2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Colorado

OVERALL GRADA



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 2011 for comment and correction; states also received a final draft of their reports a month prior to release. All but one state responded to our inquiries. While states do not always agree with the recommendations, their willingness to acknowledge the imperfections of their teacher policies is an important first step toward reform.

We also thank the many state pension boards that reviewed our drafts and responded to our inquiries.

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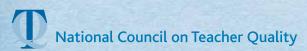
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Executive Summary

For five years running, the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) has tracked states' teacher policies, preparing a detailed and thorough compendium of teacher policy in the United States on topics related to teacher preparation, licensure, evaluation, career advancement, tenure, compensation, pensions and dismissal.

The 2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook includes NCTQ's biennial, 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 36 policy goals focused on helping states put in place a comprehensive framework in support of preparing, retaining and rewarding effective teachers. For the first time, the Yearbook includes a progress rating for states on goals that have been measured over time. An overall progress ranking is also included, showing how states compare to each other in moving forward on their teacher policies.

Colorado at a Glance Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade:



Overall 2009 Yearbook Grade: D+

Area Grades	2011	2009
Area 1 Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	D-	D-
Area 2 Expanding the Teaching Pool	D+	D+
Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers	B-	D-
Area 4 Retaining Effective Teachers	C-	C-
Area 5 Exiting Ineffective Teachers	Α	B-

Overall Progress



Highlights from recent progress in Colorado include:

- Evidence of student learning in teacher evaluations
- Annual evaluations for all teachers
- Tenure decisions connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Dismissal for classroom ineffectiveness
- Teacher preparation program accountability

How is Colorado Faring?

Area 1 Delivering Well Prepared Teachers



Policy Strengths

The state connects student achievement data to teacher preparation programs.

Policy Weaknesses

- Teacher candidates are not required to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- Elementary teachers are not adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with the Common Core Standards.
- Although preparation programs are required to address the science of reading, candidates are not required to pass a test to ensure knowledge.
- Neither teacher preparation program nor licensure test requirements ensure that new elementary teachers are adequately prepared to teach mathematics.

- Middle school teachers are not sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.
- Secondary teachers are not required to pass a subjectmatter test.
- The state offers a K-12 special education certification.
- A pedagogy test is not required as a condition of licensure.
- Requirements for teacher preparation do not ensure a high-quality teaching experience.

Area 2 Expanding the Pool of Teachers



Policy Strengths

 There are no restrictions on alternate route usage or providers.

Policy Weaknesses

- Admission criteria for alternate routes to certification are not sufficiently selective or flexible for nontraditional candidates.
- Alternate route requirements could do more to meet the immediate needs of new teachers.
- The state offers a license with minimal requirements that would allow content experts to teach part time, but its use is extremely limited.
- Out-of-state teachers are not required to meet the state's testing requirements, and there may also be obstacles that do not support licensure reciprocity.

Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers



Policy Strengths

- Objective evidence of student learning is the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.
- All teachers must be evaluated annually.

Policy Weaknesses

- The state data system does not have the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Licensure advancement and renewal are not based on teacher effectiveness.
- Little school-level data are reported that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

effectiveness.

Tenure decisions are connected to evidence of teacher

How is Colorado Faring?

Area 4 Retaining Effective Teachers

Policy Strengths

- All new teachers receive mentoring.
- Districts are given full authority for how teachers are paid, although they are not discouraged from basing salary schedules solely on years of experience and advanced degrees.
- Teachers can receive additional compensation for working in shortage subject areas.
- Excessive resources are not committed to teachers' retirement system.

Policy Weaknesses

- The state could do more to ensure that professional development activities for all teachers are aligned with findings from teacher evaluations and that teachers receive feedback on their performance.
- The state does not support performance pay or additional compensation for relevant prior work experience or working in high-need schools.
- Teachers are only provided a defined benefit pension
- plan as their mandatory pension plan, and pension policies are not fair to all teachers, although those leaving the system are offered more flexibility than in most other states.
- The state's pension plan is significantly underfunded.
- Retirement benefits may be calculated by a formula that is not neutral, meaning that pension wealth does not accumulate uniformly for each year a teacher

Area 5 Exiting Ineffective Teachers



Policy Strengths

- All teachers must pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure.
- Teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations are required to go on improvement plans and, if they do not improve, are eligible for dismissal.
- Ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal, and teachers revert to probationary status after two consecutive years of ineffective evaluations.
- Performance is the top criterion for districts to consider when determining which teachers to lay off during reductions in force, and a last hired, first fired layoff policy is prohibited.

Policy Weaknesses

Colorado Goal Summary

Cool Brookdown			
Goal Breakdown		Avec 2: Identifying Effective Teachers	
Best Practice	2	Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	1
Fully Meets	4	3-A: State Data Systems	
Nearly Meets	4	3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness	
Partially Meets Only Meets a Small Part	7	3-C: Frequency of Evaluations	
Only Meets a Small Part Does Not Meet	7	3-D: Tenure	
Progress on Goals Since 2009		3-E: Licensure Advancement	
		3-F: Equitable Distribution	
Area 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers		Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	I
1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs	0	4-A: Induction	
1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation	•	4-B: Professional Development	
1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction		4-C: Pay Scales	
1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	0	4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience	
1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation	0	4-E: Differential Pay	
1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation	0	4-F: Performance Pay	
1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	0	4-G: Pension Flexibility	
1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies	0	4-H: Pension Sustainability	
1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation	0	4-I: Pension Neutrality	
1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge	0	Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers	
1-K: Student Teaching		5-A: Licensure Loopholes	
1-L: Teacher Preparation Program		5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations	
Accountability Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers		5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance	
2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility	0	5-D: Reductions in Force	
2-B: Alternate Route Preparation	•		
2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers			
2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses	•		
2-E: Licensure Reciprocity	•		

About the Yearbook

The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) has long argued that no educational improvement strategies states take on are likely to have a greater impact than policies that seek to maximize teacher effectiveness. In this fifth edition of the State Teacher Policy Yearbook, NCTQ provides a detailed examination of state laws, rules and regulations that govern the teaching profession, covering the full breadth of policies including teacher preparation, licensure, evaluation, career advancement, tenure, compensation, pensions and dismissal.

The Yearbook is a 52-volume compendium of customized state reports for the 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as a national summary overview, measuring state progress against a set of 36 specific policy goals. All of the reports are available from NCTQ's website at www.nctq.org/stpy.

The 36 Yearbook goals are focused on helping states put in place a comprehensive policy framework in support of preparing, retaining and rewarding effective teachers. The goals were developed based on input and ongoing feedback from state officials, practitioners, policy groups and other education organizations, as well as from NCTQ's own nationally respected advisory board. These goals meet five criteria for an effective reform framework:

- 1. They are supported by a strong rationale, grounded in the best research available. The rationale and research citations supporting each goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.
- 2. They offer practical rather than pie-in-the-sky solutions for improving teacher quality.
- 3. They take on the teaching profession's most pressing needs, including making the profession more responsive to the current labor market.
- 4. They are, for the most part, relatively cost neutral.
- 5. They respect the legitimate constraints that some states face so that the goals can work in all 50 states.

The need to ensure that all children have effective teachers has captured the attention of the public and policymakers across the country like never before. The Yearbook offers state school chiefs, school boards, legislatures and the many advocates who press hard for reform a concrete set of recommendations as they work to maximize teacher quality for their students.

How to Read the Yearbook

NCTQ rates state teacher policy in several ways.

For each of the 36 individual teacher policy goals, states receive two ratings. The first rating indicates whether, or to what extent, a state has met the goal. NCTQ uses these familiar graphics to indicate the extent to which each goal has been met:









A new feature of this year's *Yearbook* is a progress rating for each goal NCTQ has measured over time. These ratings are intended to give states a meaningful sense of the changes in teacher policy since the 2009 *Yearbook* was published. Using the symbols below, NCTQ determines whether each state has advanced on the goal, if the state policy has remained unchanged, or if the state has actually lost ground on that topic.





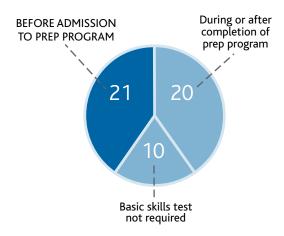


Some goals are marked with this symbol , which indicates that the bar has been raised for this goal since the 2009 *Yearbook*. With many states making considerable progress in advancing teacher effectiveness policy, NCTQ raised the standards for some goals where the bar had been quite low. As this may have a negative impact on some states' scores, those goals are always marked with the above symbol.

States receive grades in the five goal areas under which the 36 goals are organized: 1) delivering well prepared teachers; 2) expanding the pool of teachers; 3) identifying effective teachers; 4) retaining effective teachers and 5) exiting ineffective teachers. States also receive an overall grade that summarizes state performance across the five goal areas, giving an overall perspective on how states measure up against NCTQ benchmarks. New this year, states also receive an overall progress ranking, indicating how much progress each state has made compared to other states.

As always, the *Yearbook* provides a detailed narrative accounting of the policy strengths and weaknesses in each policy area for each state and for the nation as a whole. Best practices are highlighted. The reports are also chock full of reader-friendly charts and tables that provide a national perspective on each goal and serve as a quick reference on how states perform relative to one another, goal by goal.

Another new feature this year makes it easier to distinguish strong policies from weaker ones on our charts and tables. The policies NCTQ considers strong practices or the ideal policy positions for states are capitalized. This provides a quick thumbnail for readers to size up state policies against the policy option that aligns with NCTQ benchmarks for meeting each policy goal. For example, on the chart below, "BEFORE ADMISSION TO PREP PROGRAM" is capitalized, as that is the optimal timing for testing teacher candidates' academic proficiency.



Goals

AREA 1: DELIVERING WELL PREPARED TEACHERS

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1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs

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

1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

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

1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

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

1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies

The state should ensure that social studies teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach.

1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that special education teachers know the subject matter they will be required to teach.

1-I: Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

1-K: Student Teaching

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

1-L: 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.

AREA 2: EXPANDING THE POOL OF TEACHERS

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2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility

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

2-B: Alternate Route Preparation

The state should ensure that its alternate routes provide streamlined preparation that is relevant to the immediate needs of new teachers.

2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers

The state should provide an alternate route that is free from regulatory obstacles that limit its usage and providers.

2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses

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

2-E: Licensure Reciprocity

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

AREA 3: IDENTIFYING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

PAGE 77

3-A: State Data Systems

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

3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

3-C: Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

3-D: Tenure

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

3-E: Licensure Advancement

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

3-F: Equitable Distribution

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

AREA 4: RETAINING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

PAGE 101

4-A: Induction

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

4-B: Professional Development

The state should require professional development to be based on needs identified through teacher evaluations.

4-C: Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

4-E: Differential Pay

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

4-F: Performance Pay

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

4-G: Pension Flexibility

The state should ensure that pension systems are portable, flexible and fair to all teachers.

4-H: Pension Sustainability

The state should ensure that excessive resources are not committed to funding teachers' pension systems.

4-I: Pension Neutrality

The state should ensure that pension systems are neutral, uniformly increasing pension wealth with each additional year of work.

AREA 5: EXITING INEFFECTIVE TEACHERS

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5-A: Licensure Loopholes

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

5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations

The state should articulate consequences for teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations, including specifying that teachers with multiple unsatisfactory evaluations should be eligible for dismissal.

5-C: 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.

5-D: 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 A – Admission into Preparation Programs

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

Goal Components

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

- 1. The state should require teacher candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- 2. All preparation programs in a state should use a common admissions test to facilitate program comparison, and the test should allow comparison of applicants to the general college-going population and selection of applicants in the top half of that population.
- Programs should have the option of exempting candidates from this test who submit comparable SAT or ACT scores at a level set by the state.



The components for this goal have changed since 2009. 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 www.nctq.org/stpy.



Area 1: Goal A **Colorado** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado does not require aspiring teachers to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs or any time thereafter.

Supporting Research

Colorado Senate Bill 00-195

RECOMMENDATION

 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.

Teacher preparation programs that do not screen candidates end up investing considerable resources in individuals who may not be able to successfully complete the program and pass licensing tests. Candidates needing additional support should complete remediation prior to program entry, avoiding the possibility of an unsuccessful investment of significant public tax dollars.

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

The basic skills tests in use in most states largely assess middle school-level skills. To improve the selectivity of teacher candidates—a common characteristic in countries whose students consistently outperform ours in international comparisons—Colorado should require an assessment that demonstrates that candidates are academically competitive with all peers, regardless of their intended profession. Requiring a common test normed to the general college population would allow for the selection of applicants in the top half of their class, as well as facilitate program comparison.

Exempt candidates with comparable SAT or ACT scores.

Colorado should waive the basic skills test requirement for candidates whose SAT or ACT scores demonstrate that they are in the top half of their class.

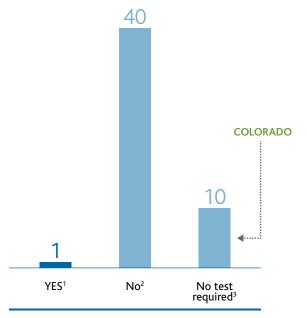
COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



Although there are a number of states that require teacher candidates to pass a basic skills test as a criterion for admission to a preparation program, Texas is the only state that requires a test of academic proficiency normed to the general college bound population rather than just to prospective teachers. In addition, the state's minimum scores for admission appear to be relatively selective when compared to other tests used across the country.

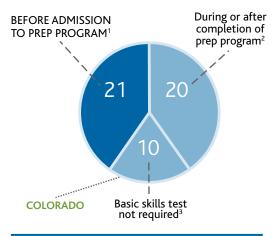
Figure 2 Do states require a test of academic proficiency that is normed to the general college-going population?



1. Strong Practice: Texas

- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, 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, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Figure 3 When do states test teacher candidates' basic skills?

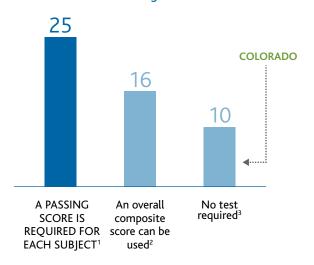


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, California, Delaware, District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



Figure 5

Do states measure performance in reading, mathematics and writing?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- California⁴, District of Columbia⁴, Hawaii⁴, Indiana, Iowa, Maine⁴, Maryland, New Hampshire⁴, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota⁵, Pennsylvania⁴, Rhode Island⁴, Vermont, Virginia
- 3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming
- 4. Minimum score must be met in each section.
- Composite score can only be used if passing score is met on two of three subtests.

Goal B – Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

- 1. 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.)
- 2. The state should require elementary teacher candidates to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure sufficient content knowledge of all subjects.
- 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 also ensures that prospective teachers have taken higher level academic coursework.
- 4. Arts and sciences faculty, rather than education faculty, should in most cases teach liberal arts coursework to teacher candidates.

Background

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



Area 1: Goal B Colorado Analysis



State Meets Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Although Colorado has adopted the Common Core Standards, the state does not ensure that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with these standards.

Colorado requires candidates to pass either the Praxis II or the PLACE general elementary content test, neither of which reports teacher performance in each subject area, meaning that it may be possible to pass the test and still fail some subject areas. Further, based on available information on the Praxis II, there is no reason to expect that the current version would be well aligned with the Common Core Standards.

