

2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Rhode Island

OVERALL GRADE

B-



National Council on Teacher Quality

Acknowledgments

STATES

State education agencies remain our most important partners in this effort, and their gracious cooperation has helped to ensure the factual accuracy of the final product. Every state formally received a draft of the *Yearbook* in July 2011 for comment and correction; states also received a final draft of their reports a month prior to release. All but one state responded to our inquiries. While states do not always agree with the recommendations, their willingness to acknowledge the imperfections of their teacher policies is an important first step toward reform.

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

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National Council on Teacher Quality

Executive Summary

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

The *2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook* includes NCTQ's biennial, full review of the state laws, rules and regulations that govern the teaching profession. This year's report measures state progress against a set of 36 policy goals focused on helping states put in place a comprehensive framework in support of preparing, retaining and rewarding effective teachers. For the first time, the *Yearbook* includes a progress rating for states on goals that have been measured over time. An overall progress ranking is also included, showing how states compare to each other in moving forward on their teacher policies.

Rhode Island at a Glance

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade: **B-**

Overall 2009 Yearbook Grade: D

| Area Grades | 2011 | 2009 |
|---|------|------|
| Area 1 <i>Delivering Well Prepared Teachers</i> | D+ | D |
| Area 2 <i>Expanding the Teaching Pool</i> | B- | C |
| Area 3 <i>Identifying Effective Teachers</i> | A- | D |
| Area 4 <i>Retaining Effective Teachers</i> | D | D |
| Area 5 <i>Exiting Ineffective Teachers</i> | B+ | F |

Overall Progress



Highlights from recent progress in Rhode Island include:

- Evidence of student learning in teacher evaluations
- Tenure decisions connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness
- Licensure advancement and renewal connected to teacher effectiveness
- Dismissal for classroom ineffectiveness
- Teacher preparation program admission requirements

How is Rhode Island Faring?

Area 1 Delivering Well Prepared Teachers

D+

Policy Strengths

- Teacher candidates are required to pass a basic skills test as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- The state does not offer a K-12 special education certification.

Policy Weaknesses

- Elementary teachers are not adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with the Common Core Standards.
- Preparation programs are not required to address the science of reading, and candidates are not required to pass a test to ensure knowledge.
- Neither teacher preparation program nor licensure test requirements ensure that new elementary teachers are adequately prepared to teach mathematics.
- Middle school teachers and secondary teachers are not required to pass a content test.
- Not all new teachers must pass an adequate pedagogy test.
- Requirements for teacher preparation do not ensure a high-quality student teaching experience.
- The teacher preparation program approval process does not hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

Area 2 Expanding the Pool of Teachers

B-

Policy Strengths

- Admission requirements for the alternate route to certification evaluate past academic performance and offer flexibility for nontraditional candidates.
- Although more could be done to meet the immediate needs of new teachers, requirements for alternate route preparation are appropriately streamlined.
- There are no restrictions on alternate route usage or providers.

Policy Weaknesses

- The state does not offer a license with minimal requirements that would allow content experts to teach part time.
- Out-of-state teachers are not required to meet the state's testing requirements, and there are additional obstacles that do not support licensure reciprocity.

Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers

A-

Policy Strengths

- The state data system has the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Objective evidence of student learning is the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.
- All teachers must be evaluated annually.
- Tenure decisions are connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Licensure advancement and renewal are based on teacher effectiveness.

Policy Weaknesses

- Although doing more than most states, more school-level data could be reported to support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

Area 4 Retaining Effective Teachers

D

Policy Strengths

- All new teachers receive mentoring.
- Teachers receive feedback from their evaluations, and professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.

Policy Weaknesses

- Districts must develop salary schedules that recognize years of experience and advanced degrees.
- Teachers are only offered a defined benefit pension plan, and pension policies are not portable, flexible or fair to all teachers.
- The state does not support performance pay or additional compensation for relevant prior work experience, working in high-need schools or teaching in shortage subject areas.
- The pension system is significantly underfunded and requires excessive contributions.
- Retirement benefits are determined by a formula that is not neutral, meaning that pension wealth does not accumulate uniformly for each year a teacher works.

Area 5 Exiting Ineffective Teachers

B+

Policy Strengths

- The state has taken steps to ensure that licensure testing requirements are met by all teachers within one year.
- Ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal.
- Teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations are required to go on improvement plans and, if they do not improve, are eligible for dismissal.
- Performance must be considered when determining which teachers to lay off during reductions in force, and a last hired, first fired layoff policy is prohibited.

Policy Weaknesses

- Tenured teachers who are dismissed have multiple opportunities to appeal.

Rhode Island Goal Summary

Goal Breakdown

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| ★ Best Practice | 1 |
| ● Fully Meets | 6 |
| ◐ Nearly Meets | 9 |
| ◑ Partially Meets | 4 |
| ◒ Only Meets a Small Part | 7 |
| ○ Does Not Meet | 9 |

Progress on Goals Since 2009

 10
  1
  18
 NEW GOAL 7

Area 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers

| | |
|--|---|
| 1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs | ◐ |
| 1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation | ○ |
| 1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction | ○ |
| 1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics | ◐ |
| 1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation | ◑ |
| 1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation | ○ |
| 1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science | ○ |
| 1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies | ○ |
| 1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation | ◐ |
| 1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge | ◐ |
| 1-K: Student Teaching | ◐ |
| 1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability | ◐ |

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

| | |
|--|---|
| 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 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 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 | ◐ |

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

| | |
|---|---|
| 4-A: Induction | ◐ |
| 4-B: Professional Development | ● |
| 4-C: Pay Scales | ◐ |
| 4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience | ○ |
| 4-E: Differential Pay | ◐ |
| 4-F: Performance Pay | ○ |
| 4-G: Pension Flexibility | ◐ |
| 4-H: Pension Sustainability | ◐ |
| 4-I: Pension Neutrality | ○ |

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 5-A: Licensure Loopholes | ◐ |
| 5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations | ● |
| 5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance | ◐ |
| 5-D: Reductions in Force | ◐ |

About the Yearbook

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

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

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

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

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

How to Read the *Yearbook*


NCTQ rates state teacher policy in several ways.

