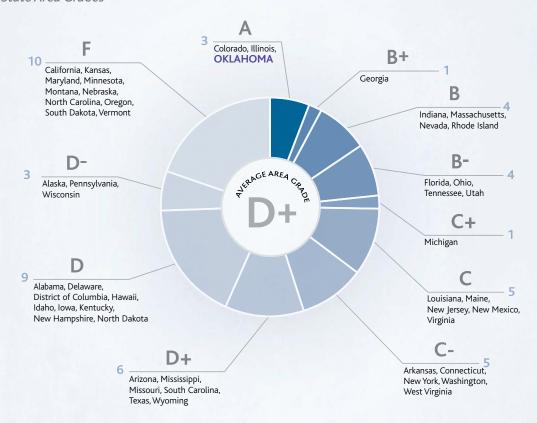
<sup>2.</sup> Nevada's initiative does not go into effect until 2015-2016.

## **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.
- 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: Oklahoma



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma allows teachers who have not met licensure requirements to teach under an emergency certificate—expiring June 30th of the school year for which it was issued—making it normally valid for one school year.

A school district may hire an individual meeting minimum standards — a bachelor's degree and academic preparation in the desired subject area — only after efforts to hire a certificated teacher have been exhausted. In addition, verification that the applicant has either passed the requested subject-area test or is registered for the next available test date is required.

#### **Supporting Research**

Oklahoma Statutes 70-6-187

Emergency Certification

http://www.ok.gov/sde/teacher-certification

OAR 210:20-9-94

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

While Oklahoma's policy offering its emergency certificate for one year only minimizes the risks of having classroom teachers who lack sufficient or appropriate subject-matter knowledge, the state could take its policy a step further and require all teachers to meet subject-matter licensure requirements prior to entering the classroom.

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma had no comment on this goal.

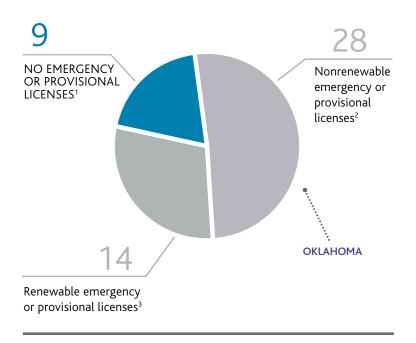
Figure 103		/	/	/ fo
How long can new teachers practice without passing				3 Jeas or more (or unspecified)
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**Colorado**, **Illinois**, **Mississippi**, and **New Jersey** require all new teachers to pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure.

Figure 104

Do states still award emergency licenses?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alaska<sup>4</sup>, Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, Montana<sup>5</sup>, 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 Dakota<sup>6</sup>, Ohio<sup>6</sup>, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island<sup>6</sup>, 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: Oklahoma



Best Practice State



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

Oklahoma ensures that teacher ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal. Teachers rated as ineffective for two consecutive years, needs improvement for three years or who do not average at least an effective rating over a five-year period on the Oklahoma Teachers and Leader Effectiveness Evaluation System "shall be dismissed or not reemployed."

Although 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 and include: "repeated negligence in performance of duty, willful neglect of duty, incompetency, instructional ineffectiveness or unsatisfactory teaching performance."

In Oklahoma, tenured teachers who are terminated have one opportunity to appeal. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher may request a hearing, which must occur 20 to 60 days after notice. "The decision of the board regarding a teacher shall be final and nonrepealable."

#### **Supporting Research**

Oklahoma Statutes 70-6-101.24-.29; 70-6-101.22; 70-6-190

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

 Distinguish the process and accompanying due process rights between dismissal for classroom ineffectiveness and dismissal for morality violations, felonies or dereliction of duty.

Oklahoma is commended for streamlining its dismissal process and for ensuring that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal. In the future, the state could look to differentiate due process rights between loss of employment and issues with far-reaching consequences—such as felonies—that could permanently affect a teacher's right to practice.

#### **OKLAHOMA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**



#### \*\* EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

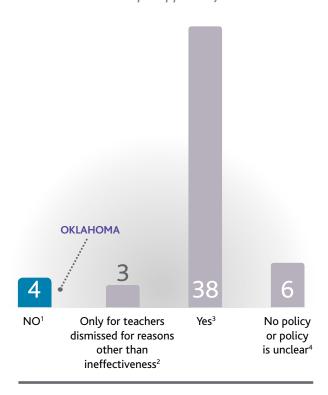
Florida and Oklahoma clearly articulate that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal. In both states, teachers are eligible for dismissal after two annual ratings of unsatisfactory performance. Each state has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed 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 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

<sup>1.</sup> 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, Nevada $^{\rm 5}$ , 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: Oklahoma



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

#### **ANALYSIS**

In Oklahoma, teacher performance—measured by the Oklahoma Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Evaluation System—is the "primary basis" for districts to use in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.

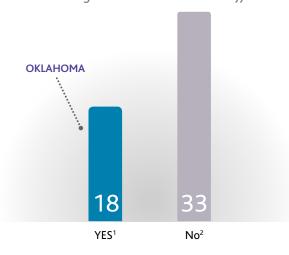
#### **Supporting Research**

Oklahoma Statute 70-6-101.31

#### **OKLAHOMA 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, Massachusetts<sup>3</sup>, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio<sup>3</sup>, 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.

