2013 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Vermont





Acknowledgments

STATES

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

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Executive Summary

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

Vermont at a Glance



Overall 2013 Yearbook Grade

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: D-

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

Goal Breakdown	2013
★ Best Practice	0
Fully Meets	1
Nearly Meets	2
Partially Meets	6
Meets Only a Small Part	6
Opes Not Meet	16

	Progress on Goals Since 2011	
•	Progress has increased	3
(2)	No change in progress	28
•	Progress has decreased	0

¹ State teacher pension policy is no longer included in the State Teacher Policy Yearbook. So that Area 4 grades can be compared, 2011 grades have been recalculated to exclude the pension goals. Overall 2011 grades were not recalculated, as the impact was negligible.

How is **Vermont** Faring?

Area 1: Delivering Well-Preparent	ared lea	acners	Page 5
Admission into Teacher Preparation		Secondary Teacher Preparation in Scien	ce
Elementary Teacher Preparation		Special Education Teacher Preparation	
Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction		Assessing Professional Knowledge	
Teacher Preparation in Mathematics		Student Teaching	
Middle School Teacher Preparation		Teacher Preparation Program Accountabil	ity
Secondary Teacher Preparation			
Policy Strengths			
 Elementary teacher candidates are require content test with individually scored subte of the core content areas, including mathe 	ests in each	 Middle school teachers may not te generalist license, and they must a single-subject content test. 	
Policy Weaknesses			
 Teacher candidates are not required to pas academic proficiency as a criterion for adn teacher preparation programs. 		 The state does not require any contestion special education teacher candidate A pedagogy test is not required as a 	S.
 Although preparation programs are require 	ed to	licensure.	
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required to pass a test to ensure knowledge ffective reading instruction. Some secondary science and social studies are not required to pass content tests for ediscipline they are licensed to teach. Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Alternate Route Eligibility Alternate Route Preparation	ge of s teachers each of Teach	teachers are placed with cooperating were selected based on evidence of The teacher preparation program ap does not hold programs accountable of the teachers they produce. Part-Time Teaching Licenses	page 51 Page 51 ith minimal tent experts to

How is **Vermont** Faring?

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

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

How to Read the Yearbook

GOAL SCORE

The extent to which each goal has been met:



Best Practice



Fully Meets



Nearly Meets



Partially Meets



Meets Only a Small Part



Does Not Meet

PROGRESS INDICATOR

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



Goal progress has increased since 2011



Goal progress has decreased since 2011



Goal progress has remained the same since 2011

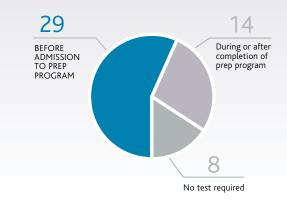
BAR RAISED FOR THIS GOAL



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

READING CHARTS AND TABLES:

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

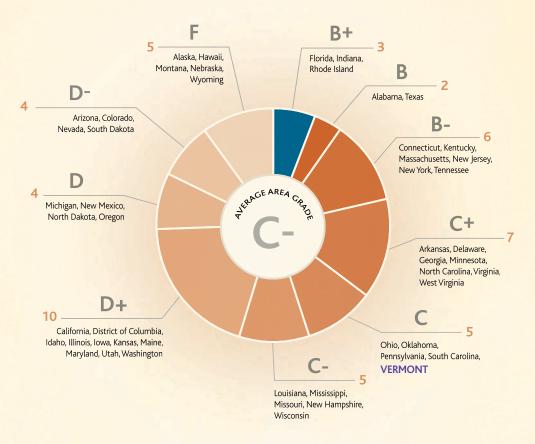


Area 1 Summary



How States are Faring on Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

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

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

Goal A – Admission into Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

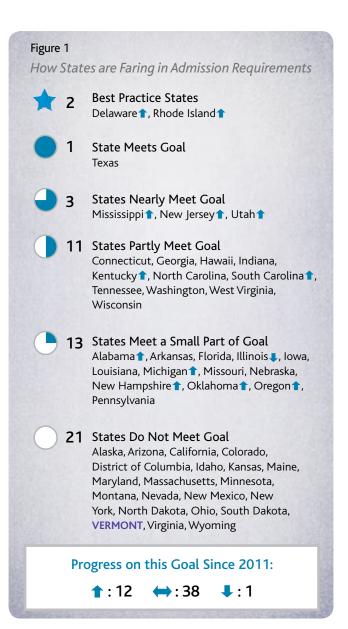
- 1. The state should require teacher candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- 2. All preparation programs in a state should use a common admissions test to facilitate program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



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

Background

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



1-A Analysis: Vermont



State Does Not Meet Goal





Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

Supporting Research

Vermont Standards Board for Professional Education 5922 http://education.vermont.gov/documents/educ_5100_licensing_regulations.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

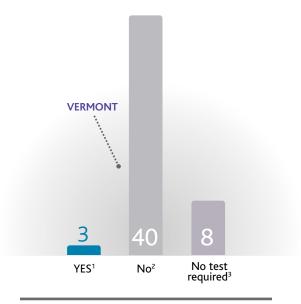
Vermont recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

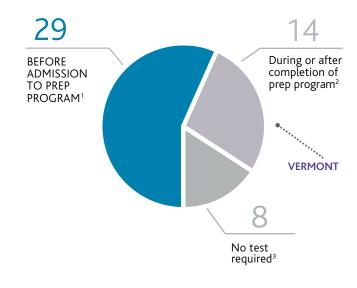
For admission to teacher preparation programs, Rhode Island and Delaware require a test of academic proficiency normed to the general collegebound population rather than a test that is normed just to prospective teachers. Delaware also requires teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or be in the top 50th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

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



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

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



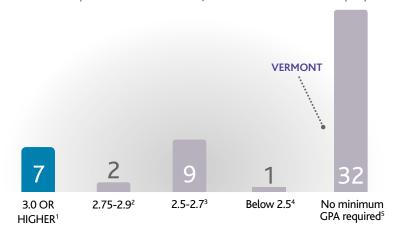
- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington,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

Figure 4		JON TO PREPING TO COMM TO PREPING TO COMMISSION OF COMMISS	±	We text textiled
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^{1.} Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission with a 3.0 GPA.

Figure 5

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



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

Goal B − Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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



1-B Analysis: Vermont



State Partly Meets Goal 🌎 Bar Raised for this Goal 👔 Progress Since 2011





ANALYSIS

Vermont has adopted the Common Core State Standards, which represent an effort to significantly raise the standards for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness. The state has made some progress in ensuring that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with these standards.

Vermont now requires all elementary teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test, which is comprised of four subtests with individual scores in math, reading and language arts, science and social studies. Candidates must pass each subtest to be eligible for licensure.

Vermont offers initial certification in early childhood education, which allows teachers to teach up through grade 3. It does not appear that early childhood teacher candidates are required to pass a content test. Neither ETS nor the state's website lists a content test required for this certification.

All teacher candidates in Vermont must complete a major in the liberal arts and sciences or in the content area of the endorsement sought.

Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirement

www.ets.org

Supplement A to the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Education Manual of Rules 5440; 5231

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that content test adequately measures sufficient knowledge in all subjects.

Vermont should ensure that its new subject-matter test for elementary teacher candidates is well aligned with the Common Core State Standards, which represent an effort to significantly raise the standards for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness. To make the test meaningful, Vermont should also ensure that the passing scores on each subtest reflect high levels of performance.

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

 Require elementary teacher candidates to complete a content specialization in an academic subject area.

Although Vermont's policy requires that elementary teacher candidates have an arts and sciences major, the state's language does not ensure that these teachers will earn a content specialization in an academic subject area.

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

Vermont should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish more comprehensive coursework requirements for elementary teacher candidates that align with the Common Core State Standards to ensure that candidates will complete coursework relevant to the common topics in elementary grades. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours in the core subject areas of English, science, social studies and fine arts. Vermont has articulated elementary teaching standards that allude to important areas of academic knowledge. For example, the state's science standards make mention of life sciences; physical sciences; and earth, environmental and atmospheric sciences. However, the state's standards lack specificity, leaving gaps in a number of important areas such as American, world, British and children's literature; world history; and art history. The testing framework for the newly adopted Praxis II elementary test is also far from complete. Further, Vermont's coursework requirement offers little assurance that the courses chosen by elementary teacher candidates will prepare them in the topics relevant to the PK-6 classroom.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont pointed out that its elementary endorsement requirements are being revised to include more specificity with regard to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The state noted, however, that its requirements are competency based, which means that it does not dictate credit hours or mandate coursework requirements. Vermont added that the early childhood endorsement will soon require a Praxis test because it is being revised to align with the elementary endorsement and incorporate the Common Core standards. The early childhood endorsement overlaps with the elementary endorsement, and HQT status is contingent upon ECE candidates passing the Praxis II exam.