In addition, all teacher candidates in Colorado must complete coursework in oral and written communication, critical thinking, social sciences, humanities and science. The state does not specify a minimum number of credit hours that must be completed in each of these areas; moreover, these required areas are too ambiguous to guarantee that the courses used to meet them will be relevant to the topics taught in the elementary classroom.

Commendably, Colorado requires that its elementary teacher candidates complete an academic major.

The state has also articulated elementary teacher standards, which require that candidates be "knowledgeable" in content areas that include civics, economics, foreign language, geography, history, science, music, visual arts and physical education. Although there are important curricular areas on this list, it is incomplete and too ambiguous to set a meaningful standard for holding either programs or teachers accountable.

Finally, there is no assurance that arts and sciences faculty will teach liberal arts classes to elementary teacher candidates.

Supporting Research

Code of Colorado Regulations, 1 CCR 301-37, 2260.5-R-5.00, 5.04

Commission on Higher Education Part P, Section I, 3.03

Praxis II

www.ets.org

PLACE Test Requirement

www.place.nesinc.com

Spurlin, M. D. (1985), Colorado Teacher Education and Certification Report (pg. iii). Colorado State Publications Library: ED 5/80.2/T22/.

Colorado Commission on Higher Education Meeting, March 24, 1986, pg. 3

RECOMMENDATION

Require a content test that ensures sufficient knowledge in all subjects.

Colorado should ensure that its subject-matter tests for elementary teacher candidates are well aligned with the Common Core 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.

The state should also require separate passing scores for each content area on the test because without them it is impossible to measure knowledge of individual subjects. Further, to be meaningful, Colorado should ensure that these passing scores reflect high levels of performance.

Provide broad liberal arts coursework relevant to the elementary classroom.

Colorado should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish comprehensive coursework requirements that are specifically geared to the areas of knowledge needed by PK-6 teachers. Further, the state should align its requirements for elementary teacher candidates with the Common Core Standards, to ensure that candidates will complete coursework relevant to the common topics in elementary grades. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours in the core subject areas of English, science, social studies and fine arts.

■ Ensure arts and sciences faculty teach liberal arts coursework.

Although an education professor is best suited to teach effective methodologies in subject instruction, faculty from the university's college of arts and sciences should provide subject-matter foundation.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado asserted that all students who earn undergraduate degrees at public institutions of higher education, including teacher preparation programs, complete the general education (gtPathways) liberal arts core. Most, if not all, of the private institutions of higher education have also aligned their general education requirements to ease the transfer process.

Colorado also contended that by December 15, 2012, all preparation programs must teach to the new P-12 Academic and Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Standards, which are aligned with the Common Core Standards.

Further, the state noted that arts and sciences faculty teach liberal arts coursework, per the performance contracts that the Colorado Department of Higher Education has with the institutions of higher education. "Finally, by July 1, 2006, all content (non-pedagogy) courses leading to the fulfillment of endorsement area requirements for secondary education licensure shall be taught by faculty members belonging to or approved by the departments from which the courses originate (e.g., American history courses are taught by history department faculty members or faculty members approved by the history department, mathematics courses are taught by mathematics department faculty members or faculty members approved by the mathematics department)."

Supporting Research

http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/gtPathways/curriculum.html http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/PerformanceContracts/

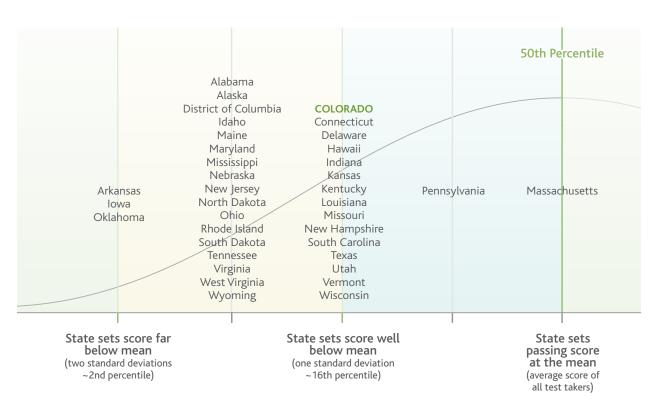
LAST WORD

The cited contract between the Colorado Department of Higher Education and the institutions of higher education ensures that arts and sciences faculty teach the content courses relating to the requirements for secondary education licensure. There is still no guarantee that arts and sciences faculty will teach liberal arts classes to elementary teacher candidates.



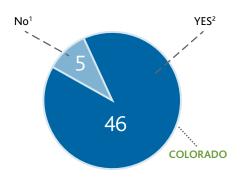
Although no state meets this goal, three states have noteworthy policies. **Massachusetts's** testing requirements, which are based on the state's curriculum, ensure that elementary teachers are provided with a broad liberal arts education. **Indiana** and **Utah** are the first two states to adopt the new Praxis II "Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects" content test, which requires candidates to pass separately scored subtests in reading/language arts, mathematics, social studies and science.

Figure 7
Where do states set the passing score on elementary content licensure tests¹?



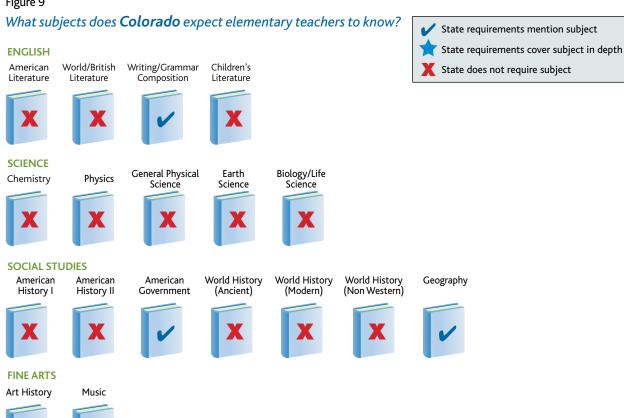
¹ Based on the most recent technical data that could be obtained; data not available for Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington. Montana and Nebraska do not require a content test. Colorado score is for Praxis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

Figure 8 Have states adopted the K-12 Common Core State Standards?



^{1.} Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, Virginia

Figure 9

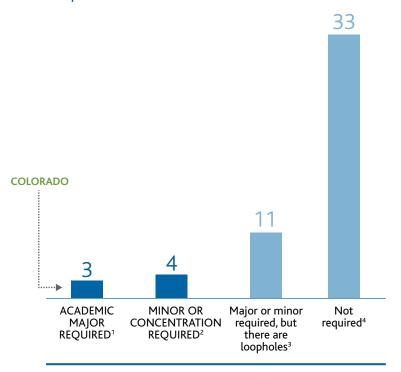


^{2.} Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire,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

igure 10			ENC	GLISH		/			NCE			SC	OCIAI					/	FINE ARTS
Do states expect			Writing/Gram	/ /	/		/	Earth Co.	/ /	/		/	World His	/ 140	World Hist	\	//		/ /
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■ Subject mentioned ★ Subject covered in depth

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, 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, Alabaria, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, 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.)

- To ensure that teacher preparation programs adequately prepare candidates in the science of reading instruction, the state should require that these programs train teachers in the five instructional components shown by scientifically based reading research to be essential to teaching children to read.
- The state should require that new elementary teachers 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 science of reading instruction.

Background

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



Area 1: Goal C **Colorado** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

In its standards for preparation of elementary teachers, Colorado requires teacher preparation programs to address the science of reading. Programs must provide training in "phonological and linguistic skills related to reading," including phonemic awareness; concepts about print and systematic, explicit phonics; reading comprehension; and vocabulary development.

However, the state does not require teacher candidates to pass a reading assessment prior to certification or at any point thereafter to verify that candidates have been effectively trained in the science of reading instruction.

Supporting Research

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeboard/download/bdregs_301-37.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

Although Colorado is commended for requiring teacher preparation programs to address the science of reading, the state should also require a rigorous reading assessment tool to ensure that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared in the science of reading instruction before entering the classroom. The assessment should clearly test knowledge and skills related to the science of reading, and if it is combined with an assessment that also tests general pedagogy or elementary content, it should report a subscore for the science of reading specifically. Elementary teachers who do not possess the minimum knowledge in this area should not be eligible for licensure.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

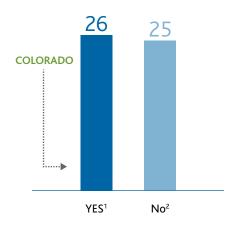
Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

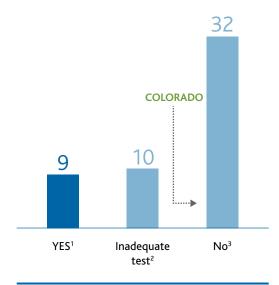
Eight states meet this goal by requiring that preparation programs for elementary teacher candidates address the science of reading and requiring that candidates pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Independent reviews of the assessments used by Connecticut, Massachusetts and Virginia confirm that these tests are rigorous measures of teacher candidates' knowledge of scientifically based reading instruction.

Figure 13 Do states require preparation for elementary teachers in the science of reading?



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

Figure 14 Do states measure new teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota⁴, New Mexico⁵, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania⁵, Tennessee,
- 2. Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Missouri, New York, Oregon, Texas
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Based on the limited information available about the test on the state's website.
- 5. Test is under development and not yet available for review.

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^{1.} Based on the limited information available about the test on the state's website.

^{2.} Test is under development and not yet available for review.

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).
- 2. The state should require elementary teacher candidates 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.

Background

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

Figure 16 How States are Faring in Teacher Preparation in Mathematics **Best Practice State** Massachusetts States Meet Goal State Nearly Meets Goal Indiana 1 States Partly Meet Goal California, Florida, Minnesota 1, New Mexico, Utah 1 30 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa 1, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming 14 States Do Not Meet Goal Arkansas, COLORADO, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, West Virginia, Wisconsin Progress on this Goal Since 2009: **1**:4 : 47 **↓** : 0

Area 1: Goal D **Colorado** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado relies on both coursework requirements and its standards for teacher preparation programs as the basis for articulating its requirements for the mathematics content knowledge of elementary teachers.

All teacher candidates in Colorado must complete coursework in mathematics. The state does not specify a minimum number of credit hours, the requisite content of such courses or that the courses must meet the needs of elementary teachers. Colorado has articulated elementary teaching standards that its approved teacher preparation programs must use. These standards indicate that all elementary teacher candidates must be "knowledgeable" in mathematics but lack the specificity needed to ensure that teacher preparation programs deliver mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates.

Colorado requires that all new elementary teachers pass either the state's PLACE (Program for Licensing Assessments for Colorado's Educators) assessment or a general subject-matter test, the Praxis II. Neither test provides a specific mathematics subscore, so one can likely fail the mathematics portion and still pass the test. Further, while these tests cover important elementary school-level content, they barely evaluate candidates' knowledge beyond an elementary school level, do not challenge their understanding of underlying concepts and do not require candidates to apply knowledge in nonroutine, multistep procedures.

Supporting Research

Commission on Higher Education, Part P, Section I, 3.03

1 CCR 301-37; 2260.5-R-5.00, 5.04

www.ets.org/praxis

"No Common Denominator: The Preparation of Elementary Teachers in Mathematics by America's Education Schools," NCTQ, June 2008 http://www.nctq.org/p/publications/docs/nctq_ttmath_fullreport.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

Although Colorado requires some knowledge in mathematics, the state should require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers. This includes specific coursework in foundations, algebra and geometry, with some statistics.

■ Require teacher candidates to pass a rigorous mathematics assessment.

Colorado should assess 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.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

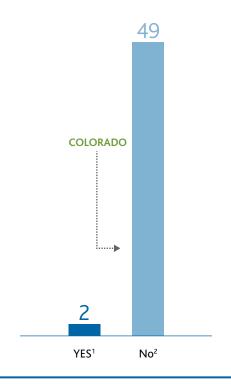
Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state noted that it has adopted the Common Core Standards, and teacher preparation programs are in the process of aligning their programs with these standards.



T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Massachusetts is the only state that ensures that its elementary teachers have sufficient knowledge of mathematics content. As part of its general curriculum test, the state utilizes a separately scored mathematics subtest that covers topics specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers.

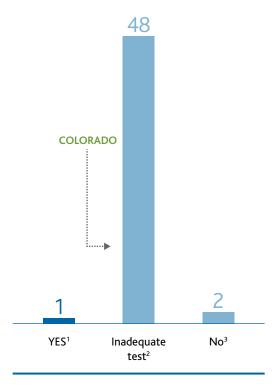
Figure 17 Do states articulate appropriate mathematics preparation for elementary teachers?



1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Massachusetts

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

Figure 18 Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



1. Strong Practice: Massachusetts

- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, 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
- 3. Montana, Nebraska

Goal E - Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

- The state should encourage middle school candidates who intend to teach multiple subjects to earn minors in two core academic areas rather than earn a single major. Middle school candidates intending to teach a single subject area should earn a major in that area.
- 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 require that new middle school teachers pass a licensing test in every core academic area they intend to teach.

Background

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



Area 1: Goal E **Colorado** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado only requires that middle school teachers who are allowed to teach on a generalist K-8 license complete a teacher preparation program. The state does not explicitly require a major or minor in the subject areas that the candidates plan to teach. Teachers with secondary licenses may also teach single subjects in middle school. The state's standards articulate that these teachers must be "experts" in their content endorsement areas.

All new middle school teachers in Colorado are also required to pass a subject-area test, either the state's own PLACE assessment or the Praxis II, to attain licensure. However, candidates are only required to pass the general content test for elementary education, in which subscores are not provided; therefore, there is no assurance that these middle school teachers will have sufficient knowledge in each subject they teach.

Supporting Research

1 CCR 301-37, 2260.5-R-5.00, 5.04

RECOMMENDATION

■ Eliminate K-8 generalist license.

Colorado 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.

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

■ Require subject-matter testing for middle school teacher candidates.

Colorado 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.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Arkansas, Georgia and Pennsylvania ensure that all middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach middle school-level content. Teachers are required to earn at least two content-area minors. Georgia and Pennsylvania also require passing scores on single-subject content tests, and Arkansas requires a subject-matter assessment with separate passing scores for each academic area.

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^{1.} California offers a K-12 generalist license for self-contained classrooms.

^{2.} Illinois offers K-9 license.

^{3.} With the exception of mathematics.

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

^{5.} Wisconsin offers 1-8 license.

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^{1.} State does not explicitly require two minors, but it has equivalent requirements.

Pennsylvania has two options. One option requires a 30 credit concentration in one subject and nearly a minor (12 credits) in three additional subjects; the second option is 21 credits in two subject-area concentrations with 12 credits in two additional subjects.

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 intend to teach.
- 2. 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 www.nctq.org/stpy.

Figure 22 How States are Faring in Secondary Teacher Preparation **Best Practice States** Indiana, Tennessee 29 States Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin States Nearly Meet Goal States Partly Meet Goal District of Columbia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico States Meet a Small Part of Goal 12 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, COLORADO, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: **New Goal**

Area 1: Goal F **Colorado** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado does not ensure that its secondary teachers are adequately prepared to teach grade-level content.

Secondary teacher candidates may demonstrate content proficiency by either completing 24 semester hours of credit as demonstrated through transcript evaluation, or by passing a content assessment, either the Praxis II or the PLACE, in the endorsement area.

Regrettably, Colorado also allows both general science and general social studies licenses—and does not require subject-matter testing for each subject area within these disciplines (see Goals 1-G and 1-H).