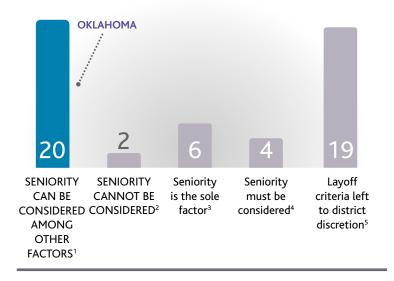
F: 440		
Figure 110		/
Do states prevent districts	157	SEWORIT CAMOT BE
from basing layoffs solely	G. K.	/ <u>&amp;</u> &
on "last in, first out"?	MAN	7 2 2
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Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
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**Colorado**, **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, Massachusetts<sup>6</sup>, Michigan, Missouri<sup>6</sup>, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio<sup>6</sup>, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington
- 2. Strong Practice: Louisiana, Utah
- 3. Hawaii, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin<sup>7</sup>
- 4. California, Kentucky, New Jersey, Oregon
- 5. Alabama, Alaska<sup>6</sup>, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska<sup>6</sup>, 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
<b>1-A:</b> 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
<b>1-B:</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
<b>1-D:</b> 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
<b>1-E:</b> 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
<b>1-F:</b> 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
<b>1-G:</b> 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

AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching F  The state should require alternate route programs to exceed the admission requirements of traditional	Pool  alternate route programs, admission
to exceed the admission requirements of traditional	alternate route programs, admission
preparation programs while also being flexible to the needs of nontraditional candidates.	requirements, GPA, academic proficiency measures, subject-matter test, flexibility/ test-out
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, student practice teaching, induction, mentoring
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
The state should offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.	part-time license/certificate, adjunct license
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
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
The state should require instructional effectiveness to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.	teacher evaluation, teacher effectiveness student learning, classroom observations surveys, rating categories
The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.	teacher evaluation, evaluation frequency classroom observations, feedback
The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.	tenure, probationary period, continuing contracts, teacher effectiveness
The state should base licensure advancement on evidence of teacher effectiveness.	probationary license, professional license license renewal, evidence of teacher effectiveness, coursework requirements
The state should publicly report districts' distribution of teacher talent among schools to identify inequities in schools serving disadvantaged children.	public reporting, aggregate school-level data, evaluation ratings, school report cards, teacher absenteeism rate, turnover rate
	the immediate needs of new teachers, as well as adequate mentoring and support.  The state should provide an alternate route that is free from limitations on its usage and allows a diversity of providers.  The state should offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.  The state should help to make licenses fully portable among states, with appropriate safeguards.  AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teach The state should have a data system that contributes some of the evidence needed to assess teacher effectiveness.  The state should require instructional effectiveness to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.  The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.  The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.  The state should base licensure advancement on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

## Goals and Keywords

GOAL	STATEMENT	KEY WORDS
	AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teacl	hers
<b>4-A:</b> 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
<b>4-B:</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
<b>1-C</b> : 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
<b>4-D:</b> 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
<b>4-E:</b> 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
<b>4-F:</b> 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
<b>5-A:</b> 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
<b>5-B:</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
<b>5-C:</b> 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 Oklahoma

	AREA 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
test norme	t teacher preparation programs screen candidates prior to admission by using a common d to the general college-bound population, and limit acceptance to those candidates ing academic ability in the top 50th percentile.	Goal 1-A
Adopt an e	ementary content test with independently scored subject-matter subtests in each of eas.	Goal 1-B
Require a ri	gorous stand-alone math test for all elementary teacher candidates.	Goal 1-D
	ne generalist 1-8 license, and ensure that all middle school teacher candidates pass a content y core area they are licensed to teach.	Goal 1-E
	require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each ney are licensed to teach.	Goal 1-F Goal 1-G
	ne K-12 special education certificate, and ensure that both elementary and secondary special eachers possess adequate and appropriate content knowledge for the grades and subjects	Goal 1-H
	cooperating teachers for student teaching placements have demonstrated evidence of ss as measured by student learning.	Goal 1-J
gains to pro	er preparation programs accountable by collecting data that connect student achievement ograms, as well as other meaningful data that reflect program performance, and by the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.	Goal 1-K
	AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool	
	uidelines for alternate route programs that require preparation that meets the immediate	
	w teachers. Ensure programs provide intensive induction support to alternate route teachers.	Goal 2-B
	ernate route usage.	Goal 2-B
Broaden ali	AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers e capacity of the state data system to ensure its ability to provide evidence of	
Develop the teacher effert.  Base license	AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers e capacity of the state data system to ensure its ability to provide evidence of	Goal 2-C
Develop the teacher effet Base license evidence of Publish agg	AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers  e capacity of the state data system to ensure its ability to provide evidence of ectiveness.  ure advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license and licensure renewal on	Goal 2-C Goal 3-A Goal 3-E
Develop the teacher effet Base license evidence of Publish agg	AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers  e capacity of the state data system to ensure its ability to provide evidence of ectiveness.  ure advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license and licensure renewal on effectiveness.  regate school-level teacher evaluation ratings from an evaluation system based on	Goal 2-C
Develop the teacher effet Base license evidence of Publish agginstructions	AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers  e capacity of the state data system to ensure its ability to provide evidence of ectiveness.  are advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license and licensure renewal on effectiveness.  regate school-level teacher evaluation ratings from an evaluation system based on all effectiveness.	Goal 2-C Goal 3-A Goal 3-E