Do states ensure that elementary teachers know core content?	SCARFOR EN SPACENT	Steinentay Content tees	Elementary content to	
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TOTAL STATE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.

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

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

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

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

Do states expect elementary teachers to have in-depth knowledge of core content? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Idaho Illinois	SOCIAL STUDIES FINE ARTS
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	☐ Subject mentioned ★ Subject covered in dep

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

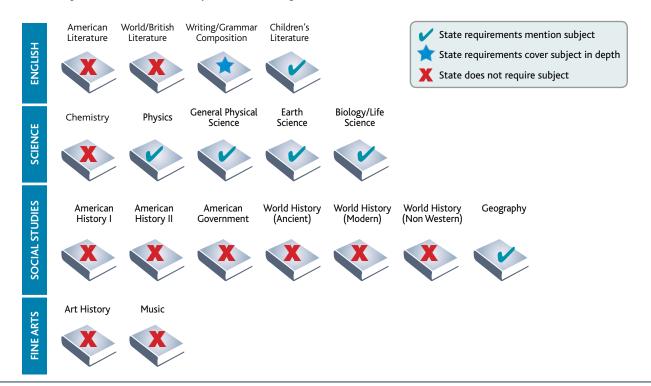
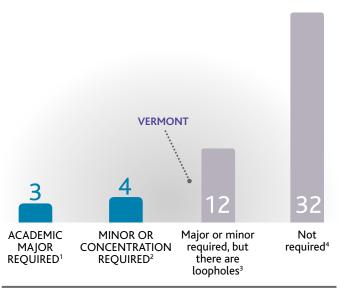


Figure 11

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



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

Goal C − Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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



1-C Analysis: Vermont



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





ANALYSIS

Although Vermont requires elementary teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II Multiple Subjects test, which includes reading as a topic, this assessment does not generate a separate reading score and, therefore, does not amount to an adequate stand-alone reading test. Further, although better than previous Praxis tests, the Multiple Subjects test does not appear to be fully aligned with scientifically based reading instruction.

In its standards for elementary teacher preparation, Vermont does require teacher preparation programs to address the science of reading. Programs must provide training in the five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Supporting Research

Supplement A (5440) to the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Education Manual of Rules

RECOMMENDATION

Require all teacher candidates who teach elementary grades to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.

Vermont should 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 address all five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. If the test 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.

Vermont should also require all early childhood education teacher candidates who teach elementary grades to pass a rigorous assessment to ensure that they are adequately prepared in the science of reading instruction before entering the classroom.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state pointed out that its elementary endorsement requirements are being revised to include more specificity with regard to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Vermont noted, however, that its requirements are competency based, which means that it does not dictate credit hours or mandate coursework requirements. The state added that the early childhood endorsement will soon require a Praxis test because it is being revised to align with the elementary endorsement and incorporate the CCSS. The early childhood endorsement overlaps with the elementary endorsement and HQT status is contingent on ECE candidates passing the Praxis II exam.

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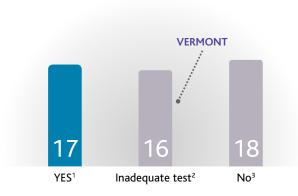
TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

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

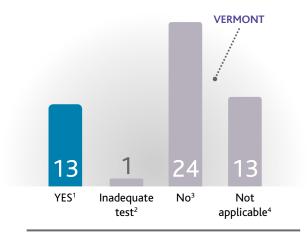
Figure 14 Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



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

Figure 15 Do states measure knowledge of the science of

reading for early childhood teachers who can teach elementary grades?



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

Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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



1-D Analysis: Vermont



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





ANALYSIS

Vermont requires all teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test, which includes a separately scored math subtest.

Regrettably, it does not appear that Vermont's early childhood education teachers, who are allowed to teach through grade 3, are required to pass a content test.

Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirement

www.ets.org

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state pointed out that its elementary endorsement requirements are being revised to include more specificity with regard to the Common Core State Standards. Vermont noted, however, that its requirements are competency based, which means that it does not dictate credit hours or mandate coursework requirements. The state added that the early childhood endorsement will soon require a Praxis test because it is being revised to align with the elementary endorsement and incorporate the Common Core State Standards. The early childhood endorsement overlaps with the elementary endorsement and HQT status is contingent upon ECE candidates passing the Praxis II exam.

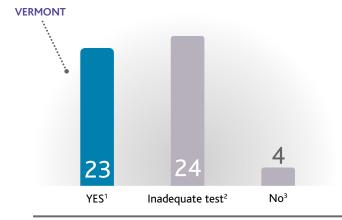


** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

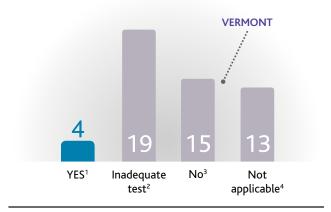
Figure 17

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



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

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



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

→ Goal E — Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



1-E Analysis: Vermont



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Vermont requires a middle grades (grades 5-9) endorsement for middle school teachers. Candidates must earn a minor in the content area to be taught.

All new middle school teachers in Vermont are also required to pass a Praxis II single-subject content test to attain licensure.

Commendably, Vermont does not offer a K-8 generalist license.

Supporting Research

Praxis Test Requirement

www.ets.org

Supplement A (5440-19) to the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Education Manual of Rules

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure meaningful content tests.

To ensure meaningful middle school content tests, Vermont should make certain that its passing scores reflect high levels of performance.

■ Strengthen middle school teachers' subject-matter preparation.

Vermont 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.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 20	É	K-8 license officed for	\$ /
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California		2	
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Connecticut Delaware			
Delaware District of Columbia			
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***** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

^{1.} Offers 1-8 license.

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

^{3.} With the exception of mathematics.

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

Figure 21		No, test does not report	» /	/
Do middle school teachers		/ <u>\$</u>	No, K-8 license require	No, testing of all sub:
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West Virginia				
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	26	3	16	6

- Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.
 Candidates teaching multiple subjects only have to pass the elementary test. Single-subject credential does not
- require test.

 3. For K-8 license, Idaho also requires a single-subject test.
- 4. Maryland allows elementary teachers to teach in departmentalized middle schools if not less than 50 percent of the teaching assignment is within the elementary education grades.
- For nondepartmentalized classrooms, generalist in middle childhood education candidates must pass new assessment with three subtests.
- 6. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
- 7. Candidates opting for middle-level endorsement may either complete a major or pass a content test.

Goal F – Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



1-F Analysis: Vermont



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

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

Vermont offers secondary certification in general social studies. Candidates are required to pass the Praxis II Social Studies: Content and Interpretation test. Teachers may teach all history and social science courses in grades 7-12. (For the state's science loophole, see Goal 1-G.)

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

Supporting Research

Praxis Testing Requirements

www.ets.org

Testing Requirements

http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Licensing_Praxis_I_and_II_Testing_Brochure.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

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

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

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

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

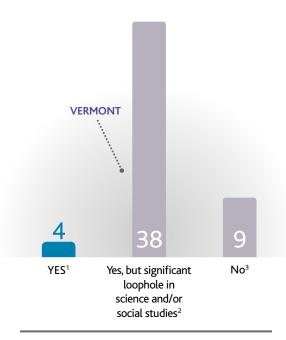
Vermont recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

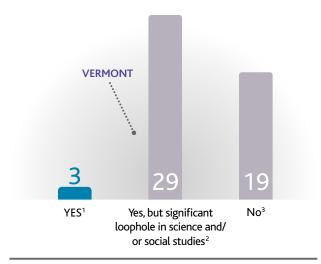
Figure 23 Does a secondary teacher have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



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

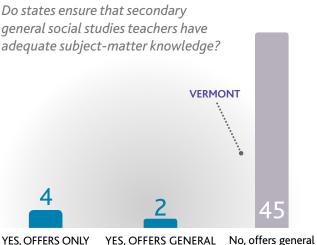
Figure 24

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



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

Figure 25



SINGLE SUBJECT SOCIAL STUDIES LICENSES¹

SOCIAL STUDIES LICENSE WITH ADEQUATE TESTING² social studies license without adequate testing3

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

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



1-G Analysis: Vermont



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Vermont offers a secondary endorsement in general science. Candidates must achieve a passing score on the Praxis II General Science multiple choice or essay test and on one subject-specific test (either the multiple choice or essay version) of their choosing. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general science but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

Supporting Research

Vermont's Testing Requirements

http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/licensing/forms/educ_licensing_praxis_brochure.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

By allowing a general science certification—and not requiring passing scores on content tests for each subject area taught—Vermont is not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. Although Vermont's requirement of a passing score on a single-subject content test is a step in the right direction, it only ensures requisite subject-matter knowledge in one area. That leaves out all the other science courses that could be taught at the secondary level with a general science endorsement.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont asserted that the information in the analysis is not always true. Recommendations and licenses are frequently limited to the areas of science that an applicant is qualified to teach. The state added that it does not rely completely on the Praxis to ensure meeting this goal. Vermont also uses Results Oriented Program Approval (ROPA) and transcript review.