To add an endorsement area to a license, secondary teachers in Colorado may also choose either 24 semester hours of credit or a content test.

Supporting Research

Colorado Initial Teaching License-Approved Programs http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/Licensure_tch_approved.asp Adding an Additional Endorsement to a Valid License http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/Licensure_tch_approved.asp

RECOMMENDATION

Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

As a condition of licensure, Colorado should require its secondary teacher candidates to pass a content test in each subject area they plan to teach to ensure that they possess adequate subjectmatter knowledge and are prepared to teach grade-level content.

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

Colorado should require passing scores on subject-specific content tests, regardless of other coursework or degree requirements, for teachers who are licensed in core secondary subjects and wish to add another subject area, or endorsement, to their licenses. While coursework may be generally indicative of background in a particular subject area, only a subject-matter test ensures that teachers know the specific content they will need to teach.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

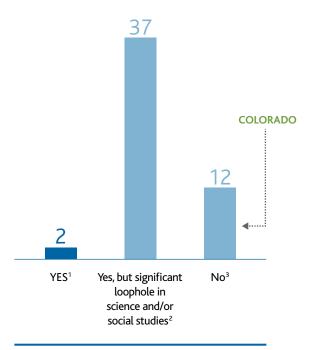
Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state noted that neither the Colorado Department of Education nor the Colorado Department of Higher Education has received any complaints that teachers do not know their requisite subject matter.



T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Not only do Indiana and Tennessee require that secondary teacher candidates pass a content test to teach any core secondary subjects, but these states also do not permit any significant loopholes to this important policy by allowing secondary general science or social studies licenses (see Goals 1-G and 1-H).

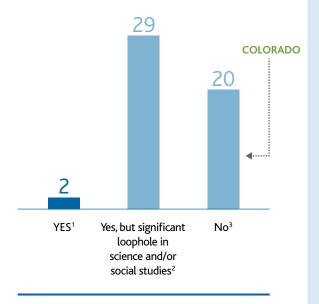
Figure 23 Do all secondary teachers have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin. (For more on loopholes, see Goals 1-G and 1-H.)
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Wyoming

Figure 24 Do all secondary teachers have to pass a content test in every subject area to add an endorsement?



1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin. (For more on loopholes, see Goals 1-G and 1-H.)
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Wyoming

Goal G – Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

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

Goal Components

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

- The state should require secondary science teachers to pass a subject-matter test of each science discipline they intend to teach.
- 2. The state should require middle school science teachers to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure that prospective teachers cannot pass without sufficient knowledge of science.

Background

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



Area 1: Goal G **Colorado** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado offers an endorsement in science education, which combines physics, biology, chemistry, earth and space science, and environmental science. This appears to be the only secondary science endorsement. To demonstrate content proficiency, candidates may either complete 24 semester hours of course credit or achieve a passing score on either the PLACE test ("Science") or the Praxis II "General Science" test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general science but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

Colorado does not articulate any additional requirements for middle school science teachers. The state also allows middle school science teachers to teach on a generalist K-8 license (see Goal 1-E).

Supporting Research

Colorado Initial Teaching License-Approved Programs www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/Licensure_tch_approved.asp Program for Licensing Assessments for Colorado Educators www.place.nesinc.com **Praxis Testing Requirements** www.ets.org

RECOMMENDATION

- Require secondary science teachers to pass tests of content knowledge for each science discipline they intend to teach.
 - Although coursework plays a key role in teachers' acquisition of content knowledge, program completion should not replace the requirement of an assessment, which is the only way to ensure that teachers possess adequate knowledge of the subject area. While a major is generally indicative of a background in a particular subject area, only a subject-matter test ensures that candidates know the specific content they will need to teach.
- Require middle school science teachers to also pass a test of content knowledge that ensures sufficient knowledge of science.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

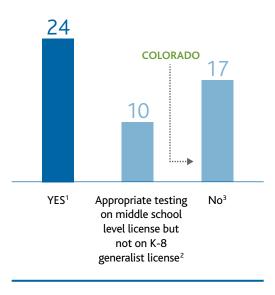
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T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

New Jersey does not offer certification in general science for secondary teachers. Although the state allows a combination physical science certificate, it ensure adequate content knowledge in both chemistry and physics by requiring teacher candidates to pass individual content tests in chemistry, physics and general science. Further, middle school science teachers must pass a science-specific content test.

Figure 27 Do states ensure that middle school teachers have adequate preparation to teach science?



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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal H - Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies

The state should ensure that social studies 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 social studies teachers to pass a subject-matter test of each social studies discipline they intend to teach.
- The state should require middle school social studies teachers to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure that prospective teachers cannot pass without sufficient knowledge of social studies.

Background



Area 1: Goal H **Colorado** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado offers an endorsement in general social studies. This appears to be the only secondary social studies endorsement. To demonstrate content proficiency, candidates may either complete 24 semester hours of course credit or achieve a passing score on either the PLACE test ("Social Studies") or the Praxis II "Social Studies" test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general social studies but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

Colorado does not articulate any additional requirements for middle school social studies teachers. The state also allows middle school social studies teachers to teach on a generalist K-8 license (see Goal 1-E).

Supporting Research

Colorado Initial Teaching License-Approved Programs www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/Licensure_tch_approved.asp Program for Licensing Assessments for Colorado Educators www.place.nesinc.com **Praxis Testing Requirements** www.ets.org

RECOMMENDATION

Require secondary social studies teachers to pass tests of content knowledge for each social studies discipline they intend to teach.

Although coursework plays a key role in teachers' acquisition of content knowledge, program completion should not replace the requirement of an assessment, which is the only way to ensure that teachers possess adequate knowledge of the subject area. While a major is generally indicative of background in a particular subject area, only a subject matter test ensures that candidates know the specific content they will need to teach.

Require middle school social studies teachers to pass a test of content knowledge that ensures sufficient knowledge of social studies.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado asserted that the content standards for secondary subject matter, which all teachers must meet, are delineated in the Rules for the implementation of the Educator Licensing Act.

Supporting Research

Educator Licensing Act 2260.5-R-8.01 to 8.23

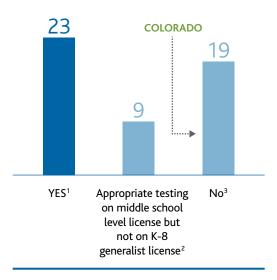
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Not only does Indiana ensure that its secondary social studies teachers possess adequate content knowledge of all subjects they intend to teach through both coursework and content testingbut the state's policy also does not make it overly burdensome for social studies teachers to teach multiple subjects. Other notable states include Georgia and South Dakota, which also do not offer secondary general social studies certifications.

Figure 30 Do states ensure that middle school teachers have adequate preparation to teach social studies?



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

Figure 29

1. Massachusetts does not offer a general social studies license, but offers combination licenses.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal I – Special Education Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that special education teachers know the subject matter they will be required 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.
- 2. All elementary special education candidates should have a broad liberal arts program of study that includes study in mathematics, science, English, social studies and fine arts and 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 require that teacher preparation programs graduate secondary special education teacher candidates who are highly qualified in at least two subjects. The state should also customize a "HOUSSE" route for new secondary special education teachers to help them achieve highly qualified status in all the subjects they teach.



The components for this goal have changed since 2009. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

Background



Area 1: Goal I **Colorado** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Regrettably, Colorado only offers a K-12 special education certification.

Supporting Research Code of Colorado Regulations 1 CCR 301-37, 2260.5-R-9.00

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 Colorado 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.

- Provide a broad liberal arts program of study to elementary special education candidates.
 - Colorado should ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess knowledge of the subject matter at hand. Not only should the state require core-subject coursework relevant to the elementary classroom, but it should also require that these candidates pass the same subject-matter test required of all elementary teachers. 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 teacher candidates graduate with highly qualified status in at least two subjects, and customize a HOUSSE route so that they can achieve highly qualified status in all subjects they plan to teach.

To make secondary special education teacher candidates more flexible and better able to serve schools and students, Colorado should use a combination of coursework and testing to ensure that they graduate with highly qualified status in two core academic areas. A customized HOUSSE route can also help new secondary special education teacher candidates to become highly qualified in multiple subjects by offering efficient means by which they could gain broad overviews of specific areas of content knowledge, such as content-driven university courses. Such a route is specifically permitted in the 2004 reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado asserted that special education teachers must pass the same elementary education content test as the general education elementary teachers.

Supporting Research C.R.S. 22-60.5-203(6)(a)

LAST WORD

The requirement that special education teachers must pass the same elementary education content test as general education elementary teachers would be sound policy if the state offered an elementary special education license. But because special education teachers are licensed to teach any grade K-12 having passed only the elementary education content test, it is deeply problematic.

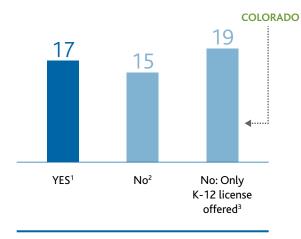
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Unfortunately, NCTQ cannot highlight any state's policy in this area. Preparation of special education teachers remains a topic in critical need of states' attention. However, it is worth noting that three states—Louisiana, Pennsylvania and Texas—will no longer issue K-12 special education certifications. Only grade-level specific options will be available to new teachers.

Figure 33 Do states require subject-matter testing for elementary special education licenses?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon⁴, Pennsylvania⁵, Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Alaska, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming
- 3. Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia
- 4. Although Oregon requires testing, the state allows an "alternative assessment" option for candidates who fail the tests twice to still be considered for a license.
- 5. In Pennsylvania, a candidate who opts for dual certification in elementary special education and as a reading specialist does not have to take a content test.

Figure 32

1. Beginning January 1, 2013

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal J – Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

Goal Components

(The factors 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



Area 1: Goal J **Colorado** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado does not currently require new teachers to pass a pedagogy test in order to attain licensure.

Senate Bill 00-195 "limits Colorado's educator assessment program to content tests only, eliminating tests in basic skills, liberal arts and sciences, and professional knowledge."

Colorado is part of the Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) Consortium and began a pilot program in Spring 2011. It is unclear whether this can or will become a state requirement, given the constraints on tests of professional knowledge in S. B. 00-195.

Supporting Research

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/content_tests.htm http://aacte.org/index.php?/Programs/

RECOMMENDATION

Require that all new teachers pass a pedagogy test.

Colorado should verify that all new teachers meet professional standards through a test of professional knowledge.

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

While Colorado 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 TPA 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.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

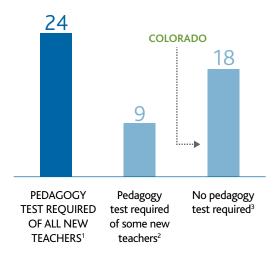
Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state reiterated that legislation does not allow for testing other than content knowledge.



T 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 additionally commends the nine states (Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas) that utilize their own assessments to measure pedagogical knowledge and skills.

Figure 35 Do states measure new teachers' knowledge of teaching and learning?



- 1. Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia
- 2. Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah⁴, Wyoming
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin
- 4. Not required until teacher advances from a Level One to a Level Two license.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal K - 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.)

- 1. 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



Area 1: Goal K **Colorado** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado requires candidates to complete a minimum of 800 clock hours of field experiences. The state articulates that field-based training may include a variety of experiences associated with teaching in supervised settings, such as classroom observations, assisting licensed teachers in school settings, practica, student teaching and internships. Colorado does not outline any requirements for cooperating teachers.

Supporting Research

Colorado Revised Statutes 23-1-121(2)(d) Teacher Education Policy I-P highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Policies/Current/i-partp.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

Although Colorado requires prospective teachers to have extensive field experiences, it does not specifically require a summative clinical experience. Student teaching should be a full-time commitment, as requiring coursework and student teaching simultaneously does a disservice to both. Alignment with a school calendar for at least 10 weeks ensures both adequate classroom experience and exposure to a variety of ancillary professional activities.

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 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 the student teacher or school district staff.

 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.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state noted that it has one of the highest requirements in the country for field-based hours.

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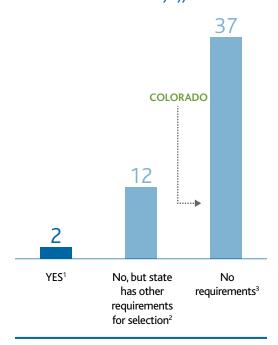
EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Although no state has been singled out for "best practice" honors, Florida and Tennessee require teacher candidates to complete at least 10 weeks of full-time student teaching, and they have taken steps toward ensuring that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.

^{1.} Candidates can student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

Figure 38

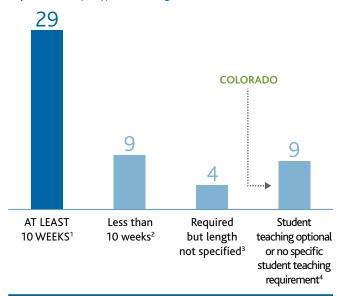
Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



1. Strong Practice: Florida, Tennessee

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

Figure 39
Is the summative student teaching experience of sufficient length?



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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal L – 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.)

- 1. The state should collect value-added data that connects student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.
- 2. The state should collect other meaningful data that reflects program performance, including some or all of the following:
 - a. Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including basic skills, 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;
 - d. Evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching;
 - e. 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.



The components for this goal have changed since 2009. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

Background



Area 1: Goal L **Colorado** Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2009



ANALYSIS

Colorado's approval process for its traditional and alternate route teacher preparation programs could do more to hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

Beginning in 2011, Colorado will produce an annual report that shows the relationship between teacher preparation programs and student academic growth. The effectiveness of programs will be examined using aggregate data, including the correlation among different preparation programs and student academic growth, educator placement, and educator mobility and retention. The report will be limited to language arts and math teachers in grades 3-10 because those are the only students tested by the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP).

However, it does not appear that the state has articulated a plan to apply any transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval.

Colorado will also make these reports available to the public on its website.

Supporting Research

S.B. 10-036 Colorado Revised Statute 23-1-121 Title II State Reports https://title2.ed.gov

RECOMMENDATION

Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.

Programs should be held accountable for meeting established standards of performance, with articulated consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval after appropriate due process.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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Reported institutional data do not distinguish between candidates in the traditional and alternate route programs.

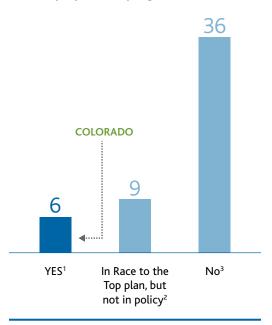
The posted data do not allow the public to review and compare program performance because data are not disaggregated by program provider.



T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Florida connects student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs. The state also relies on other objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs, and it applies transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval. Florida also posts an annual report on its website.

Figure 42 Do states use student achievement data to hold teacher preparation programs accountable?



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

Figure 43

Which states collect meaningful data?

AVERAGE RAW SCORES ON LICENSING TESTS

Alabama, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Tennessee, West Virginia

SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland¹, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington¹, West Virginia

EVALUATION RESULTS FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES

Alabama, Arizona, Delaware¹, Florida, Illiniois, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont

STUDENT LEARNING GAINS

COLORADO, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas

TEACHER RETENTION RATES

Arizona, COLORADO, Delaware¹, Missouri, New Jersey

1. For alternate route only

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According to information posted on NCATE's website.

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

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.)

- 1. With some accommodation for work experience, alternate route programs should screen candidates for academic ability, such as requiring a minimum 2.75 overall college GPA
- 2. 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.

