



A multistate review of professional teaching standards



Institute of Education Sciences
U.S. Department of Education



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Summary

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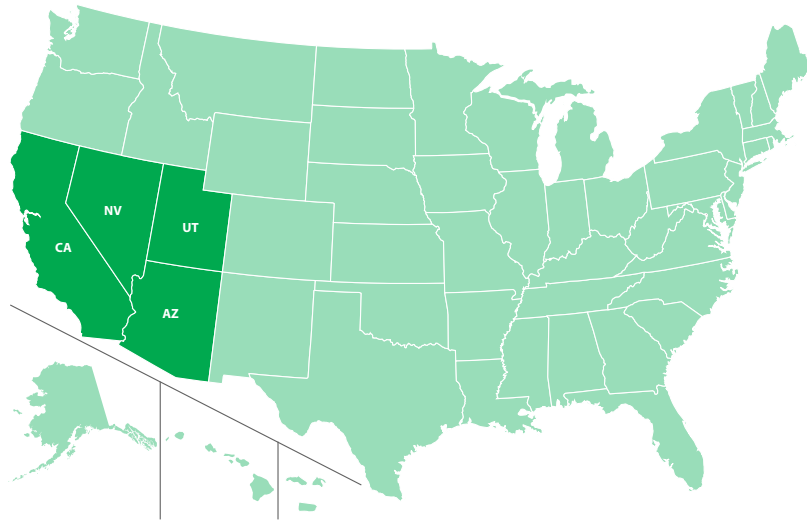
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This report is available on the regional educational laboratory web site at <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs>.

A multistate review of professional teaching standards

This review of teaching standards in six states—California, Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio, and Texas—focuses on the structure, target audience, and selected content of the standards to inform California’s revision of its teaching standards. The report was developed at the request of key education agencies in California.

California is revising its state teaching standards. This report, developed at the request of key education agencies in California, provides an overview of the teaching standards in five states—Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio, and Texas—purposefully selected to inform California’s revision process. California’s current teaching standards are also reviewed as a point of comparison. The review focuses on the structure and target audience of the states’ teaching standards, as well as on selected content. Three questions guided the research:

- What is the target group of teachers for the teaching standards?
- What is the structure of the teaching standards?
- To what extent do the state teaching standards address instruction of English language learner students, instruction of students with disabilities, use of education

technology, and instruction in the context of accountability and student learning standards?

Key findings of the review, which entailed examining each state’s teaching standards and supporting documents, include the following:

- California, Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, and Ohio have developed their teaching standards to cover all teachers, from beginning to experienced. Texas has developed its teaching standards expressly for beginning teachers.
- California, Illinois, and North Carolina each has one set of teaching standards that applies to all teachers. Teaching standards in Florida are differentiated by teachers’ career levels and in Ohio by teachers’ performance levels. Texas has 50 different sets of teaching standards, generally organized by content area and grade span. However, one of them, the pedagogy and professional responsibilities standards (EC-12), applies to all beginning teachers from early childhood education through grade 12. This set is similar to the other state teaching standards reviewed for this study in content and purpose and thus is the set on which this report focuses when discussing Texas.

- The professional teaching standards documents reviewed for this report vary in length between 4 pages (North Carolina) and 32 pages (Florida), and the number of teaching standards in each document ranges from 4 (Texas) to 12 (Florida).
- The states' teaching standards address instruction of English language learner students through the following topics: recognition or support of diversity (5 states), differentiation of instruction for English language learner students (5 states), knowledge of related theory or strategies (4 states), communication with students and families (3 states), assessment of students' language status and development (2 states), and selection of related materials or curricula (1 state).
- Instruction of students with disabilities is addressed through several topics in the state teaching standards reviewed for this report: differentiated instruction (5 states), inclusion (4 states), collaboration with Individualized Education Program teams and other stakeholders (4 states), students' rights (3 states), patterns or styles of learning (2 states), identification of students with disabilities (2 states), teachers' attitudes and self-assessment (1 state), and assessment of students with disabilities (1 state).
- The use of technology in the classroom was addressed through the following topics: effective integration into instruction (6 states), conventions for accessing or managing information (4 states), use of technology to assess students (3 states), identification of technology and evaluation of its instructional value (3 states), teachers' demonstration of competence with or interest in technology (3 states), use of assistive technology for students with disabilities (2 states), and use of technology for collaboration or communication (2 states).
- The teaching standards considered accountability and student learning standards through four topics: teachers' knowledge and understanding of state learning standards (4 states), use of learning standards to plan instruction (3 states), delivery of standards-based instruction (3 states), and assessment of students' progress toward meeting the state learning standards (3 states).

Collectively, the six sets of state teaching standards reviewed offer various options for broad consideration, such as structure and target groups of teachers. They also offer specific details on issues and topics emphasized and on language choices. Individual state profiles, available online at www.wested.org, include extensive excerpts from the teaching standards documents. The excerpts are generally organized according to the issues and topics outlined in this overview, as a reference.

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