LAST WORD

The notion that licensing policy could be "not always true" is perplexing. The state should have clear and unequivocal policy so that teacher candidates, teacher preparation programs, school districts and the general public know what a license means.

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EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal H − Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



1-H Analysis: **Vermont**



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Vermont allows a K-12 certification, but only if the teacher candidate meets the requirements for both the K-8 and 7-12 special education certifications.

However, the state does not require content testing for any of its special education teacher candidates.

Supporting Research
Supplement A (5440-82) to the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Education Manual of Rules Testing Brochure

RECOMMENDATION

Require that elementary special education candidates pass the same contest test as general education elementary teachers.

To ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess sufficient knowledge of the subject matter at hand, Vermont should require these candidates to pass the same multiple-subjects test it requires of all elementary teachers. The state should further set passing scores that reflect high levels of performance. Failure to ensure that teachers possess requisite content knowledge deprives special education students of the opportunity to reach their academic potential.

Ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.

Secondary special education teachers are frequently generalists who teach many core subject areas. While it may be unreasonable to expect secondary special education teachers to meet the same requirements for each subject they teach as other teachers who teach only one subject, Vermont's current policy of requiring no subject-matter testing is problematic and will not help special education students to meet rigorous learning standards. To provide a middle ground, Vermont should consider a customized HOUSSE route for new secondary special education teachers and look to the flexibility offered by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which allows for a combination of testing and coursework to demonstrate requisite content knowledge in the classroom.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 29		Office K-12 and Bade-specific and	(5)400
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and secondary special	SNO.	5 K- 7	Sonly
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West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	16	7	28



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 30
Which states rec

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

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

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

Figure 29:

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal I – Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

Goal Component

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

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

Background

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



1-I Analysis: Vermont



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

Supporting Research

http://www.ets.org/praxis/vt/requirements

RECOMMENDATION

Require that all new teachers pass a pedagogy test.

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

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont asserted that its preservice candidates demonstrate having the required pedagogy by ensuring that all prep programs are aligned with state standards (ROPA and the Level I licensure portfolio specifically).

LAST WORD

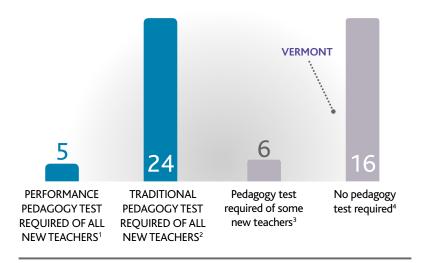
Rather than relying solely on programs' alignment with state standards, Vermont should require a mechanism by which this essential knowledge and skill can be verified as a condition of licensure.



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

Figure 32

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



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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal J − Student Teaching

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



1- J Analysis: Vermont



State Partly Meets Goal



(Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Commendably, Vermont requires candidates to complete a minimum of 12 consecutive weeks of "supervised, concentrated field experience required for initial licensure, including student teaching, internship, or other concentrated field experience, however named, in which the candidate shall gradually assume the full professional roles and responsibilities of an educator in the initial endorsement area sought."

The state's only requirement for a cooperating teacher is that he or she be a "licensed educator in an appropriate setting."

Supporting Research

Rules Governing the Licensing of Educators and the Preparation of Education Professionals

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont asserted that it also requires preparation programs to document having a system for recruiting, selecting and supporting cooperating teachers who model effective practice with respect to the state's standards for educators.

Figure 34	CHER.	NOENT TEACHING STS AT LEAST TO WEEK
Do states ensure a	\$ 6 \$ 6 \$ 6	ACHIN S7 70
high-quality student	PA JA	LEA LEA
teaching experience?	COOPE SELECTE STECTIVE	57UDEN 14575.4)
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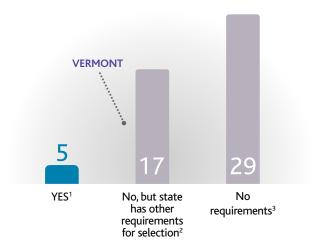
EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

Figure 35

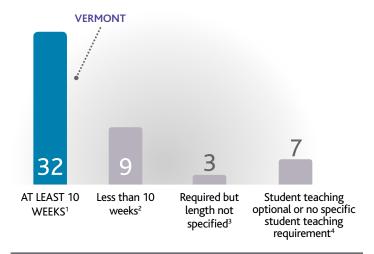
Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



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

Figure 36

Is the student teaching experience of sufficient length?



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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

➤ Goal K — Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

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

1-K Analysis: Vermont



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



(Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

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

However, the state does rely on some objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs. It bases its program approval on a formal system to collect information, such as evaluation forms and testimonials, from both educators that have been recommended for licensure as well as program graduates' employers during the first five years in the profession. Vermont also collects programs' annual summary licensure test pass rates (80 percent of program completers must pass the Praxis I; 60 percent must pass the Praxis II). Regrettably, both pass-rate standards set the bar quite low and are not meaningful measures of program performance.

Further, there is no evidence that the state's standards for program approval are resulting in greater accountability. In the past three years, no programs in Vermont have been identified in required federal reporting as low performing.

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

Vermont maintains control over its approval process.

Supporting Research

Results Oriented Program Approval, Standard III http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_prostandards/vsbpe/ropa_07.html Title II State Reports https://title2.ed.gov

RECOMMENDATION

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

As one way to measure whether programs are producing effective classroom teachers, Vermont should consider the academic achievement gains of students taught by programs' graduates, averaged over the first three years of teaching. Data that are aggregated to the institution (e.g., combining elementary and secondary programs) rather than disaggregated to the specific preparation program are not useful for accountability purposes. Such aggregation can mask significant differences in performance among programs.

■ Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance.

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

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

Merely collecting the types of data described above is insufficient for accountability purposes. The next and perhaps more critical step is for the state to establish precise minimum standards for teacher preparation program performance for each category of data. Vermont should be mindful of setting rigorous standards for program performance, as its current requirement— that 80 percent of program completers must pass the Praxis I and 60 percent must pass the Praxis II—is too low a bar. Programs should be held accountable for meeting rigorous standards, and there should be consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.

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

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

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont asserted that it is working to reduce the inconsistencies among the higher education institutions using the form [for satisfaction ratings], as they gather feedback from school principals and cooperating teachers. ROPA Reports document which programs have met performance standards, and this information is on the state's website. Preparation programs not meeting Vermont's standards are required to create a plan for remediation. Failure to comply within a set time frame will result in the closing of the program.

Figure 38	OBECTIVE PROGRAM.	MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PERCORMANGE FOR	DATA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON WERES
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preparation programs accountable?	JHC.		77 88
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Virginia	■¹		
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****** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



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

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

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

^{3.} For alternate routes only.

Figure 40

Which states collect meaningful data?

STUDENT LEARNING GAINS

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

EVALUATION RESULTS FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES

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

AVERAGE RAW SCORES ON LICENSING TESTS

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

SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland¹, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas, **VERMONT**, Virginia

TEACHER RETENT

Arizona, Colorado, F New Jersey, Tenness

1. For alternate route only

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	Michigan			
	Minnesota			
	Mississippi		■ 1	
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	Virginia			
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lational accreditation can be substituted for state approval. or institutions with 2,000 or more full-time equivalent students	j	7	31	13
•		,	J1	
	VERMONT NCTÇ	STATE TEACHER	POLICY YEA	ARBOOK 2013

Figure 41

What is the relationship between state program

approval and national

П

accreditation?