Background



Area 2: Goal A **Colorado** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

While the admission requirements for Colorado's alternate routes do not exceed those for traditional preparation programs, the state does allow flexibility for some nontraditional candidates.

Colorado passed legislation in January 2011 that restructured alternate route programs in the state into a one-year program and a two-year program. Applicants for both are required to obtain the Colorado Alternative Teacher license. Colorado does not require candidates to demonstrate prior academic performance, such as a minimum GPA, as an entrance standard for the alternate route program.

Colorado no longer requires all applicants to pass a content exam. Candidates for elementary education must pass a subject-matter test; however, the state does not require a subject-matter test for secondary teachers. Secondary candidates must either complete 24 semester hours of coursework or pass a content-area test in the subject they plan to teach.

Supporting Research

Colorado Rule 2260.5.R-3.12

RECOMMENDATION

Screen all candidates for academic ability.

Colorado should require that candidates to its alternate routes provide some evidence of good academic performance. The standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of 2.75 or higher. Alternatively, the state could require one of the standardized tests of academic proficiency commonly used in higher education for graduate admissions, such as the GRE.

Extend subject-matter test requirement to secondary certification applicants.

While Colorado is commended for requiring elementary candidates to demonstrate content knowledge on a subject-matter test, it is strongly recommended that the state extend this requirement to all of its candidates. The concept behind alternate routes is that the nontraditional candidate is able to concentrate on acquiring professional knowledge and skills because he or she has strong subjectarea knowledge. Teachers without sufficient subject-matter knowledge place students at risk.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado asserted that a candidate must have a minimum GPA of 2.6 for admission to the alternative licensure program.

Supporting Research

Colorado 2260.5-R-3.12(3)(b)(i)

LAST WORD

NCTQ was unable to find policy that addresses a minimum GPA requirement. Still, the academic standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of 2.75 or higher.

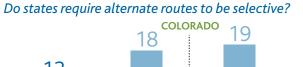


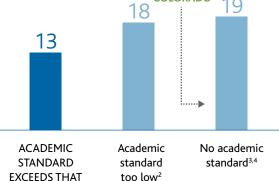
Figure 47

OF TRADITIONAL

PROGRAMS¹

Rhode Island, Tennessee



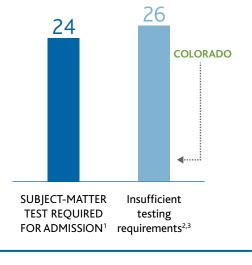


1. Strong Practice: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,

Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania,

- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin
- 4. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

Figure 48 Do states ensure that alternate route teachers have subject-matter knowledge?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut⁴, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois⁴, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington,
- 2. State does not require test at all, exempts some candidates or does not require passage until program completion. Alaska, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 4. Required prior to entering the classroom.

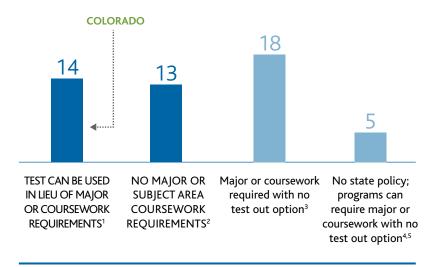
Figure 46

1. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.



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

Figure 49
Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut⁶, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas
- 2. Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Virginia, Washington
- 3. Alaska, Delaware, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Wisconsin
- 5. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- $\hbox{6. Test out option available to candidates in shortage areas only.}\\$

60 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 COLORADO

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Goal B – Alternate Route Preparation

The state should ensure that its alternate routes provide streamlined preparation that is relevant to the immediate needs of new teachers.

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 six 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.
- 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 and classroom management techniques).
- 4. The state should ensure that candidates have an opportunity to practice teach in a summer training program. Alternatively, the state can require an intensive mentoring experience, beginning with a trained mentor assigned full time to the new teacher for the first critical weeks of school and then gradually reduced. 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.

Background



Area 2: Goal B **Colorado** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Although Colorado offers alternate routes with streamlined preparation, it could do more to meet the immediate needs of new teachers.

Colorado offers two alternate routes, a one-year program and a two-year program. Both alternate routes require that candidates complete 225 clock hours of instruction in teacher preparation courses that meet state performance-based standards and include training in dropout prevention. Specific details of the coursework are not outlined. A program advisory council may exempt candidates from some coursework requirements based on an applicant's previous experience or demonstrated knowledge.

Although Colorado does not require a practice-teaching opportunity or specialized mentorship for candidates in the one-year program, all new teachers in the state are assigned a mentor as part of a required induction program. The two-year program pairs each candidate with a mentor teacher for the first year; during the second year participants are considered the teacher of record.

Supporting Research

Colorado 2260.5-R-18.00

RECOMMENDATION

■ Establish coursework guidelines for all alternate route preparation programs.

Colorado should articulate guidelines regarding the specific nature of coursework required of candidates. Requirements should be manageable and contribute to the immediate needs of new teachers. Appropriate coursework should include grade-level or subject-level seminars, methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction. 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.

Provide induction experience for all new teachers.

While Colorado is commended for requiring teachers in the two-year program to work with a mentor, candidates in the one-year program should also receive this support. In addition, the state should consider providing sufficient guidelines to ensure that the induction program is structured for new teacher success. Effective strategies include practice teaching prior to teaching in the class-room, 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.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. Colorado added that alternative licensure programs must ensure that candidates meet the same professional development standards as institutions of higher education.

62: NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011

Figure 51		RELEVANT COURSEWORK	/	/	/
Do states' alternate rous	tes	RELEVANT COURSEWORK	¥ /	PRACTICE TEACHING OPPORTUNITY	
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EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

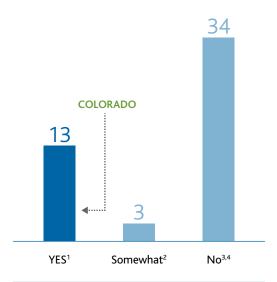
Connecticut ensures that its alternate route provides streamlined preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. The state requires a manageable number of credit hours, relevant coursework, a field placement and intensive mentoring. Other notable states include Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia and New Jersey. These states provide streamlined, relevant coursework with intensive mentoring.

^{1.} Florida requires practice teaching or intensive mentoring.

^{2.} North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

Figure 52

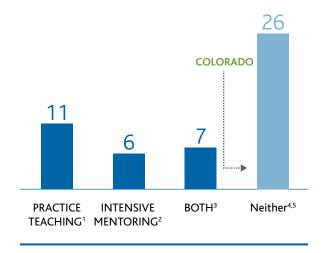
Do states curb excessive coursework requirements?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia
- 2. Indiana, Nevada, Wyoming
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 4. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

Figure 53

Do states require practice teaching or intensive mentoring?



- 1. Strong Practice: Arizona, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia
- Strong Practice: Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia
- 3. Strong Practice: Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida⁶, Maryland, Massachusetts
- Alabama, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- $5.\ North$ Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 6. Candidates are required to have one or the other, not both.

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

The state should provide an alternate route that is free from regulatory obstacles that limit its usage and providers.

Goal Components

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

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

Background



Area 2: Goal C **Colorado** Analysis



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado does not limit the usage or providers of its alternate routes.

Colorado is commended for not placing restrictions on the usage of its alternate routes with regard to subject, grade or geographic area.

Districts, private and charter schools, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) and universities may all be approved as designated agencies offering alternate route programs. The state is commended for structuring its programs to allow a diversity of providers. A good diversity of providers helps all programs, both university- and non-university-based, to improve.

Supporting Research

Colorado Rule 2260.5-R

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

66: NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 COLORADO

Figure 55		. / 5
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***** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 56 Can alternate route teachers teach any subject or grade anywhere in the state?

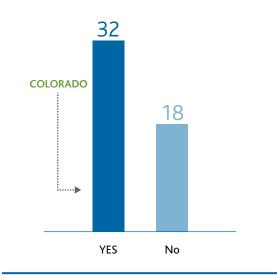
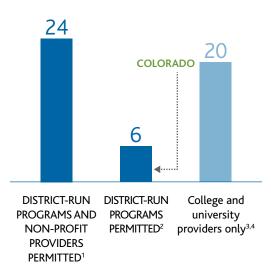


Figure 55 and 56

- 1. Alabama offers routes without restrictions for candidates with master's degrees. The route for candidates with bachelor's degrees is limited to
- 2. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

Figure 57

Do states permit providers other than colleges or universities?



- Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin
- 2. Strong Practice: California, Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina, Vermont⁵, West Virginia
- Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho⁶, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi⁶, Missouri⁶, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey⁷, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina⁶, South Dakota, Utah⁶, Wyoming
- 4. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 5. Districts can run Peer Review programs only.
- 6. ABCTE is also an approved provider.
- 7. Permits school districts to provide programs without university partnerships in some circumstances.

GENUINE OR NEARLY
GENUINE ALTERNATE ROUTE ∫ Offered route is disingenuous Figure 58 Alternate oote that need significant improvements Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification? Alabama П Alaska Arizona П Arkansas California **COLORADO** Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia П Florida Georgia П П Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois П Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana Maine Maryland П П Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi П Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico П П New York North Carolina North Dakota¹ П П Ohio П П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina П South Dakota Tennessee П П Texas Utah Vermont Virginia П Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 7 25 18

Figure 58

1. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

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Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

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 authorize individuals with content expertise to teach as part-time instructors.
- 2. 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



Area 2: Goal D **Colorado** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal Progress Since 2009



ANALYSIS

Colorado offers an Adjunct Instructor Authorization, under which individuals can teach highly specialized academic enrichment areas outside of required content areas. State policy is clear that this certification is not issued for regular academic endorsement areas.

Applicants for the Adjunct Instructor Authorization must provide evidence of five years of employment in the area of specialization or a bachelor's degree in the intended teaching field. Candidates are not required to pass a subject-matter exam.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado contended that there are no other licensing requirements for an Adjunct Instructors license besides a background check. The state also explained that Adjunct Instructors can be hired for three years and renewed with documented evidence of continuing need.

Figure 61 Do states offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part-time? YES No Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California **COLORADO** Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Mass a chusettsMichigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York 2 П North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia 2 Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 16 35



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Arkansas 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 are also required to complete specially-designed pedagogy training that is not overly burdensome.

^{1.} License has restrictions.

^{2.} It appears that the state has a license that may be used for this purpose; guidelines are vague.

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

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.)

- 1. 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 good standing in previous employment.
- 2. The state should uphold its standards for all teachers by insisting that certified teachers coming from other states meet the incoming state's testing requirements.
- 3. The state should accord the same license to teachers from other states who completed an approved alternate route program that it accords teachers prepared in a traditional preparation program.

Background



Area 2: Goal E **Colorado** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado does not support licensure reciprocity for certified teachers from other states.

Regrettably, Colorado grants waivers for its licensing tests to out-of-state teachers who have three years of teaching experience.

Teachers with valid, comparable out-of-state certificates are eligible for Colorado's professional license, if "the standards for the issuance of such license or certificate meet or exceed the standards of the state board of education for the issuance of a professional teacher license."

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

Colorado is also a participant in the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement; however, the latest iteration of this agreement no longer purports to be a reciprocity agreement among states and thus is no longer included in this analysis.

Supporting Research

Colorado Revised Statute 22-60.5-201

Licensure Requirements for Out-of-State and Foreign Applicants

www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/Licensure_outstate_faq.asp

RECOMMENDATION

■ To uphold standards, require that teachers coming from other states meet testing requirements.

Colorado takes considerable risk by granting a waiver for its licensing tests to any out-of-state teacher who has three years of teaching experience. The state should not provide any waivers of its teacher tests unless an applicant can provide evidence of a passing score under its own standards. The negative impact on student learning stemming from a teacher's inadequate subject-matter knowledge is not mitigated by a teacher's having experience.

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

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

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

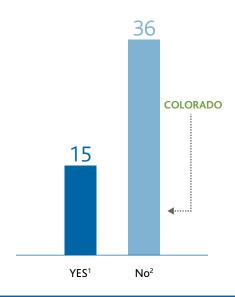
Colorado asserted that all out-of-state applicants receive the same treatment for reciprocity, regardless of the method of training. The state added that teachers with no experience must demonstrate content knowledge, and this is easily completed through a transcript review or the appropriate content test.



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by only requiring certified teachers from other states to meet each state's own testing requirements and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate route teachers.

Figure 63 Do states require all out-of-state teachers to pass their licensure tests?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York³, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania³, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington³, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana⁴, Nebraska⁴, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Exception for teachers with National Board Certification.
- 4. No subject-matter testing for any teacher certification.

Figure 64

- 1. For traditionally prepared teachers only.
- 2. Transcript review required for those with less than 3 years experience.



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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. Value-added data provided through the state's longitudinal data system should be considered among the criteria used to determine teachers' effectiveness.
- 3. 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.

Background



Area 3: Goal A **Colorado** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

However, Colorado does have 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 Colorado assigns teacher identification numbers, it cannot match individual teacher records with individual student records.

Supporting Research

Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org

RECOMMENDATION

Develop capacity of state data system.

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

■ Develop a clear definition of "teacher of record."

To ensure that data provided through the state data system are actionable and reliable, Colorado should make certain its definition of teacher of record is robust enough so that the student-teacher data link can adequately be used for teacher evaluation. Colorado should also require its consistent use throughout the state.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state also noted that its educator identifier project is in phase three of its development.

Supporting Research

http://www.cde.state.co.us/edidproject/index.asp http://www.cde.state.co.us/edidproject/EducatorofRecord.asp

Figure 67	■ WQUESTUBNTIO	Y /FIER	/
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EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Although NCTQ has not singled out one state's policies for "best practice" honors, it commends the 35 states that have a data system with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

indicates that the state assigns teacher identification numbers, but it cannot match individual teacher records with individual student records.

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 specifically require that student learning be the preponderant criterion in local evaluation processes. Evaluation instruments, whether state or locally developed, should be structured 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. Teacher evaluations should consider objective evidence of student learning, including not only standardized test scores but also classroom-based artifacts such as tests, quizzes and student work.
- 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.



The components for this goal have changed since 2009. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

Background



Area 3: Goal B **Colorado** Analysis



State Meets Goal





Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Commendably, Colorado requires that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations.

The state now requires that at least 50 percent of any teacher evaluation be determined by the academic growth of the teacher's students. Beginning in the fall of 2013, teachers will be rated "highly effective," "effective," "partially effective" or "ineffective." Colorado also requires classroom observations.

Supporting Research

Colorado Revised Statute 22-9-105.5

State Council for Educator Effectiveness

http://www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/downloads/Report%20&%20appendices/SCEE_Executive_Summary.pdf

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 69		<i>≥</i> / .	/	/
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****** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

NCTQ has not singled out any one state for "best practice" honors. Many states have made 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 10 states that meet this goal are commended for their efforts.

Figure 70

Using state data in teacher evaluations

States with Requirements for Student Achievement Data but Lacking Data **System Capacity**

Arizona, COLORADO, Connecticut, Michigan, Nevada

States with Data System Capacity but No Student Achievement Requirements

Alabama, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

Figure 69

^{1.} District of Columbia Public Schools requires that student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations.