Alabama Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

California

Colorado

Delaware

Florida

Georgia

Hawaii

Indiana

Kansas

Iowa

Idaho Illinois

Connecticut

District of Columbia

National accediation is required for Program approval

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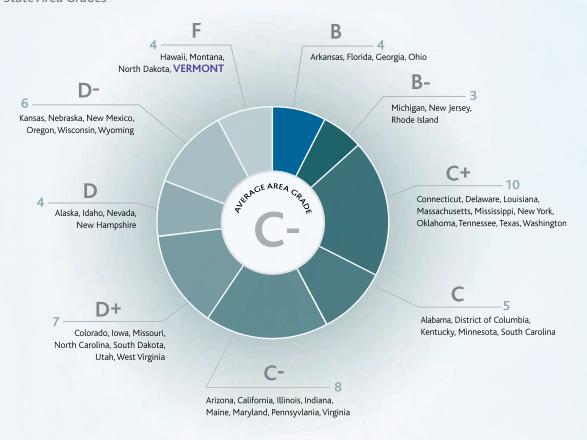
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Area 2 Summary



How States are Faring in Expanding the Pool of Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

- 2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility
- 2-B: Alternate Route Preparation
- 2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers
- 2-D: Part-Time Teaching Licenses
- 2-E: Licensure Reciprocity

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Goal A − Alternate Route Eligibility

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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

Figure 42 How States are Faring in Alternate Route Eligibility **Best Practice States** District of Columbia, Michigan State Meets Goal Minnesota 13 States Nearly Meet Goal Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey 1, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Washington 11 States Partly Meet Goal Alabama, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas 1, Virginia 15 States Meet a Small Part of Goal California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, VERMONT, West Virginia States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2011: **1**:2 **+** : 49

2-A Analysis: **Vermont**



State Meets a Small Part of Goal 🏿 🕟 Bar Raised for this Goal 🛮 🕒 Progress Since 2011





ANALYSIS

Candidates in Vermont's Peer Review program must have at least a bachelor's degree with a major in the subject they plan to teach, or a strong liberal arts background if applying for elementary licensure.

Peer review candidates must take a basic skills test, and candidates seeking initial licensure must take a subject-matter test, which cannot be used to test out of content coursework requirements.

Supporting Research

Alternate Licensure Route

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/licensing/alternate.html

RECOMMENDATION

Screen all candidates for academic ability.

Vermont 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 3.0 or higher. A rigorous test appropriate for candidates who have already completed a bachelor's degree, such as the GRE, would be ideal.

Require applicants to pass a subject-matter test.

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 subject-area knowledge. Teachers without sufficient subject-matter knowledge place students at risk. The state should clarify that peer review candidates should not pursue an alternate route without clear demonstration of subject-matter expertise.

Offer flexibility in fulfilling coursework requirements.

Vermont should allow any candidate who already has the requisite knowledge and skills to demonstrate such by passing a rigorous test. Exacting coursework requirements could dissuade talented individuals who lack precisely the right courses from pursuing a career in teaching.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

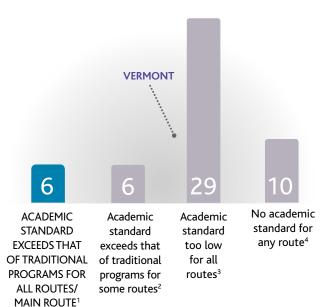
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West Virginia		→	
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

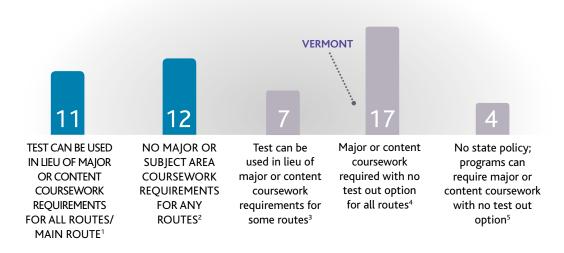
Figure 44 Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



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

Figure 45

Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



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

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

➤ Goal B – Alternate Route Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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



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



Background

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

2-B Analysis: Vermont



State Does Not Meet Goal



Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2011



ANALYSIS

There are no coursework requirements associated with Vermont's Peer Review alternate route.

Candidates must show evidence of at least 12 consecutive weeks of student teaching or an equivalent learning experience. An equivalent learning experience is defined as having a substantial amount of supervised experiences working with students in the endorsement area.

Supporting Research

Peer Review Handbook

http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Licensing_Alternate_Peer_Review_Handbook.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Provide a route to certification for career changers and other nontraditional candidates.

Vermont should provide an alternate route to certification for individuals with subject-matter knowledge or advance academic standing to enter the profession. Vermont's current route is not a preparation model; rather it is a way for individuals who are already prepared to attain certification.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont noted that Peer Review is not the only alternate route program. Vermont is competency based and not coursework based; nonetheless, alternate routes need to meet the same requirements as traditional programs.

LAST WORD

Peer Review is only the alternate licensure route articulated on the state's website. NCTQ was unable to find evidence of any other routes or programs, and the state provided no additional information or documentation.

Figure 47		RELEVANTCOURCE	Žož /	\ <u>\</u>	, / 5
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EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

➤ Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

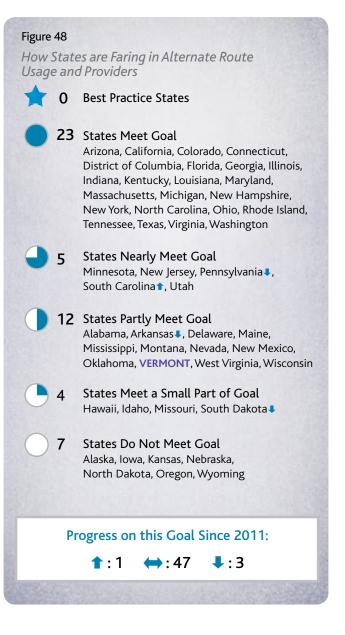
Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



2-C Analysis: **Vermont**



State Partly Meets Goal (Progress Since 2011



ANALYSIS

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

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

While the state permits school districts to operate Peer Review programs, it does not permit a diversity of providers to offer alternate route preparation programs.

Supporting Research

Vermont Alternate Licensure Route

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/licensing/alternate.html

Vermont's Licensure Options for Alternative Program Teacher Assignments

http://education.vermont.gov/documents/educ_vsbpe_endorsement_options_alternate.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Encourage diversity of alternate route providers.

Vermont should specifically authorize alternate route programs run by local school districts and nonprofits, as well as institutions of higher education. A good diversity of providers helps all programs, both university- and nonuniversity-based, to improve.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont commented that it permits a diversity of providers to offer alternate route programs by limiting eligibility only to programs that ensure that its candidates meet licensure requirements.

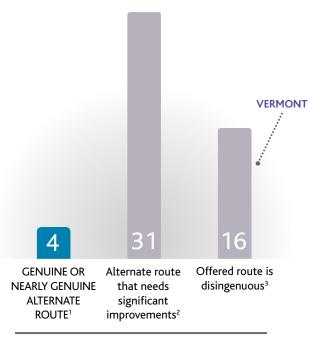
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** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 50 Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification?



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

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Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

➤ Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



2-D Analysis: Vermont



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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



TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Area 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool

Goal E − Licensure Reciprocity

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



2-E Analysis: Vermont



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Regrettably, Vermont waives its licensing test requirements for teachers who have three years of teaching experience within the last seven years.

Teachers with valid, professional out-of-state certificates may be eligible for comparable licensure in Vermont. The state routinely reviews the college transcripts of licensed out-of-state teachers, an exercise that often leads the state to require additional coursework before it will offer a license. States that reach a determination about an applicant's licensure status on the basis of the course titles listed on the applicant's transcript may end up mistakenly equating the amount of required coursework with the teacher's qualification.

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

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

Supporting Research

Regulations Governing the Licensing of Educators and the Preparation of Educational Professionals, Rules 5247, 5322, 5323

RECOMMENDATION

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

Vermont takes considerable risk by granting a waiver for its licensing tests to certain out-of-state teachers with three years of experience. The state should not waive any 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 the teacher's having recent experience.