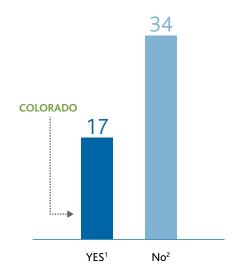
Figure 71
Sources of objective evidence of student learning

Many educators struggle to identify possible sources of objective student data. Here are some examples:

- Standardized test scores
- Periodic diagnostic assessments
- Benchmark assessments that show student growth
- Artifacts of student work connected to specific student learning standards that are randomly selected for review by the principal or senior faculty, scored using rubrics and descriptors
- Examples of typical assignments, assessed for their quality and rigor
- Periodic checks on progress with the curriculum coupled with evidence of student mastery of the curriculum from quizzes, tests and exams

Figure 72

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



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

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^{1.} State approval required.

^{2.} The state model is presumptive; districts need state approval to opt out.

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



Area 3: Goal C **Colorado** Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Commendably, Colorado now requires annual evaluations for all teachers.

New teachers in Colorado must receive at least two documented observations and one evaluation that result in a written evaluation report each academic year. The state does not articulate when these observations should occur.

Supporting Research

Colorado Revised Statute 22-9-106

RECOMMENDATION

Base evaluations on multiple observations.

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

Ensure that new teachers are observed and receive feedback early in the school year.

It is critical that schools and districts closely monitor the performance of new teachers. Colorado should ensure that its new teachers get the support they need and that supervisors know early on which new teachers may be struggling or at risk for unacceptable levels of performance.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

86 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 COLORADO

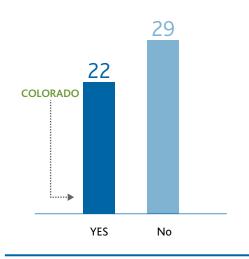
Figure 75		S& / .
Do states require	,	<u>}</u>
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	22	43



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Although not awarding "best practice" honors for frequency of evaluations, NCTQ commends all nine states that meet this goal not only by requiring annual evaluations for all teachers, but also for ensuring that new teachers are observed and receive feedback during the first half of the school year.

Figure 76 Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



Figures 75 and 76

- 1. Although highly effective teachers are only required to receive a summative evaluation once every two years, the student improvement component is evaluated annually.
- 2. All District of Columbia Public Schools teachers are evaluated at least annually.

Figure 77

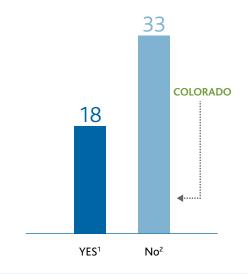
Do states require classroom observations?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska⁴, Arkansas, Colorado⁴, Delaware, Florida⁴, Georgia, Kentucky⁴, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri⁴, Nevada⁴, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon⁴, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia⁴
- Arizona, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin
- 3. District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. For new teachers.

Figure 78

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



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

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 state should articulate a process, such as a hearing, that local districts must administer in considering the evidence and deciding whether a teacher should receive tenure.
- 4. The minimum years of service needed to achieve tenure should allow sufficient data to be accumulated on which to base tenure decisions; five years is the ideal minimum.



The components for this goal have changed since 2009. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

Background



Area 3: Goal D **Colorado** Analysis



State Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2009



ANALYSIS

Commendably, Colorado has discontinued its policy of automatic tenure. The state now bases the leap in professional standing from probationary to nonprobationary status on evidence of classroom effectiveness.

Probationary teachers in Colorado must earn three consecutive "effective" ratings to become nonprobationary. Veteran, or nonprobationary, teachers who receive two consecutive "ineffective" ratings return to probationary status and have a year to improve or face termination.

Because Colorado'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.

Supporting Research

Colorado Revised Statute 22-63-103(7)

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

gure 80 ow long before a teac	her earns	tenure?					
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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.

^{2.} Teachers who receive two years of ineffective evaluations are dismissed.

Figure 81	EVIDENCE OF STUDENT PREPONDESTHE	. /	,
How are tenure	\$	Some evidence of student	/
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		4	39



T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Michigan has increased its probationary period to five years and requires that evidence of effectiveness be the primary criterion in awarding tenure.

Figure 82 How are tenure decisions made?

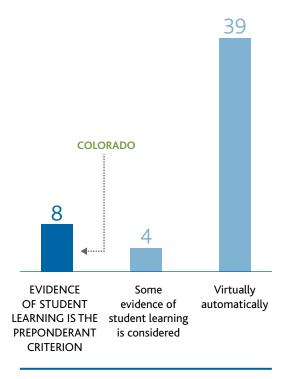


Figure 81

- 1. No state-level policy; however, the contract between DCPS and the teachers' union represents significant advancement in the area of
- 2. The state has created a loophole by essentially waiving student learning requirements and allowing the principal of a school to petition for career-teacher status.

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 teacher 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 license.



The components for this goal have changed since 2009. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

Background



Area 3: Goal E **Colorado** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2009



ANALYSIS

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

In Colorado, to advance from a Provisional to a Professional license, the state requires that teachers successfully complete an approved induction program and are recommended by the local district providing the program.

Colorado also does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Colorado requires teachers to renew their professional license every five years by completing six semester hours of college/university credit or 90 clock hours of professional development. Teachers with a master's certificate need to renew their licenses every seven years.

Supporting Research

Colorado Code of Regulations 1 CCR 301-37, Rules 2260.5-R-3.05 and 13.01

http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_license.htm

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/Licensure_RenewalApp.asp

RECOMMENDATION

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

Colorado 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 its strong 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, Colorado's general, 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.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

Figure 84	SASSING EVDENCE OF	£ / .	Consideration given to teacher	re is
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to show evidence of	SPENC	inide,	Piven	om e.
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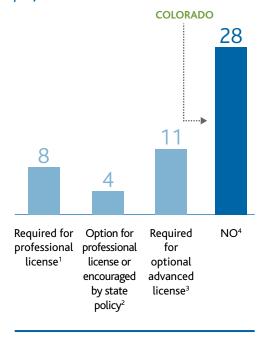


TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 85

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

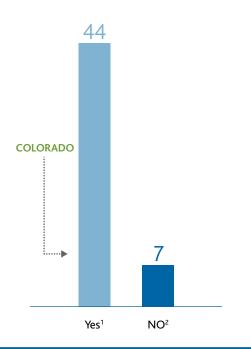


- 1. Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New York and Oregon all require a master's degree or coursework equivalent to a master's degree
- 2. Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah,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

- 1. Illinois allows revocation of licenses based on ineffectiveness.
- 2. Maryland uses some objective evidence through their evaluation system for renewal, but advancement to professional license is still based on earning an advanced degree.

Figure 86

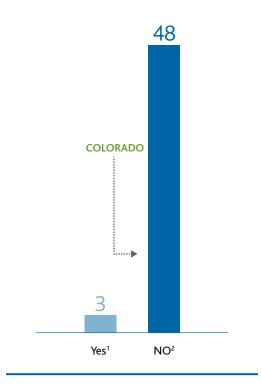
Do states require teachers to take additional, nonspecific coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



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

Figure 87

Do states award lifetime professional licenses?



- 1. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia
- 2. Strong Practice: 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 Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

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 the following data publicly available:

- 1. An "Academic Quality" index for each school that includes factors research has found to be associated with teacher effectiveness, such as:
 - a. percentage of new teachers;
 - b. percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once;
 - c. percentage of teachers on emergency credentials;
 - d. average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions; and
 - e. teachers' average ACT or SAT scores;
- The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area;
- The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school;
- 4. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school, by district and by reasons that teachers leave.

Background



Area 3: Goal F **Colorado** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

Colorado does not collect and report on most of the data recommended by NCTQ. The state does not provide a school-level teacher quality index that demonstrates the academic backgrounds of a school's teachers as well as the ratio of new to veteran teacher. Colorado also does not report on teacher absenteeism or turnover rates.

Colorado does report on the percentage of highly qualified teachers and years of teacher experience—those with less than three years of teaching experience or those with three or more years of experience. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. Colorado also compares the percentage of highly qualified teachers at high- and low-poverty schools and by district. The state does a similar comparison across minority populations.

Supporting Research

2010-2011 School Level Highly Qualified Teacher Data; 2009-2010 District and School Teacher Equity Data http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/danda/hqtdata.asp

RECOMMENDATION

Use a teacher quality index to report publicly about each school.

A teacher quality index, such as the one developed by the Illinois Education Research Council, with data including teachers' average SAT or ACT scores, the percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once, the selectivity of teachers' undergraduate colleges and the percentage of new teachers, can shine a light on how equitably teachers are distributed both across and within districts. Colorado should ensure that individual school report cards include such data in a manner that translates these factors into something easily understood by the public, such as a color-coded matrix indicating a school's high or low score.

Publish other data that facilitate comparisons across schools.

Colorado 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 Colorado 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.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. Colorado also pointed out that the state is in the early stages of its educator effectiveness work.

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No state has an outstanding record when it comes to public reporting of teacher data that can help to ameliorate inequities in teacher quality. However, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island and South Carolina report more school-level data than other states.

Ideally, percentage of new teachers and percentage of teachers on emergency credentials would be incorporated into a teacher quality index.

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-needs schools.

Goal Components

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

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

Background



Area 4: Goal A Colorado Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado requires that all new teachers participate in an induction program and receive mentoring. The induction program lasts for three years, with mentoring occurring during the first year only.

The state mandates that local districts are responsible for developing policies to address the "standards for selection, training and release of mentors" as well as methods to evaluate and assess the induction program. The district must establish the "primary role of the mentor as teacher, coach, advocate, support, guide and nurturer of new teachers." Mentor teachers must have demonstrated expertise in a variety of educational experiences. Induction programs should provide both mentors and new teachers opportunities for professional growth and development. Mentors are paid an annual stipend, and this amount is determined by the district. The state provides guidelines for assignment of mentors, including similar teaching assignments, close proximity and similar teaching styles. The state requires each induction program to conduct a self-evaluation every five years.

Supporting Research

Code of Colorado Regulations 22.60.5-R.1300

FAQs for New Teachers and Service Providers

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/cdeprofsvc/download/pdf/FAQsNT_SP.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Expand guidelines to include other key areas.

While still leaving districts flexibility, Colorado should articulate minimum guidelines for a high-quality induction experience. The state should ensure that new teachers receive support during the critical first few weeks of school and that the mentors' performance is evaluated.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

102 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011

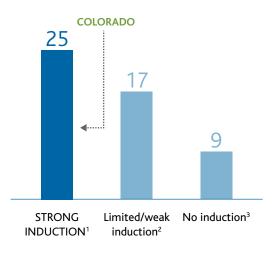
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South Carolina requires that all new teachers, prior to the start of the school year, be assigned mentors for at least one year. Districts carefully select mentors based on experience and similar certifications and grade levels, and mentors undergo 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 92

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



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

104 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 COLORADO

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal B - Professional Development

The state should 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 direct districts to align professional development activities with findings from teachers' evaluations.

Background



Area 4: Goal B **Colorado** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado requires that teachers receive copies of their evaluations "at least two weeks before the last class day of the school year." The state also specifies that professional development activities for teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations must be aligned with findings from teacher evaluations.

Supporting Research

Colorado Revised Statute 22-9-106

RECOMMENDATION

- Require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance.
 - Although Colorado requires teachers to receive copies of their evaluations, this only ensures that teachers will receive their ratings, not necessarily feedback on their performance. Colorado 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.

While Colorado has taken steps to ensure that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations receive coordinated professional development based on these findings, the state should strengthen this policy by requiring that all teachers receive professional development that is aligned with their evaluation results.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

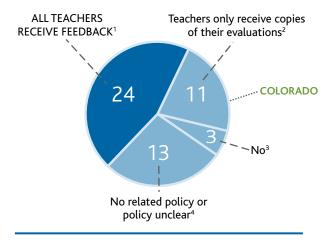
106: NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 **COLORADO**



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Ten states meet this goal, and although NCTQ has not singled out one state's policies for "best practice" honors, Louisiana is commended for clearly articulating that the feedback provided to a teacher in a post-observation conference must include a discussion of a teacher's strengths and weaknesses.

Figure 94 Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?

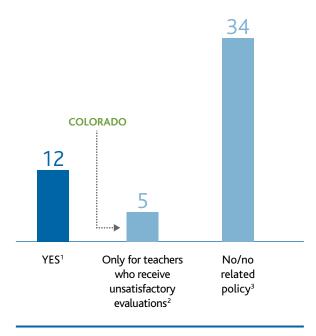


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska,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



Figure 96

Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



- Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wyoming
- 2. Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Texas
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi⁴, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Viiginia, Washington, West Viiginia, Wisconsin
- 4. Mississippi requires professional development based on evaluation results only for teachers in need of improvement in school identified as at-risk.

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 state-dictated 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



Area 4: Goal C **Colorado** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado gives local districts the authority for pay scales, eliminating barriers such as state salary schedules and other regulations that control how districts pay teachers. The state allows districts the option of adopting a salary schedule, based on job description and definition; a salary policy, "based on level of performance demonstrated by each teacher," or a combination of salary schedule and salary policy.

Supporting Research

Colorado Revised Statutes 22-63-401

RECOMMENDATION

Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.

While still leaving districts the flexibility to establish their own pay scale, Colorado should articulate policies that definitively discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees, in light of the extensive research showing that such degrees do not have an impact on teacher effectiveness.

Discourage salary schedules that imply that teachers with the most experience are the most effective.

Similarly, Colorado should articulate policies that discourage districts from determining the highest steps on the pay scale solely by seniority.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado noted that according to the state constitution, Colorado is a local control state, and such decisions are up to the individual school districts.

LAST WORD

NCTQ appreciates the constraints set upon the state by its constitution; however, Colorado is encouraged to examine ways within its constitutional regulations that it can articulate policy to discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees and determining the highest steps on the pay scale solely by seniority.

110 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 COLORADO

TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Florida and Indiana allow local districts to develop their own salary schedules while preventing districts from focusing on 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 annual 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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^{1.} Colorado gives districts the option of a salary schedule, a performance pay policy or a combination of both.

 $^{{\}bf 2}.$ Rhode Island requires that local district salary schedules are based on years of service, experience and training.

Figure 99	REQUIRES PERFORMANCE ADVANCED IN ONE THINGE	≥ /	Requires compensation advanced degrees
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^{1.} Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training".

^{2.} Texas has a minimum salary schedule based on years of experience. Compensation for advanced degrees is left to district discretion.

Goal D - Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

Goal Components

(The factors 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



Area 4: Goal D **Colorado** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado 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, Colorado 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.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado noted that under the state constitution, it is a local-control state, and therefore such decisions are up to the individual school districts.

LAST WORD

NCTQ appreciates the constraints set upon the state by its constitution; however, Colorado is encouraged to examine ways within its constitutional regulations that it can support compensation for related prior subject-area work experience.

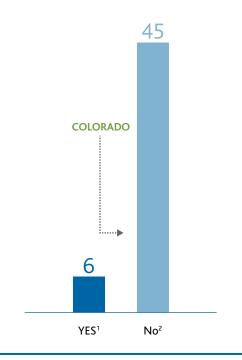
114 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 COLORADO



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 101

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



- 1. Strong Practice: California, Delaware, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, Washington
- Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, 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 Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

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



Area 4: Goal E **Colorado** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado does not support differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. However, the state has no regulatory language preventing local districts from providing such differential pay in this area.

A teacher can earn additional pay by working in schools classified as high needs, namely those that receive Title I funds or that are in rural geographic regions. The amount of annual incentive pay is up to \$4,000 for each of the first two years and up to \$1,000 for each of the next two years. A loan-forgiveness grant is available for first-year teachers as well. Also, teachers who are National Board Certified are eligible to receive an annual stipend of \$1,600 for the first three years; the stipend is increased by \$3,200 for teachers in low-performing schools.

Supporting Research

Colorado Revised Statutes 23-3.9-102

National Board Certified Teacher Stipend www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/download/pdf/NBCTStipendforteachers.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado noted that according to its State Constitution, Colorado is a local control state and therefore such decisions are up to the individual school districts.

LAST WORD

NCTQ appreciates the constraints set upon the state by its constitution. However, Colorado is encouraged to examine ways within its constitutional regulations that will allow it to support differential pay.

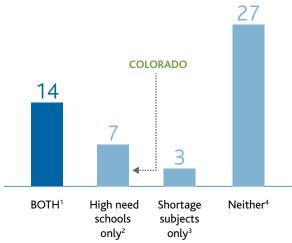
Figure 103		HIGH NEED SCHOOLS		SHORTAGE SUBJECT	
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- Connecticut offers mortgage assistance and incentives to retired teachers working in shortage subject areas.
- Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 3. South Dakota offers signing bonuses and scholarships to fill shortages in high-need schools.
- Shortage subject area differential pay is limited to the Middle School Teacher Corps program.



Georgia supports differential pay by which teachers can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. The state is especially commended for its new compensation strategy for math and science teachers, which moves teachers along the salary schedule rather than 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. Georgia's efforts to provide incentives for National Board Certification teachers to work in high-need schools are also noteworthy.

Figure 104 Do states support differential pay for teaching in high need schools and shortage subjects?



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

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



Area 4: Goal F **Colorado** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado does not support performance pay. The state does not have any policies in place that offer teachers additional compensation based on evidence of effectiveness.

RECOMMENDATION

■ Support a performance pay plan that recognizes teachers for their effectiveness.

Whether it implements the plan at the state or local level, Colorado should ensure that performance pay structures thoughtfully measure classroom performance and connect student achievement to teacher effectiveness. The plan must be developed with careful consideration of available data and subsequent issues of fairness.

■ Consider piloting performance pay in a select number of school districts.

This would provide an opportunity to discover and correct any limitations in available data or methodology before implementing the plan on a wider scale.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado noted that according to the State Constitution, Colorado is a local control state and therefore such decisions are up to the individual school districts.

LAST WORD

NCTQ appreciates the constraints set upon the state by its constitution. However, Colorado is encouraged to examine ways within its constitutional regulations that will allow it to support performance pay.

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.

igure 106	PERCORMANCE FACTORES	PEROBMANCE BOW	Performance Pay Permo	y the state State sons or defer Pay Initiative defer	Does not support Performance Pay
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^{1.} Nebraska's initiative does not go into effect until 2016.

Goal G – Pension Flexibility

The state should ensure that pension systems are portable, flexible and fair to all teachers.

Goal Components

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

- 1. Participants in the state's pension system should have the option of a fully portable pension system as their primary pension plan by means of a defined contribution plan or a defined benefit plan that is formatted similar to a cash balance plan.
- 2. Participants in the state's pension system should be vested no later than the third year of employment.
- 3. Defined benefit plans should offer teachers the option of a lump-sum rollover to a personal retirement account upon termination of employment that includes, at minimum, the teacher's contributions and accrued interest at a fair interest rate. In addition, withdrawal options from either defined benefit or defined contribution plans should include funds contributed by the employer.
- 4. Defined benefit plans should allow teachers to purchase time for unlimited previous teaching experience at the time of employment. Teachers should also be allowed to purchase time for all official leaves of absence, such as maternity or paternity leave.

Background



Area 4: Goal G **Colorado** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado only offers a defined benefit pension plan to its teachers as their mandatory pension plan. This plan is not fully portable and does not vest until year five. It also limits flexibility by restricting the ability to purchase years of service. However, Colorado is commended for offering a 50 percent employer match to vested teachers that withdraw their funds before retirement age and for offering a fully portable supplemental savings plan.

Vesting in a defined benefit plan guarantees a teacher's eligibility to receive lifetime monthly benefit payments at retirement age. Nonvested teachers do not have a right to later retirement benefits; they may only withdraw the portion of their funds allowed by the plan. Colorado's vesting at five years of service limits the options of teachers who leave the system prior to this point.

Colorado does at least offer some portability to teachers leaving the system, which is rare among defined benefit plans. Teachers with five years of service who choose to withdraw their contributions before retirement age are able to take a 50 percent employer match in addition to their contributions and the interest earned. Teachers who wait until retirement age may withdraw their contributions, the interest earned and a 100 percent employer match, or they may follow the traditional benefit formula (see Goal 4-I). However, teachers with less than five years of service receive only a 50 percent match on contributions and interest made on or before December 31, 2010. For all contributions after this date, nonvested teachers will receive only their contributions with no match or interest. This means that non-vested teachers who withdraw their funds accrue fewer benefits than what they would have earned had they simply put their contributions in basic savings accounts.

While it would be preferable for the state to offer a 100 percent match earlier in a teacher's career, Colorado is commended for the match it offers vested teachers. However, even with this match, vested teachers leaving the pension system would have saved only 12 percent of their salary (see Goal 4-H), while nonvested teachers would have saved only 8 percent. Both of these levels are below what is conventionally recommended by retirement advisers for individuals not also contributing to Social Security. While Colorado's relatively low mandatory contribution rate allows for flexibility in teachers' retirement savings, it also means that Colorado needs to educate teachers on what happens if they leave the system and encourage savings in other portable supplemental plans. Further, teachers who remain in the field of education but enter another pension plan (such as in another state) will find it difficult to purchase the time equivalent to their prior employment in the new system because they are not entitled to any employer contribution.

Colorado limits teachers' flexibility to purchase years of service. The ability to purchase time is important because defined benefit plans' retirement eligibility and benefit payments are often tied to the number of years a teacher has worked. Colorado's plan allows teachers to purchase time for previous teaching experience, up to 10 years. While better than not allowing any purchase at all, this provision disadvantages teachers who move to Colorado with more teaching experience. In addition, the state does not allow teachers to purchase time for approved leaves of absence, which is a tremendous disadvantage, especially to any teacher who needs to take a leave for personal reasons such as maternity or paternity care.

Colorado is commended for offering an optional supplementary defined contribution plan and for encouraging participation in this plan through its informative website and materials. Colorado's PERA 401(k) Plan is a voluntary tax-deferred retirement savings program in which teachers are given numerous investment options. Teachers may be able to contribute meaningfully to the optional defined contribution plan because of the reasonable employee contribution rate for Colorado's defined benefit pension plan of 8 percent (see Goal 4-H). However, there is no guaranteed employer contribution to this plan, and it is up to the individual employer to determine whether it will make any contribution.

Supporting Research

Colorado Public Employees' Retirement System, A Summary of the PERA Defined Benefit Plan https://www.copera.org/PDF/5/5-5.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Offer teachers a pension plan that is fully portable, flexible and fair.

Colorado should offer teachers for their mandatory pension plan the option of either a defined contribution plan or a fully portable defined benefit plan, such as a cash balance plan. A well-structured defined benefit plan could be a suitable option among multiple plans. However, as the sole option, defined benefit plans severely disadvantage mobile teachers and those who enter the profession later in life. Because teachers in Colorado do not participate in Social Security, they have no fully portable retirement benefits that would move with them in the event they leave the system.

Increase the portability of its defined benefit plan.

If Colorado maintains its defined benefit plan, it should allow teachers leaving the system to withdraw 100 percent of employer contributions. The state should also allow teachers to purchase their full amount of previous teaching experience and approved leaves of absence and decrease the vesting requirement to year three. A lack of portability is a disincentive to an increasingly mobile teaching force.

Offer an employer contribution to the supplemental retirement savings plan.

While Colorado at least offers teachers the option of a supplemental defined contribution savings plan, this option would be more meaningful if the state required employers also to contribute.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The Public Employees' Retirement Association of Colorado did not respond to repeated requests to review NCTQ's analyses related to teacher pensions.

Accrued Liability: The value of a pension plan's promised benefits calculated by an actuary (actuarial valuation), taking into account a set of investment and benefit assumptions to a certain date.

Actuarial Valuation: In a pension plan, this is the total amount needed to meet promised benefits. A set of mathematical procedures is used to calculate the value of benefits to be paid, the funds available and the annual contribution required.

Amortization Period: The gradual elimination of a liability, such as a mortgage, in regular payments over a specified period of time.

Benefit Formula: Formula used to calculate the amount teachers will receive each month after retirement. The most common formula used is (years of service x final average salary x benefit multiplier). This amount is divided by 12 to calculate monthly benefits.

Benefit Multiplier: Multiplier used in the benefit formula. It, along with years of service, determines the total percentage of final average salary that a teacher will receive in retirement benefits. In some plans, the multiplier is not constant, but changes depending upon retirement age and/or years of service.

Defined Benefit Plan: Pension plan that promises to pay a specified amount to each person who retires after a set number of years of service. Employees contribute to them in some cases; in others, all contributions are made by the employer.

Defined Contribution Plan: Pension plan in which the level of contributions is fixed at a certain level, while benefits vary depending on the return from investments. Employees make contributions into a tax-deferred account, and employers may or may not make contributions. Defined contribution pension plans, unlike defined benefit pension plans, give the employee options of where to invest the account, usually among stock, bond and money market accounts.

Lump-sum Withdrawal: Large payment of money received at one time instead of in periodic payments. Teachers leaving a pension plan may receive a lump-sum distribution of the value of their pension.

Normal Cost: The amount necessary to fund retirement benefits for one plan year for an individual or a whole pension plan.

Pension Wealth: The net present value of a teacher's expected lifetime retirement benefits.

Purchasing Time: A teacher may make additional contributions to a pension system to increase service credit. Time may be purchased for a number of reasons, such as professional development leave, previous out-of-state teaching experience, medical leaves of absence or military service.

Service Credit/Years of Service: Accumulated period of time in years or partial years for which a teacher earned compensation subject to contributions.

Supplemental Retirement Plan: An optional plan to which teachers may voluntarily make tax-deferred contributions in addition to their mandatory pension plans. Employees are usually able to choose their rate of contribution up to a maximum set by the IRS; some employers also make contributions. These plans are generally in the form of 457 or 403(b) programs.

Vesting: Right an employee gradually acquires by length of service to receive employer-contributed benefits, such as payments from a pension fund.

Sources: Barron's Dictionary of Finance and Investment Terms, Seventh Edition; California State Teachers' Retirement System http://www.calstrs.com/Members/Defined%20Benefit%20Program/glossary.aspx; Economic Research Institute, http://www.eridlc.com/resources/index.cfm?fuseaction=resource.glossary

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COLORADO

Figure 109		Defined benefit plan with	rined /	CHOICE OF DEFINED RES.	§ / >
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Nevada					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio ⁴					
Oklahoma					
Oregon ⁵					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina ⁶					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah ⁷					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington ⁸					
West Virginia Wisconsin					
Wyoming	 25	17	4	4	1



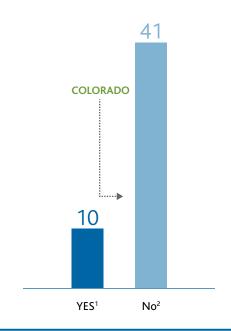
T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Alaska provides a fair and flexible defined contribution pension plan for all teachers. This plan is also highly portable, as teachers are entitled to 100 percent of employer contributions after five years of service. South Dakota's defined benefit plan has some creative provisions, which makes it more like a defined contribution plan. Most notably, teachers are able to withdraw 85 percent of their employer contributions after three years of service. In addition, Florida, Ohio, South Carolina and Utah are noteworthy for offering teachers a choice between a defined benefit or hybrid plan and a defined contribution plan.

- 1. A hybrid plan has components of both a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan.
- 2. California offers a small cash balance component but ended most of the funding to this portion as of January 1, 2011.
- 3. Indiana also offers a supplemental defined contribution plan.
- 4. Ohio also offers the option of a hybrid plan and offers a supplemental defined contribution plan.
- 5. Oregon also offers a supplemental defined contribution plan.
- 6. South Carolina also offers a supplemental defined contribution plan.
- 7. Utah offers a choice between a defined contribution or a hybrid plan.
- 8. Washington offers a choice between a defined benefit or a hybrid plan.

Figure 110

Do states offer teachers an option other than a nonportable defined benefit plan?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alaska, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington
- Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado³, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii³, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Although not fully portable, the state's defined benefit plan has some notable portability provisions.

Figure 111

- 1. For teachers who join the system on or after January 1, 2012.
- 2. Florida's defined benefit plan does not vest until year eight; teachers vest in the state's defined contribution plan after one year.
- 3. For teachers who join the system on or after July 1, 2012.
- 4. Ohio's defined benefit plan does not vest until year five; teachers vest in the state's defined contribution plan after one year.
- Oregon offers a hybrid plan in which teachers vest immediately in the defined contribution component and vest in the defined benefit component after five years.
- 6. South Carolina's defined benefit plan does not vest until year five; teachers vest immediately in the state's defined contribution plan.
- 7. Based on Washington's Plan 2. The state also offers a hybrid plan in which teachers vest immediately in the defined contribution component and vest in the defined benefit component after 10 years.

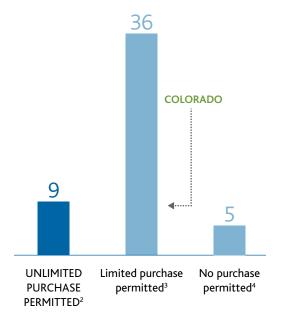
ow many years before				
	3 YEARS	4 to 5	6 to 9	10
Alabama	OR LESS	years	years	years
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Arizona				
Arkansas				
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California ³					
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Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois Indiana					
Indiana Iowa ⁴					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland					
Massachusetts					
Michigan ⁵	Ī	- i	- Ē		- i
Minnesota					
Mississippi					
Missouri					
Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada ⁶					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio ⁷					
Oklahoma					
Oregon ⁸					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island South Carolina ⁹					
South Dakota Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah ¹⁰					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington ¹¹					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	4	5	34	6	1

- States' withdrawal policies may vary depending on a teacher's years of service. Year five is used as a common point of comparision.
- As of July 1, 2006, Alaska only offers a defined contribution plan to new members, which allows teachers leaving the system after five years to withdraw 100 percent of the employer contribution.
- California has a defined benefit plan with a small cash balance component, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw their contributions and any employer contributions plus earnings from their cash balance component, regardless of their actions regarding their defined benefit account.
- 4. Once vested, lowa teachers may withdraw an employer match equal to one-thirtieth of their years of service. Effective July 1, 2012 teachers vest at seven years of service, so a teacher leaving at year five would not be entitled to any employer contribution.
- 5. Michigan only offers a hybrid plan. Exiting teachers may withdraw their own contributions and accrued earnings immediately and the employer contributions to the defined contribution component once vested at year four. Michigan teachers may withdraw their own contributions and accrued interest from the defined benefit component but may not withdraw the employer contribution.
- 6. Most teachers in Nevada fund the system by salary reductions or forgoing pay raises and thus do not have direct contributions to withdraw. The small mintority that are in a contributory system may withdraw their contributions plus interest.
- 7. Ohio has two other pension plans. Ohio's defined contribution plan allows teachers with at least one year of service who are leaving the system to withdraw 100 percent of the employer contribution. Exiting teachers with at least five years of experience in Ohio's combination plan may withdraw their employee-funded defined contribution component and the present value of the benefits offered in the defined benefit component.
- 8. Oregon only has a hybrid retirement plan, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw their contributions plus earnings from their defined contribution component; they still receive the employer-funded defined benefit payments at retirement age.
- South Carolina also has a defined contribution plan, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw 100 percent of their contributions and employer contributions, plus earnings.
- 10. Utah offers a hybrid pension plan, which only has employee contributions when the costs exceed the guaranteed employer contribution. When costs are less than the employer contribution, the excess is contributed to the employee account and refundable after vesting.
- 11. Washington also has a hybrid plan, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw their contributions plus earnings from their defined contribution component; they still receive the employer-funded defined benefit payments at retirement age.