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

Vermont should consider discontinuing its requirement for the submission of transcripts, as transcript reviews are not a particularly meaningful or efficient exercise. 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 Vermont.

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

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

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

Regardless of whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route, all certified out-of-state teachers should receive equal treatment. State policies that discriminate against teachers who were prepared in an alternate route are not supported by evidence. In fact, a substantial body of research has failed to discern differences in effectiveness between alternate and traditional route teachers.

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

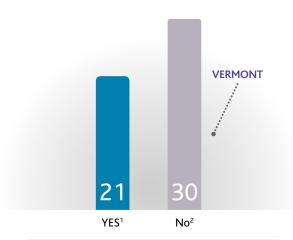
Vermont should ensure that online teachers based in other states are at least equally as qualified as those who teach in the state. However, Vermont should balance the interests of its students in having qualified online instructors with making certain that these requirements do not create unnecessary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

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont noted that it now has an online teaching endorsement for those teaching online courses.

Figure 55

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



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

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

Figure 56

^{1.} State conducts transcript reviews.

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

^{3.} For traditionally prepared teachers only.

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

Figure 57	Š	State specifies of the route to the transfer of the transfer o	ate / sate
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

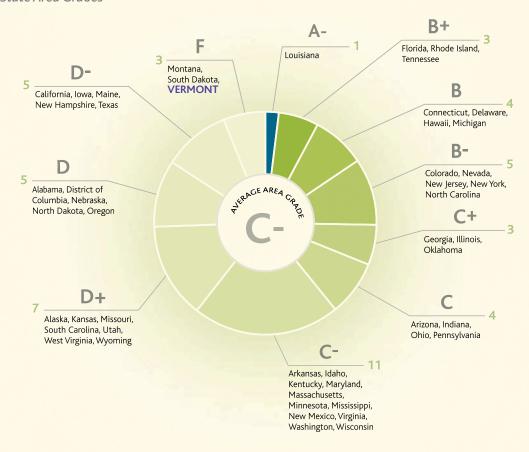
Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by requiring that certified teachers from other states meet Alabama's and Texas's own testing requirements, and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate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

Area 3 Summary



How States are Faring in Identifying Effective Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

- 3-A: State Data Systems
- 3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness
- 3-C: Frequency of Evaluations

- 3-D: Tenure
- 3-E: Licensure Advancement
- 3-F: Equitable Distribution

Goal A – State Data Systems

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background



3-A Analysis: Vermont





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



ANALYSIS

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

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

Vermont defines teacher of record as the teacher who has responsibility for ensuring that the course curriculum meets the standards required for the course. The state's teacher-student data link can connect more than one educator to a particular student in a given course, but it does not have in place a process for teacher roster verification.

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

Supporting Research

Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Publish data on teacher production.

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

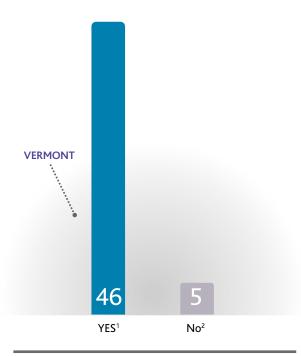
VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont noted that its SECT collection captures teacher-of-record data provided through its state data system.

Figure 59

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

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



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

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

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Washington West Virginia				
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wyoning				
	6	8	37	



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background



3-B Analysis: Vermont



State Does Not Meet Goal (Progress Since 2011



ANALYSIS

Vermont does not require that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations.

The state requires local school districts to evaluate school personnel. Although Vermont provides little guidance regarding the requirements of such evaluations, it has recently posted a set of guidelines on its website developed by the Vermont Task Force on Teacher & Leader Effectiveness that suggest the use of student growth factors and multitiered rating categories. However, districts are not required to adopt any of these suggestions.

Supporting Research

Vermont Statutes Title 16, Chapter 3, Section 165

http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-SBE_2012_06_18_Item_J.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

Vermont should either require a common evaluation instrument in which evidence of student learning is the most significant criterion, or it should specifically require that student learning be the preponderant criterion in local evaluation processes. Whether state or locally developed, a teacher should not be able to receive a satisfactory rating if found ineffective in the classroom.

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

Vermont should not only require that its evaluations include classroom observations, but also the state should specifically articulate that these observations focus on effectiveness of instruction. The primary component of a classroom observation should be the quality of instruction, as measured by student time on task, student grasp or mastery of the lesson objective and efficient use of class time.

 Utilize rating categories that meaningfully differentiate among various levels of teacher performance.

To ensure that the evaluation instrument accurately differentiates among levels of teacher performance, Vermont should require districts to utilize multiple rating categories, such as highly effective, effective, needs improvement and ineffective. A binary system that merely categorizes teachers as satisfactory or unsatisfactory is inadequate.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont asserted that schools receiving improvement grants are required to adopt student measures in their evaluation systems. Beginning in September 2014, all schools will need to assure the state that the elements of the guidelines are present in their evaluation systems.

Figure 63	REQUIRS THAT STUDENT PREPONDERANT GROUNDENT	Requires the student Therein (explicit) des signs	Requies that sudent significant critical or "Meant advises that sudent significant" critical outs is a sudent without critical outs is a sudent significant.	Requires some object.	iden _{Ce}
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Indiana					
lowa					
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Kentucky					
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Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada					
New Hampshire					1
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Washington					
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\					
Wyoming				_	

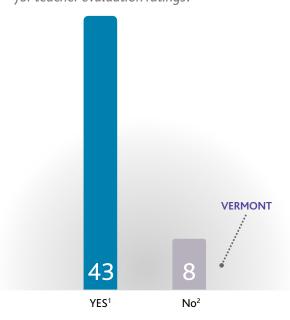
^{2.} Explicitly defined for the 2013-2014 school year.

 The state has an ESEA waiver requiring an evaluation system that includes student achievement as a significant factor. However, no specific guidelines or policies have been articulated.

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

Figure 65

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



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

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

^{2.} Explicitly allowed but not required.

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



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

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

Figure 67	MUTPILE EVALUATOR	_ /	EVALUATORS MUSTRE.	EVALUATOR CRITIFICATION
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states established for	73			
evaluators?	FEV.	, / %	\ \Q_{E_1}^Q \	
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Maryland	1			
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Mississippi	2			
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New Hampshire				
New Jersey				
New Mexico	2			
New York				
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South Dakota				
Tennessee				
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Utah				
VERMONT				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming	Ш			
	4	34	3	13

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

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

➤ Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

Goal Components

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

- 1. The state should require that all teachers receive a formal evaluation rating each year.
- 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



3-C Analysis: Vermont



State Does Not Meet Goal (Progress Since 2011



ANALYSIS

Vermont does not address the number of times teachers must be evaluated.

RECOMMENDATION

Require annual formal evaluations for all teachers.

All teachers in Vermont should be evaluated annually. Rather than treated as mere formalities, these teacher evaluations should serve as important tools for rewarding good teachers, helping average teachers improve and holding weak teachers accountable for poor performance.

Base evaluations on multiple observations.

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

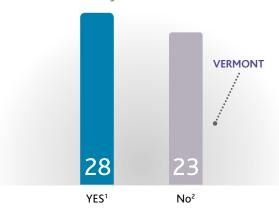
Ensure that new teachers are observed and receive feedback early in the school year.

It is critical that schools and districts closely monitor the performance of new teachers. Vermont 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.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont noted that a task force is now developing an evaluation model for teachers and leaders that will give recommendations in this area.

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

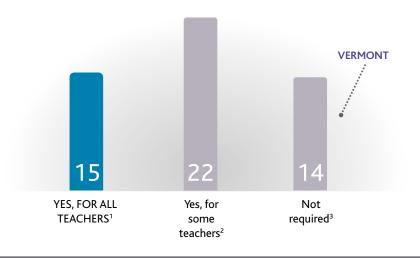


- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland³, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West Virginia,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

Figure 70	AMNUM EVALUATION	AWWALEVALWITON OF ALL PROBATIONARY TEACHERS
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to evaluate all teachers	7. X 0. F	A
	7. Z.	7/4/
each year?	ZET.	/ 1/4/E
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vv youring		
	28	44

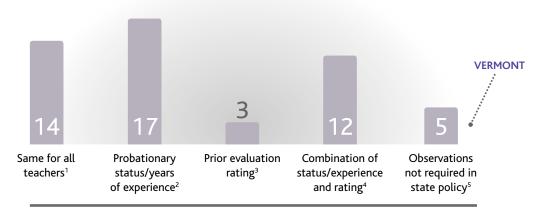
Figure 71

Do states require multiple classroom observations?



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

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



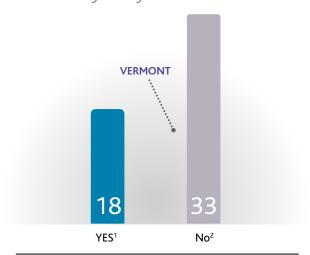
- Alabama, District of Columbia⁶, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island
- 2. Alaska, Arkansas⁷, California⁷, Colorado, Florida, Kansas⁷, Minnesota⁷, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma⁷, Oregon, Pennsylvania⁷, South Carolina,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



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



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

Goal D - Tenure

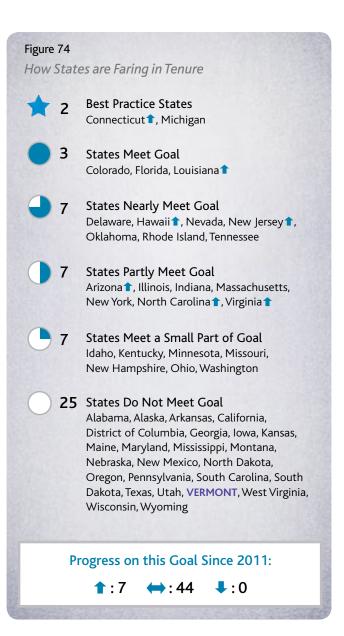
The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Goal Components

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

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

Background



3-D Analysis: Vermont



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

Teachers in Vermont are awarded tenure automatically after a two-year probationary period, absent an additional process that evaluates cumulative evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Supporting Research

Vermont Statute Title 16, Part 3, Chapter 53, Section 1752

RECOMMENDATION

End the automatic awarding of tenure.

The decision to grant tenure should be a deliberate one, based on consideration of a teacher's commitment and actual evidence of classroom effectiveness.

- Ensure evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.
 - Vermont should make evidence of effectiveness, rather than the number of years in the classroom, the most significant factor when determining this leap in professional standing.
- Articulate a process that local districts must administer when deciding which teachers get tenure.
 - Vermont should require a clear process, such as a hearing, to ensure that the local district reviews a teacher's performance before making a determination regarding tenure.
- Require a longer probationary period.

Vermont should extend its probationary period, ideally to five years. This would allow sufficient time to collect data that adequately reflect teacher performance.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont had no comment on this goal.

How long before a teacher earns tenure?							STATE ONLY AWARDS
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	No Pollicy	7 Year	2 Years	3 years	4 VEARS	SYEARS	STATE
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South Dakota							
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Utah							
VERMONT							
Virginia				6			
Washington		П		7			
West Virginia							
Wisconsin							
Wyoming		П	П				П

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



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

Figure 76	FIVENCE OF STUDENT	< /	/
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decisions made?	15 J		dered tical
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Nevada			
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New Mexico			
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North Carolina		2	
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Ohio			
Oklahoma	3		
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas Utah			
VERMONT			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	11	9	31

Goal E – Licensure Advancement

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background



3-E Analysis: Vermont



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

In Vermont, to advance from a Level I license to a Level II Professional Educator's license, teachers must be recommended by the local or regional standards board; have successfully practiced in an endorsement area for three years; provide evidence of three relicensing credits, with at least one addressing the specific knowledge and performance standards of the advancing endorsement; and provide verification from an administrator who has supervised their work that they have demonstrated the competencies required by the endorsement at a professional level. Teachers must also submit an approved Individual Professional Development Plan, developed through analysis of professional practice and student learning data and articulating their professional development goals for the ensuing licensure period.

Vermont does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. To renew a level II professional license, Vermont teachers are required to submit an Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) and document nine professional development credits over the seven-year validity period. Beginning in 2012, teachers must submit a Professional Portfolio for renewal based on their previous IPDP.

Supporting Research

http://www.education.vermont.gov/new/html/licensing/forms/renewal_non-lsb_level_2.html#portfolio

RECOMMENDATION

- Require evidence of effectiveness as a part of teacher licensing policy.
 - Vermont 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.
- Discontinue licensure requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.
 - While targeted requirements may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Vermont's general, nonspecific professional development credit requirements for license renewal merely call for teachers to complete a certain amount of seat time. These requirements do not correlate with teacher effectiveness.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

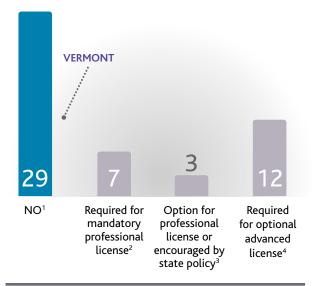
Vermont had no comment on this goal.

Figure 78 Do states require teachers	OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE OF	C CINED	Consideration Biven to describents	Performance tot considered	
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icensure?	OBJE FFFECT	Some objective evidence	Consideration given to classification	Perform	
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Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas California					
Colorado					
Connecticut		- H			
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia	1				
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois		2			
Indiana Iowa					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland		3			
Massachusetts					
Michigan					
Minnesota					
Mississippi					
Missouri					
Montana					
Nebraska Nevada					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio					
Oklahoma					
Oregon					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
VERMONT					
Virginia					
Washington					Evidence of effective
West Virginia					not for conferring of
Wisconsin					2. Illinois allows revocat
Wyoming					Maryland uses some o systems for renewal, b
	6	4	9	32	still based on earning a

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

Figure 79

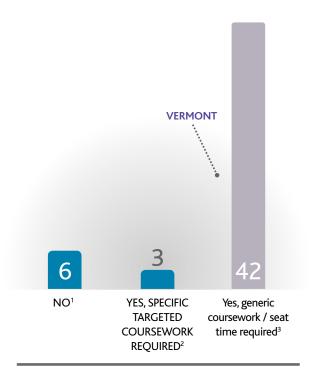
Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?



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

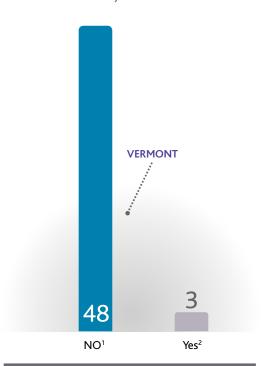
Figure 80

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



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

Figure 81 Do states award lifetime licenses?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut³, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin,
- 2. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia
- 3. Although teachers in Connecticut must renew their licenses every five years, there are no requirements for renewal.



TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

→ Goal F — Equitable Distribution

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background



3-F Analysis: Vermont



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



(🛑) Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

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

Vermont does report on the percentage of teachers on emergency credentials and the percentage of highly qualified teachers. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. Vermont's Highly Qualified Teacher Plan, published in February 2007, compares the percentage of highly qualified teachers by poverty levels and minority populations, but it has not been updated.

Supporting Research

2010-2011 School-Level Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) and Emergency License Data http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-HQT_2010_to_2011_School_Level_Data.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

Report school-level teacher effectiveness data.

Vermont should make aggregate school-level data about teacher performance—from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness—publicly available. Data about the effectiveness of a school's teachers would shine a light on how equitably teachers are distributed across and within school districts.

In the absence of data from such an evaluation system, the state should 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 show how equitably teachers are distributed both across and within districts. Vermont 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.

Vermont 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.

Providing comparative data for schools with similar poverty and minority populations would yield a more comprehensive picture of gaps in the equitable distribution of teachers.

Ensure that data are current.