Figure 113

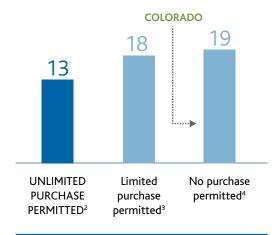
Do states permit teachers to purchase time for previous teaching experience?¹



- Purchasing time does not apply to defined contribution plans. In states that offer multiple plans or a hybrid plan, the graph refers to the state's defined benefit plan or the defined benefit component of its hybrid plan. Alaska only offers a defined contribution plan and is not included.
- Strong Practice: California, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah
- Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Oregon

Figure 114

Do states permit teachers to purchase time for leaves of absence?¹



- Purchasing time does not apply to defined contribution plans. In states that offer multiple plans or a hybrid plan, the graph refers to the state's defined benefit plan or the defined benefit component of its hybrid plan. Alaska only offers a defined contribution plan and is not included.
- 2. Strong Practice: Alabama, California, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota
- 3. Arizona, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming
- Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin

Goal H - Pension Sustainability

The state should ensure that excessive resources are not committed to funding teachers' pension systems.

Goal Components

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

- The state should ensure that its pension system is financially sustainable, without excessive unfunded liabilities or an inappropriately long amortization period.
- Mandatory employer and employee contribution rates should not be unreasonably high, as they reduce teachers' paychecks and commit district resources that could otherwise be spent on salaries or incentives.

Background



Area 4: Goal H **Colorado** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

As of December 31, 2010, the most recent date for which an actuarial valuation is available, Colorado's pension system for teachers is 64.8 percent funded and has a 50-year amortization period. This means that if the plan earns its assumed rate of return and maintains current contribution rates, it would take the state 50 years to pay off its unfunded liabilities. Colorado's amortization period significantly exceeds the regulatory requirement of a 30-year period, and its funding level is too low. The state's system is not financially sustainable according to actuarial benchmarks.

Colorado does not commit excessive resources toward its teachers' retirement system. The mandatory employee contribution rate to the defined benefit plan is 8 percent and the employer contribution rate is 14.75. Statutory requirements set the employer contribution rate at an established rate of 10.15 percent, rather than an actuarially determined amount. However, recent legislation mandated increases in the rate until a minimum funding level and a 30-year amortization period are reached; 1.5 percent of the increase came from funds that would have otherwise been available for wage increases. Even at the increased level, these rates are reasonable, considering that teachers and local districts are not also contributing to Social Security.

Supporting Research

Colorado Public Employees' Retirement System Contribution Rates http://www.copera.org/pdf/5/5-123.pdf

Colorado Public Employees' Retirement System Comprehensive Annual Financial Report For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2010

https://www.copera.org/pdf/5/5-20-10.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that the pension system is financially sustainable.

The state would be better off if its system was over 95 percent funded and had an amortization period of 30 years or less to allow more protection during financial downturns.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The Public Employees' Retirement Association of Colorado did not respond to repeated requests to review NCTQ's analyses related to teacher pensions.

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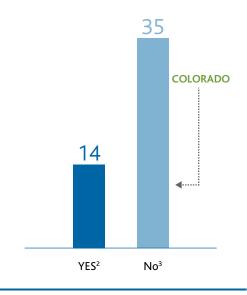
Figure 116	٨	. / 40
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

South Dakota, Tennessee and Wisconsin provide financially sustainable pension systems without committing excessive resources. The systems in these states are fully funded without requiring excessive contributions from teachers or school districts.

Figure 117 Are state pension systems financially sustainable?1



- 1. Cannot be determined for Michigan or Utah, which recently opened new systems.
- 2. Strong Practice: Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Indiana⁴, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin
- 3. Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. Based on Indiana's current plan only.

Figure 116

- 1. The amortization period is set to be under 30 years; however, the amortization period is not determined because the state is not meeting its annual required contribution.
- 2. Michigan opened a new system in July 2010.
- 3. Utah opened a new system in July 2011.

Figure 118

Real Rate of Return

The pension system funding levels reported here are based on each state's individual actuarial valuation, which use a series of varying assumptions. One of these assumptions concerns rate of return, which greatly affects a system's funding level. If investment returns fall short of assumptions, the fund will have a deficit; if returns are greater than expected, the fund will have a surplus. Higher assumed rates involve more risk, while rates closer to inflation (typically in the 3-5 percent range) are safer.

Most state pension funds assume a rate between 7.5 percent and 8.25 percent. A state using a 7.5 percent rate will report a lower funding level than if it had used 8.25 percent, even though its liabilities remain the same. Many states report that they do meet or exceed an eight percent rate of return over the life of the plan.

However, some economists argue that states' assumed rates of return are too high, and should instead be closer to four percent. They caution that the risk associated with states' higher rates is borne by taxpayers, with the result that tax rates rise to fund pension deficits. A rate closer to four percent would make the vast majority of the nation's pension systems less than 50 percent funded. In light of the current market situation, the debate over the rate of return is particularly timely. With no current consensus by experts or policymakers, NCTQ used states' self-reported numbers rather than recalculate all funding levels based on a standard rate of return. Considering how many states' systems NCTQ found in questionable financial health without using the lower rates some economists prefer, it is clear this is an issue that demands policymakers' attention.

Figure 119

Figure 119

How well funded are state pension systems?

	Funding Level
Alaska ¹	N/A
District of Columbia	118.3%
Washington	116%
New York	103.2%
Wisconsin	99.8%
South Dakota	96.3%
Delaware	96%
North Carolina	95.9%
Indiana ²	94.7%
Tennessee	90.6%
Wyoming	87.5%
Georgia	87.2%
Florida	86.6%
Utah	85.7%
Oregon	83.2%
Texas	82.9%
Nebraska	82.4%
lowa	80.8%
Virginia	80.2%
Arizona	79%
Idaho	78.9%
Michigan	78.9%
Minnesota	78.5%
California	78%
Missouri	77.7%
Pennsylvania	75.1%
Alabama	74.7%
Arkansas	73.8%
Nevada	71.2%
North Dakota	69.8%
South Carolina	67.8%
Vermont	66.5%
Maine	65.9%
New Mexico	65.7%
Maryland	65.4%
Montana	65.4%
COLORADO	64.8%
Mississippi	64.2%
Massachusetts	63%
Connecticut	61.4%
Hawaii	61.4%
	61%
Kentucky	59.1%
Ohio	
New Hampshire	58.5%
New Jersey	57.6%
Oklahoma	56.7%
Kansas	56%
Louisiana	54.4%
Illinois	48.4%
Rhode Island	48.4%
West Virginia	46.5%

^{1.} Alaska has only a defined contribution pension system.

Indiana's current plan is 94.7 percent funded. However, when the current plan is combined with its closed plan, the funding level drops to 44.3 percent.

Figure 120
What is a reasonable rate for pension contributions?

- 4-7 percent each for teachers and districts in states participating in Social Security
- 10-13 percent each for teachers and districts in states not participating in Social Security

Analysts generally agree that workers in their 20's with no previous retirement savings should save, in addition to Social Security contributions, about 10-15 percent of their gross income in order to be able to live during retirement on 80 percent of the salary they were earning when they retired. While the recommended savings rate varies with age and existing retirement savings, NCTQ has used this 10-15 percent benchmark as a reasonable rate for its analyses. To achieve a total savings of 10-15 percent, teacher and employer contributions should each be in the range of 4-7 percent. In states where teachers do not participate in Social Security, the total recommended retirement savings (teacher plus employer contributions) is about 12 percent higher to compensate for the fact that these teachers will not have Social Security income when they retire. In order to achieve the appropriate level of total savings, teacher and employer contributions in these states should each be in the range of 10-13 percent.

Sources:

http://www.schwab.com/public/schwab/resource_center/expert_insight/retirement_strategies/planning/how_much_should_you_save_for_retirement_play_the_percentages.html
https://personal.vanguard.com/us/insights/retirement/

saving/set-retirement-goals

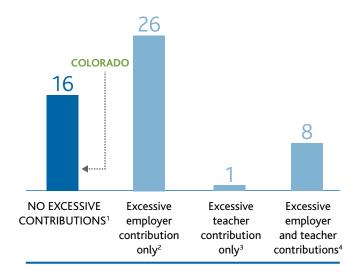
Figure 121

- 1. The employer contribution rate includes the contributions of both school districts and state governments, where appropriate.
- 2. The contribution rate is set to increase in future years. Some school districts in Georgia do not contribute to Social Security.
- 3. The contribution rate is set to increase in future years.
- 4. Michigan opened a new system in July 2010 and employer contributions are not yet reported.
- 5. New Jersey reports its contributions as a flat dollar amount, and a percentage could not be calculated.
- 6. The contribution rate is set to increase in future years. Most, but not all, school districts in Rhode Island contribute to Social Security.
- 7. The contribution rate is set to decrease in 2012.



Figure 122

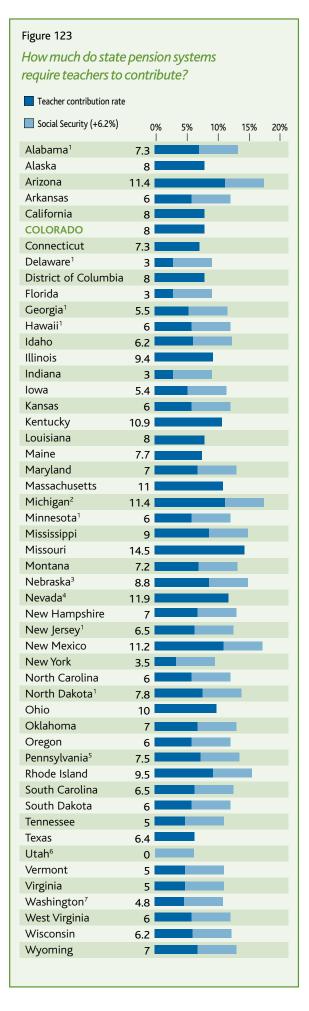
Do states require excessive contributions to their pension systems?



- Strong Practice: Alaska, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey⁵, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
- 3. Michigan⁶
- 4. Arizona, Hawaii, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island
- 5. While not excessive, the employer and state contribution are quite low. The most recent total employer contribution was only 5.4 percent of the actuarially-determined annual required contribution.
- 6. Employer contribution rates to Michigan's new system have not yet been reported.

Figure 123

- 1. The contribution rate is set to increase in future years.
- Teachers contribute 9.4 percent to the defined benefit component and are automatically enrolled to contribute 2 percent to the defined contribution component; teachers may change the latter rate.
- 3. The contribution rate is set to increase in 2012 and decrease in 2014.
- 4. Teachers share in the employer contribution through salary reductions or foregoing equivalent pay raises.
- 5. For teachers hired after July 1, 2011, the contribution ranges from 7.5-12.3 based on a variety of factors.
- Teachers in the hybrid plan must make a mandatory contribution if the employer contribution does not cover system costs.
- 7. For the defined benefit plan; the rate varies for the defined contribution plan from a minimum of 5 percent.



Area 4: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal I – Pension Neutrality

The state should ensure that pension systems are neutral, uniformly increasing pension wealth with each additional year of work.

Goal Components

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

- The formula that determines pension benefits should be neutral to the number of years worked. It should not have a multiplier that increases with years of service or longevity bonuses.
- 2. The formula for determining benefits should preserve incentives for teachers to continue working until conventional retirement ages. Eligibility for retirement benefits should be based on age and not years of service.

Background



Area 4: Goal I **Colorado** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado's pension system is based on a benefit formula that is not neutral, meaning that each year of work does not accrue pension wealth in a uniform way until teachers reach conventional retirement age, such as that associated with Social Security.

Teachers' retirement wealth is determined by their monthly payments and the length of time they expect to receive those payments. Monthly payments are usually calculated as final average salary multiplied by years of service multiplied by a set multiplier (such as 1.5). Higher salary, more years of service or a greater multiplier increases monthly payments and results in greater pension wealth. Earlier retirement eligibility with unreduced benefits also increases pension wealth, because more payments will be received.

To qualify as neutral, a pension formula must utilize a constant benefit multiplier and an eligibility time-table based solely on age, rather than years of service. Basing eligibility for retirement on years of service creates unnecessary and often unfair peaks in pension wealth, while allowing unreduced retirement at a young age creates incentives to retire early. Plans that change their multipliers for various years of service do not value each year of teaching equally. Therefore, plans with a constant multiplier and that base retirement on an age in line with Social Security are likely to create the most uniform accrual of wealth.

When teachers in Colorado retire, their benefits are calculated using both the traditional formula and the money purchase method; teachers are entitled to receive whichever calculation is higher. The traditional formula multiplies teachers' years of service by their average salaries and then by a benefit multiplier. The money purchase method is an actuarial calculation that equals the total value of one's account at the time of retirement (employee contributions and assigned interest earnings), plus a 100 percent employer match. At retirement age, a teacher can either withdraw the total value or receive monthly lifetime benefits by multiplying the total value by a life expectancy factor.

Colorado's pension plan is commended for utilizing a constant benefit multiplier of 2.5 percent; however, teachers may retire before standard retirement age based on years of service without a reduction in benefits. For teachers hired on or after January 1, 2011, the state allows teachers with 35 years of service to retire at any age and teachers with 30 years of service to retire at age 58. All other vested teachers with less than 30 years of service may not retire until age 65. Therefore, teachers who begin their careers at age 22 can reach 35 years of service by age 57, entitling them to eight years of additional retirement benefits beyond what other teachers would receive who may not retire until age 65. Not only are teachers being paid benefits by the state well before Social Security's retirement age, but these provisions, along with the state's early retirement with reduced benefits based on years of service, may also encourage effective teachers to retire earlier than they may otherwise. They also fail to treat equally those teachers who enter the system at a later age and give the same amount of service.

The money purchase method is a neutral formula because each year of work accrues wealth in a uniform way. Although the same eligibility timetable is used allowing teachers to retire early with unreduced benefits based on years of service, teachers' pension wealth does not decline after they reach eligibility because their pension wealth is tied directly to the balance of their personal accounts, rather than calculated by a traditional formula. Similar to a defined contribution plan, teachers' contributions fund their own individual accounts, and their contribution and the employer match remain constant for each year of service. The state is commended for offering this neutral calculation method.

Supporting Research

Colorado Public Employees' Retirement System, A Summary of the PERA Defined Benefit Plan https://www.copera.org/PDF/5/5-5.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

End retirement eligibility based on years of service.