It is important to keep data updated and current in order to provide the public with an accurate picture of teacher distribution across schools in districts. Vermont should update the data it reports on the percentage of highly qualified teachers at the school level, which it has not done since 2006-2007.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO AN Vermont indicated that the sta- level each year, and because the Qualified Teacher Plan.	ate monitors the percent	age of highly qualified and ages, it does not require	teachers at the school updating in the Highly

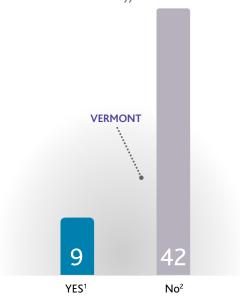
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** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

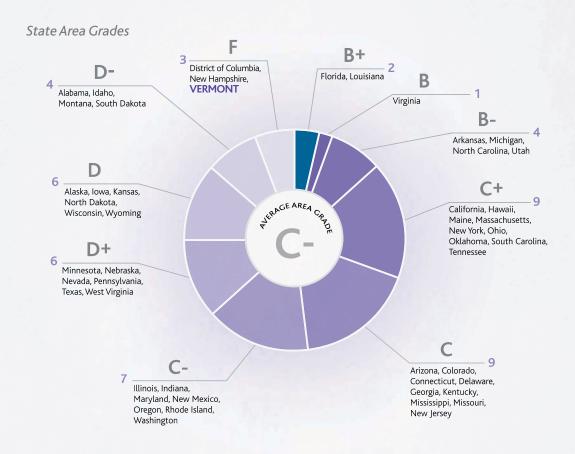


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas³, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts⁴, Missouri, New York, North Carolina,
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida⁵, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota,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

Area 4 Summary



How States are Faring in Retaining Effective Teachers





Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

➤ Goal A – Induction

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background



4-A Analysis: **Vermont**



State Does Not Meet Goal



ANALYSIS

Vermont does not require a mentoring program or any other induction support for its new teachers.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Set specific parameters.

To ensure that all teachers receive high-quality mentoring, the state should specify how long the program lasts for a new teacher, who selects the mentors and a method of performance evaluation.

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

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

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont had no comment on this goal.

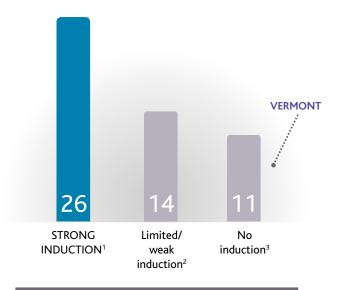
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T EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

➤ Goal B – Professional Development

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background



4-B Analysis: Vermont



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Vermont's new Guidelines for Teacher and Leader Effectiveness require observations and formative and summative evaluations. However, a formal feedback loop is not established either by providing teachers with copies of their evaluations or postobservation conferences. The state's new guidelines state, "A variety of stakeholders (e.g., students, parents, peers, administrators, evaluators) will provide feedback which the educator will synthesize and reflect upon to inform professional practice." The guidelines also suggest rather than require that evaluations be used to inform professional learning opportunities, and that teachers found to be "ineffective" be placed on improvement plans. However, districts are not required to adopt any of these guidelines.

Supporting Research

Vermont Guidelines for Teacher and Leader Effectiveness http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Guidelines_for_Teacher_and_Leader_Effectiveness.pdf Vermont Statutes Title 16, Chapter 3, Section 165

RECOMMENDATION

- Require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance. In order to increase their effectiveness in the classroom, teachers need to receive feedback on strengths and areas that need improvement identified in their evaluations. As such, Vermont should require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their classroom performance.
- Ensure that professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations. Professional development that is not informed by evaluation results may be of little value to teachers' professional growth and aim of increasing their effectiveness in the classroom. Vermont should ensure that districts utilize teacher evaluation results in determining professional development needs and activities.
- Ensure that teachers receiving less than effective ratings are placed on a professional improvement plan.

Vermont should adopt a policy requiring that teachers who receive even one unsatisfactory evaluation be placed on structured improvement plans. These plans should focus on performance areas that directly connect to student learning and should identify noted deficiencies, define specific action steps necessary to address these deficiencies and describe how and when progress will be measured.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

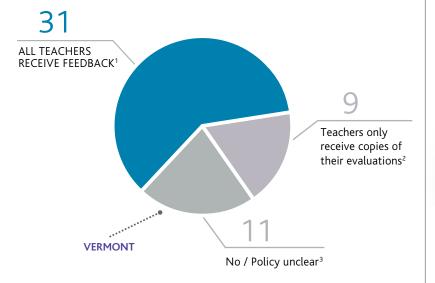
Louisiana and North Carolina require that teachers receive feedback about their performance from their evaluations and direct districts to connect professional development to teachers' identified needs. Both states also require that teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations are placed on structured improvement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

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

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Figure 90

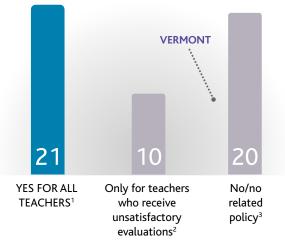
Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?



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

Figure 91

Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal C − Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

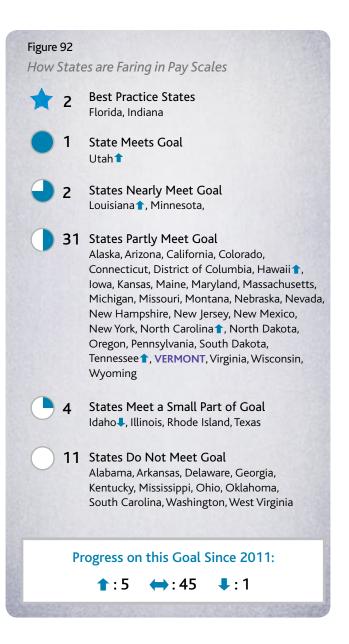
Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



4-C Analysis: **Vermont**



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

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

RECOMMENDATION

- Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.
 - While still leaving districts the flexibility to establish their own pay scale, Vermont 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, Vermont should articulate policies that discourage districts from determining the highest steps on the pay scale solely by seniority.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Figure 93

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

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^{1.} Colorado gives districts the option of a salary schedule, a performance pay policy or a combination of both.

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

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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

→ Goal D – Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

Goal Component

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

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

Background

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



4-D Analysis: Vermont



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Vermont 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, Vermont 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.

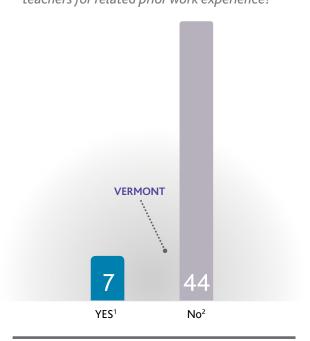
VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



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

Figure 96

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



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal E − Differential Pay

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



4-E Analysis: **Vermont**



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Vermont does not support differential pay in which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. The state does, however, support loan forgiveness. Loans may be partially or completely canceled for licensed teachers of mathematics, science or computer science when the subject is deemed to be a critical shortage area.

Vermont does not support differential pay for those teaching in high-need schools; however, the state has no regulatory language that would directly block districts from providing differential pay.

Supporting Research

Vermont Statute 2869

RECOMMENDATION

- **Expand differential pay initiatives for teachers in subject-shortage areas.**
 - Although the state's loan forgiveness program is a desirable recruitment and retention tool for teachers early in their careers, Vermont should expand its program to include those who are already part of the teaching pool. A salary differential is an attractive incentive for every teacher, not just those with education debt.
- Support differential pay for teachers in high-need schools.

Vermont should consider tying its National Board supplements to teaching in a high-need school. This differential pay could be an incentive to attract some of the state's most effective teachers to low-performing schools.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

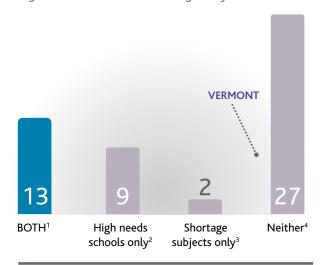
^{2.} South Dakota offers scholarships to teachers in high-need schools.



TEXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal F − Performance Pay

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



4-F Analysis: Vermont



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Vermont 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, Vermont 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.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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****** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

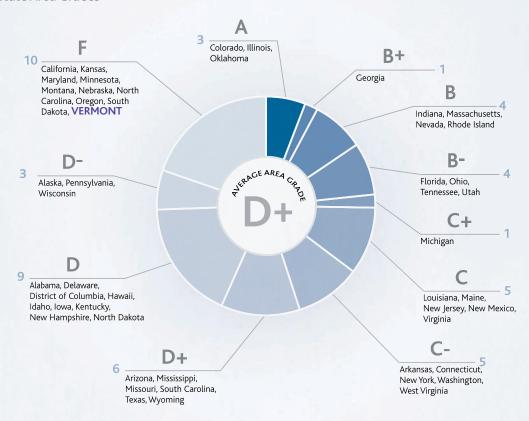
^{2.} Nevada's initiative does not go into effect until 2015-2016.

Area 5 Summary



How States are Faring in Exiting Ineffective Teachers

State Area Grades



Topics Included In This Area

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

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal A − Extended Emergency Licenses

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



5-A Analysis: **Vermont**



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Vermont allows teachers who have not met licensure requirements to teach under a two-year provisional license if local superintendents cannot find a qualified applicant for a position. Applicants must either be licensed in another state, possess an expired Vermont teaching license, have a major in their teaching field or have passed a content assessment in their teaching field.

The state also allows superintendents who cannot find a qualified applicant for a teaching position to apply for a nonrenewable, one-year emergency license for an individual who holds a bachelor's degree.

Supporting Research

Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators

http://education.vermont.gov/documents/educ_5100_licensing_regulations.pdf#page=12

RECOMMENDATION

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

All students are entitled to teachers who know the subject matter they are teaching. Permitting individuals who have not yet passed state licensing tests to teach neglects the needs of students, instead extending personal consideration to adults who may not be able to meet minimal state standards. Even though all four of Vermont's provisional license requirements ensure at least some level of content knowledge, the state should require that all teachers pass licensing tests—an important minimum benchmark for entering the profession—before entering the classroom.

Limit exceptions to one year.

There might be limited and exceptional circumstances under which conditional or emergency licenses need to be granted. In these instances, it is reasonable for a state to give teachers up to one year to pass required licensing tests. Vermont's current policy puts students at risk by allowing teachers to teach on a provisional license for two years without passing required licensing tests.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Vermont had no comment on this analysis.

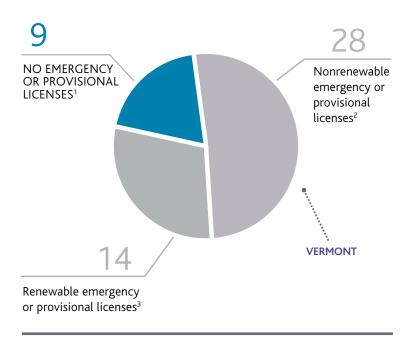
Figure 103				/ _[6]
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West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				



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

Figure 104

Do states still award emergency licenses?



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

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

➤ Goal B — Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

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

5-B Analysis: **Vermont**



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Vermont does not explicitly make teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal, nor does the state 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 the state articulates vaguely as "just and sufficient cause."

Tenured teachers who are terminated have at least one opportunity to appeal. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher may, within 15 days, request a hearing. The state does not articulate a specific time frame for the hearing. It is not clear whether the decision of this hearing is final or if a second appeal is possible.

Supporting Research

Vermont Statute Title 16, Chapter 53, Section 1752

RECOMMENDATION

Specify that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

effectiveness are only decided only by those with educational expertise.

- "Just and sufficient cause" is ambiguous at best and may be interpreted as concerning dereliction of duty rather than ineffectiveness. Vermont should explicitly make teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal so that districts do not feel they lack the legal basis for terminating consistently poor performers.
- Ensure that teachers terminated for poor performance have the opportunity to appeal within a reasonable time frame.
 - Nonprobationary teachers who are dismissed for any grounds, including ineffectiveness, are entitled to due process. However, cases that drag on for years drain resources from school districts and create a disincentive for districts to attempt to terminate poor performers. Therefore, Vermont must ensure that the opportunity to appeal occurs only once and only at the district level. It is in the best interest of both the teacher and the district that a conclusion is reached within a reasonable time frame.
- Distinguish the process and accompanying due process rights between dismissal for classroom ineffectiveness and dismissal for morality violations, felonies or dereliction of duty. While nonprobationary teachers should have due process for any termination, it is important to differentiate between loss of employment and issues with far-reaching consequences that could permanently affect a teacher's right to practice. Vermont should ensure that appeals related to classroom

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS



** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Florida and Oklahoma clearly articulate that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal. In both states, teachers are eligible for dismissal after two annual ratings of unsatisfactory performance. Each state has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed to be ineffective is expedited. Teachers facing dismissal have only one opportunity to appeal. Figure 106

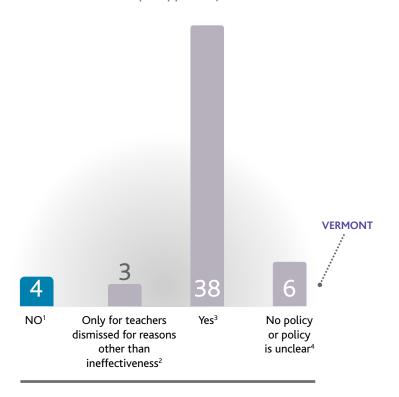
Do states articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds

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

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

Figure 107

Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



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

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal C − Reductions in Force

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

Goal Component

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

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

Background

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



5-C Analysis: **Vermont**



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2011

ANALYSIS

Vermont does not have policy that addresses the factors used by districts to determine which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force.

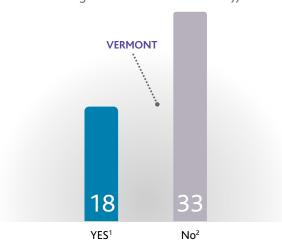
RECOMMENDATION

- Require that districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.
 - Vermont can still leave districts flexibility in determining layoff policies, but it should do so within a framework that ensures that classroom performance is considered.
- Ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off. Unlike some states, Vermont does not require that districts consider seniority; however, the state should do more to prevent districts from making decisions solely on this basis.

VERMONT RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Figure 109

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



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

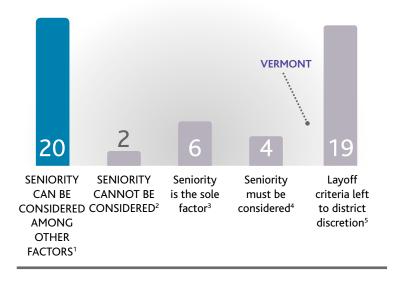
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Colorado, **Florida**, and **Indiana** all specify that in determining which teachers to lay off during a reduction in force, classroom performance is the top criterion. These states also articulate that seniority can only be considered after a teacher's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

Figure 111

Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?



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

Goals and Keywords

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

Goals and Keywords

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

Goals and Keywords

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

Teacher Policy Priorities for Vermont

demonstrating academic ability in the top 50th percentile. Require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous stand-alone science of reading test. Specifically require secondary social studies and science teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach. Ensure that both elementary and secondary special education teachers possess adequate and appropriate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach. Require all new teachers to pass a pedagogy test. Good	pal 1-A pal 1-C pal 1-F pal 1-G pal 1-H pal 1-I
 Specifically require secondary social studies and science teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach. Ensure that both elementary and secondary special education teachers possess adequate and appropriate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach. Require all new teachers to pass a pedagogy test. 	pal 1-F pal 1-G pal 1-H
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■ Ensure that cooperating teachers for student teaching placements have demonstrated evidence of	val 1 I
effectiveness as measured by student learning.	at 1-J
Hold teacher preparation programs accountable by collecting data that connect student achievement gains to programs, as well as other meaningful data that reflect program performance, and by establishing the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.	oal 1-K
	March Car
AREA 2: Expanding the Teaching Pool	
Increase admission requirements to alternate route programs, including a high bar for academic proficiency and passage of a subject-matter test.	oal 2-A
Establish guidelines for alternate route programs that require preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. Ensure that programs provide intensive induction support to alternate route teachers.	oal 2-B
Allow a diversity of providers for alternate route programs.	al 2-C
0 th	oal 2-E
AREA 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	a discossida esc
Require student growth to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.	al 3-B
Formally evaluate all teachers annually.	al 3-C
■ Ensure that evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions. Goa	al 3-D
■ Base licensure advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license and licensure renewal on evidence of effectiveness.	oal 3-E
Publish aggregate school-level teacher evaluation ratings from an evaluation system based on instructional effectiveness.	al 3-F

AREA 4: Retaining Effective Teachers			
■ Require effective induction for all new teachers, including mentoring of sufficient frequency and duration.	Goal 4-A		
■ Link professional development activities to findings in individual teacher evaluations, and place teachers with ineffective or needs improvement ratings on structured improvement plans.	Goal 4-B		
■ Discourage districts from basing teacher pay scales primarily on advanced degrees and seniority.	Goal 4-C		
Support differential pay initiatives for effective teachers in both shortage subject areas and high-need schools.	Goal 4-E		
Support performance pay to recognize teachers for their effectiveness.	Goal 4-F		

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