Colorado should change its practice of allowing teachers with 35 years of service to retire at any age and teachers with 30 years of service to retire at age 58, both with full benefits. If retirement at an earlier age is offered to some teachers, benefits should be reduced accordingly to compensate for the longer duration they will be awarded.

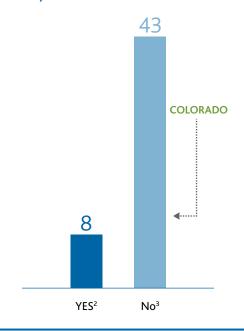
Align eligibility for retirement with unreduced benefits with Social Security retirement age. Colorado allows all teachers to retire before conventional retirement age, some as young as 57. As life expectancies continue to increase, teachers may draw out of the system for many more years than they contributed. This is not compatible with a financially sustainable system (see Goal 4-H).

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The Public Employees' Retirement Association of Colorado did not respond to repeated requests to review NCTQ's analyses related to teacher pensions.

Figure 125

Do states base retirement eligibility on age, which is fair to all teachers?¹



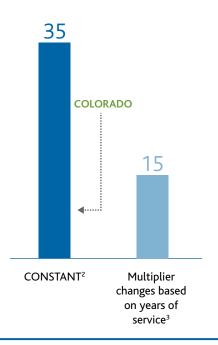
- 1. This only refers to determining retirement eligibility, not retirement benefits.
- 2. Strong Practice: Alaska, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey
- Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Figure 126

- 1. All calculations are based on a teacher who starts teaching at age 22, earns a starting salary of \$35,000 that increases 3 percent per year, and retires at the age s/he is first eligible for unreduced benefits. The calculations use states' current benefit formulas and do not include cost of living increases. The final average salary was calculated as the average of the highest three years of salary, even though a few states may vary from that standard. Age 65 was used as a point of comparision because it is the miminum eligibility for unreduced Social Security benefits.
- 2. Does not apply to Alaska's defined contribution plan.
- 3. Minnesota provides unreduced retirement benefits at the age of full Social Security benefits or age 66, whichever comes first.
- California's formula has many options for retirement. A teacher with 40 years of experience at age 62 would reach Califorina's maximum allowable multiplier of 2.4 percent.
- 5. Age 60 is the earlier teachers hired on or after July 1, 2012 may retire. Teachers hired prior to this point may retire at age 55.
- Massachusetts's formula has many options for retirement. A teacher with 35 years
 of experience at age 57 would reach Massachusetts's maximum allowable benefit
 of 80 percent.

igure 126 How much do states	7 Otal amount in banefits paid etirement until age 65 me of	Earliess retirement age th, technic age th, te
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Illinois	\$0	67
Maine	\$0	65
Minnesota ³	\$0	66
New Hampshire	\$0	65
New Jersey	\$0	65
Washington	\$0	65
Tennessee	\$238,654	52
Michigan California⁴	\$289,187 \$310,028	60 62
Indiana	\$310,028	55
Hawaii ⁵	\$317,726	60
Kansas	\$337,385	60
Oregon	\$361,536	58
North Dakota	\$385,583	60
Oklahoma	\$385,583	60
Maryland	\$413,808	56
Wisconsin	\$416,007	57
Rhode Island	\$430,013	59
New York	\$440,819	57
Texas	\$443,421	60
South Dakota	\$447,707	55
Virginia	\$468,982	56
Louisiana Florida	\$481,979	60
Vermont	\$485,257 \$486,832	55 56
Montana	\$518,228	47
Connecticut	\$510,220	57
Utah	\$520,009	57
lowa	\$551,428	55
Idaho	\$551,743	56
North Carolina	\$568,555	52
South Carolina	\$577,142	50
Nebraska	\$577,687	55
West Virginia	\$577,687	55
Delaware	\$577,927	52
District of Columbia	\$585,737	52
Massachusetts ⁶	\$594,296	57
Georgia Mississippi	\$624,786 \$624,786	52 52
Alabama	\$625,747	47
COLORADO	\$650,011	57
Pennsylvania	\$650,011	57
Wyoming	\$655,506	54
Arizona	\$664,340	55
Arkansas	\$681,789	50
Ohio	\$687,265	52
New Mexico	\$734,124	52
Nevada	\$780,983	52
Missouri	\$789,343	51
Kentucky	\$791,679	49

Figure 127
What kind of multiplier do states use to calculate retirement benefits?¹



- 1. Alaska has a defined contribution plan, which does not have a benefit multiplier.
- 2. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 3. Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wyoming



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Alaska offers a defined contribution pension plan that is neutral, with pension wealth accumulating in an equal way for all teachers for each year of work. In addition, Illinois, Minnesota and New Jersey offer a defined benefit plan with a formula multiplier that does not change relative to years of service and does not allow unreduced benefits for retirees below age 65. Illinois and New Jersey are further commended for ending their previous practices of allowing teachers to retire well before Social Security age without a reduction in benefits.

Figure 128

Double-Dipping: Cure the Disease, Not the Symptom

Benefit recipients in teacher pension plans have recently been under scrutiny for "double-dipping," when individuals receive a pension and salary at the same time. This can occur when teachers reach retirement eligibility, yet wish to keep working without losing pension wealth. Teachers can retire, start receiving their monthly benefits and then return to teaching. The restrictions on a teacher's ability to return to work vary from state to state. Policies can include waiting periods, limitations on earnings or restrictions to working in difficult-to-fill positions.

Some descriptions portray teachers working while collecting their pensions as greedy or somehow taking advantage, when in fact they are just following the system that is in place. When a teacher reaches retirement eligibility in a defined benefit system, her pension wealth peaks and, after that, wealth accrual slows or even decreases because every year a teacher delays retirement, she loses a year of pension benefits. For example, if a teacher could retire with 60 percent of her salary at age 56, then every year she teaches past that point she is, in effect, working for only 40 percent of her pay because she is not receiving her pension. This puts relatively young teachers and the districts who wish to retain them in a difficult position. Districts want to keep effective teachers in schools, but the financial reality for teachers is hard to pass up.

Retirees returning to work are also an issue for defined benefit pension system funding because contributions are not being made to the system that would be made if those positions were held by non-retirees. This adds to the funding imbalances that many states' defined benefit systems face.

Some states have created Deferred Retirement Option Plans (DROP) in which retirees can have their benefits placed in a savings account while they return to work and, once they retire again, they can receive the lump sum in their DROP accounts and resume their monthly benefits.

Returning to work would not be a large policy issue if systems did not allow teachers to retire with unreduced benefits at such relatively young ages and if pension wealth accrual were more neutral. An effective teacher should be able to keep teaching and at the same time know that her pension wealth will not erode. More systemic fixes—like the ones outlined in the *Yearbook*—are needed. Calls to prohibit double-dipping are not addressing the real problem.

142 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011

Goal A – Licensure Loopholes

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background



Area 5: Goal A **Colorado** Analysis



** Best Practice State



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado requires that all new teachers pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure.

Supporting Research

1 Colorado Code of Regulations 301-37: Rule 2260.5-R-3.05; 2260.5-R-3.01(5)

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

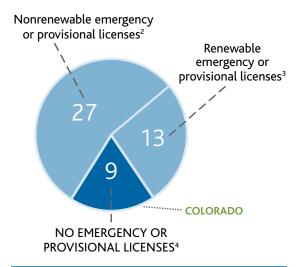
Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 130 Do states still award emergency licenses?1



- 1. Not applicable to Montana and Nebraska, which do not require subject matter testing.
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota⁵, Ohio⁵, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin
- 4. Strong Practice: Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia
- 5. License is renewable, but only if licensure tests are passed.

Figure 131

- 1. Iowa only requires subject-matter testing for elementary teachers.
- 2. Montana does not require subject-matter testing.
- 3. Nebraska does not require subject-matter testing.
- 4. There is a potential loophole in Utah, as alternate route teachers appear able to delay passage of subject-matter tests.
- 5. Wyoming only requires subject-matter testing for elementary and social studies teachers.

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West Virginia Wisconsin				
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Goal B – Unsatisfactory Evaluations

The state should articulate consequences for teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations, including specifying that teachers with multiple unsatisfactory evaluations should be eligible for dismissal.

Goal Components

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

- The state should require that all teachers who receive a single unsatisfactory evaluation be placed on an improvement plan, whether or not they have tenure.
- The state should require that all teachers who receive two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations or two unsatisfactory evaluations within five years be formally eligible for dismissal, whether or not they have tenure.

Background



Area 5: Goal B **Colorado** Analysis



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Colorado requires local districts to place any teacher deemed "ineffective" on his or her performance evaluation on a "remediation plan." The remediation plan targets deficiencies and offers resources and assistance for improving performance. If, after the remediation plan is implemented, the teacher performs effectively on the next performance evaluation, no further action is taken.

If the teacher is deemed ineffective on the next performance evaluation, he or she will be given an opportunity to appeal the rating, which can take no more than 90 days. If the teacher does not prove that the ineffective rating was inappropriate, the evaluator will either make additional recommendations for improvement or recommend dismissal.

Supporting Research

Colorado Revised Statute 22-9-106 (3.5) and (4.5)

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 133	MAROVENENT PLAN RATING EDISATISED	EUGIBLE FOR DISMISSALATER	آ چ	No articulated consequences
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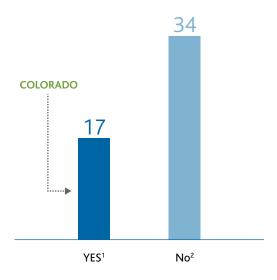
- Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- While results of evaluations may be used in dismissal decisions, there are no specific criteria for a teacher's eligibility for dismissal.
- 3. Improvement plans are only used for teachers in identified "Schools At Risk." Those same teachers are also eligible for dismissal for multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- 4. A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal.
- 5. Teachers in low performing schools can be dismissed after one negative rating.
- Local school boards must include procedures for using evaluation results for the removal of poorly performing teachers.

***** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Illinois and Oklahoma both require that teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations be placed on improvement plans. Teachers in Illinois are then evaluated three times during a 90-day remediation period and are eligible for dismissal if performance remains unsatisfactory. In addition, new legislation in Illinois allows districts to dismiss a teacher without going through the remediation process if that teacher has already completed a remediation plan but then receives an unsatisfactory rating within the next three years. Oklahoma's improvement plan may not exceed two months, and if performance does not improve during that time, teachers are eligible for dismissal.

Figure 134

Do states specify that all teachers with multiple unsatisfactory evaluations are eligible for dismissal?



- Strong Practice: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington
- 2. Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho³, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada⁴, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- 4. A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal.

Goal C – 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.
- 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



Area 5: Goal C **Colorado** Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

New legislation in Colorado specifically identifies classroom ineffectiveness as grounds for dismissal. For teachers who receive "a performance rating of ineffective, the evaluator shall either make additional recommendations for improvement or may recommend the dismissal of the person." In addition, a teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of ineffective evaluations.

Although Colorado has attempted to address issues of due process and dismissal by reverting ineffective teachers to probationary status, the state also retains other policy that does not distinguish the due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance from those facing other charges commonly associated with license revocation such as a felony and/or morality violations. The process is the same regardless of the grounds for cancellation, which include "physical or mental disability, incompetency, neglect of duty, immorality, unsatisfactory performance, insubordination, the conviction of a felony or the acceptance of a guilty plea, a plea of nolo contendere, or a deferred sentence for a felony, or other good and just cause."

Tenured teachers who are terminated may appeal multiple times. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher may request a hearing within five days. A hearing officer must then be selected within five days, and then within three days, the hearing office schedules the hearing, which must take place within 30 days. The teacher may then file an additional appeal in the court of appeals. According to the state, this review is given precedence and is "heard in an expedited manner"; however, a specific time frame is not articulated. Another appeal, to the Supreme Court, is also possible.

Supporting Research

Colorado Revised Statutes 22-63-301; 302

Colorado Senate Bill 10-191

RECOMMENDATION

Align dismissal statute to support evaluation policy.

Colorado should ensure that its dismissal policies are in step with the state's rigorous evaluation requirements. It should be clear that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal for any teacher, regardless of tenure status. The dismissal policy should also avoid using euphemistic terms to describe poor performance.

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

Although probationary teachers who have earned such status due to unsatisfactory evaluations may not be subject to the state's dismissal laws, the state could do more to distinguish the due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance from those facing license revocation for dereliction of duty or felony and/or morality violations.

In addition, the state should ensure that the opportunity to appeal occurs only once and only at the district level. The decision should be made only by those with educational expertise.

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

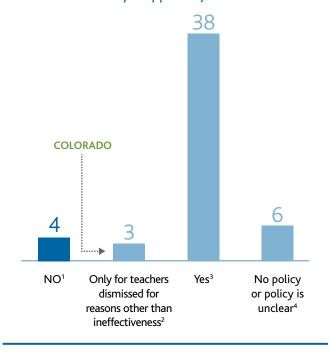
Figure 136			
Do states articulate		/	. /
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Oklahoma clearly articulates that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal and 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 137 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, Illinois⁵, 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, Nevada⁶, Utah, Vermont
- 5. The teacher is responsible for the cost of the second appeal.
- 6. Though a teacher returns to probationary status after two consecutive unsatisfactory ratings, the state does not articulate clear policy about its appeals process.

- 1. It is left to districts to define "inadequacy of classroom performance."
- 2. A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not articulated that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.
- 3. Dismissal policy includes dismissal for unsatisfactory evaluations, but the state's evaluation system does not measure teacher effectiveness (see Goal 3-B).

Goal D – 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 Components

(The factors 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



Area 5: Goal D **Colorado** Analysis



Best Practice State



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

In Colorado, new legislation considers teacher performance—measured by a performance evaluation as the top criterion for districts to use in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force. Other factors, including "the consideration of probationary and nonprobationary status and the number of years a teacher has been teaching in the school district" may only be considered after a teacher's performance is taken into account.

Supporting Research

Colorado Revised Statutes 22-9-106; 22-63-202, sec. VII (3)

COLORADO RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Colorado recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

154: NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 **COLORADO**

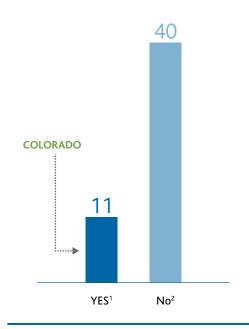
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	11	17



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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.

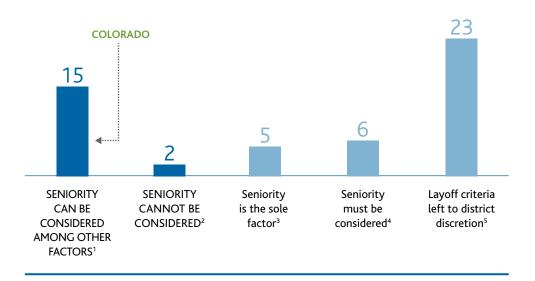
Figure 140 Do districts have to consider performance in determining which teachers are laid off?



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

Figure 141

Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?



- 1. Strong Practice: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Missouri⁶, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio⁶, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas
- 2. Strong Practice: Idaho, Utah
- 3. Hawaii, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin⁷
- 4. California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon
- 5. Alabama, Alaska⁶, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia⁶, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts⁶, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska⁶, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming
- 6. Nontenured teachers are laid off first.
- $7. \ \ Only \ for \ counties \ with \ populations \ of \ 500,000 \ or \ more \ and \ for \ teachers \ hired \ before \ 1995.$

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