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



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

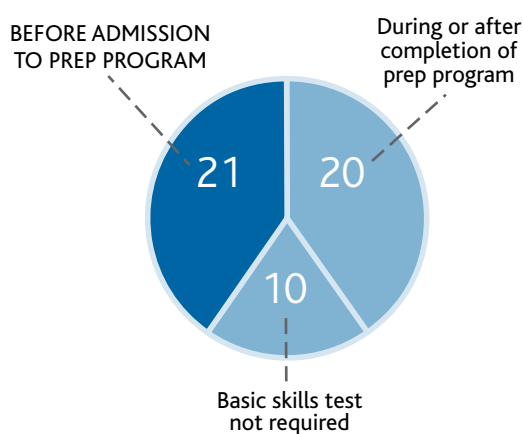


Some goals are marked with this symbol , which indicates that the bar has been raised for this goal since the 2009 *Yearbook*. With many states making considerable progress in advancing teacher effectiveness policy, NCTQ raised the standards for some goals where the bar had been quite low. As this may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

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

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

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



Goals

AREA 1: DELIVERING WELL PREPARED TEACHERS

PAGE 9

1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs

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

1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

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

1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

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

1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies

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

1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

1-K: Student Teaching

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

1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

AREA 2: EXPANDING THE POOL OF TEACHERS

PAGE 57

2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility

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

2-B: Alternate Route Preparation

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

2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses

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

2-E: Licensure Reciprocity

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

Goals

AREA 3: IDENTIFYING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

PAGE 79

3-A: State Data Systems

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

3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

3-C: Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

3-D: Tenure

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

3-E: Licensure Advancement

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

3-F: Equitable Distribution

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

AREA 4: RETAINING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

PAGE 103

4-A: Induction

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

4-B: Professional Development

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

4-C: Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

4-E: Differential Pay

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

4-F: Performance Pay

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

4-G: Pension Flexibility

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

4-H: Pension Sustainability

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

4-I: Pension Neutrality

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

AREA 5: EXITING INEFFECTIVE TEACHERS

PAGE 145

5-A: Licensure Loopholes

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

5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations

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

5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

5-D: Reductions in Force

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal A – Admission into Preparation Programs

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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

Figure 1

How States are Faring in Admission Requirements



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 6 ↔ : 45 ↓ : 0



State Nearly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Rhode Island now requires that approved undergraduate teacher preparation programs only accept teacher candidates who have passed a basic skills test, the Praxis I. Although the state sets the minimum score for this test, it is normed just to the prospective teacher population.

Rhode Island also allows teacher preparation programs to exempt candidates who demonstrate equivalent performance on the SAT and ACT. Further, the state allows programs, in rare instances and with state approval, to offer conditional acceptance to candidates not meeting this requirement, provided they receive appropriate support.

In addition, the state plans to incrementally raise the passing scores for the basic skills test over a two-year period.

Supporting Research

Basic Skills Test Score Requirements

http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Teacher_Prep/Basic%20Skills%20Test%20Score%20Requirements.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

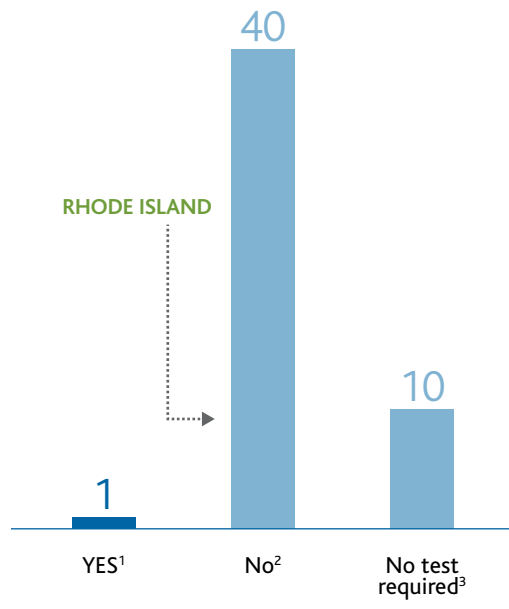
Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 2

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



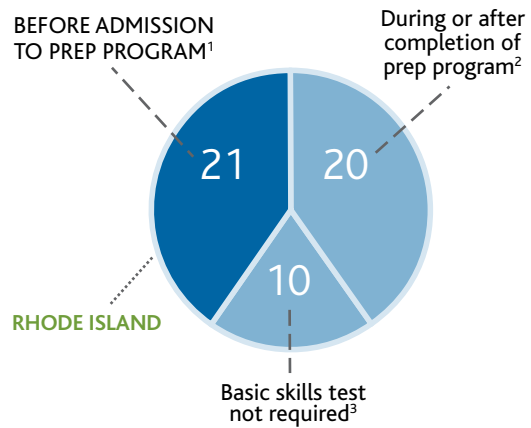
1. **Strong Practice:** Texas

2. Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Figure 3

When do states test teacher candidates' basic skills?



1. **Strong Practice:** Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

2. Alabama, Alaska, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont

3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

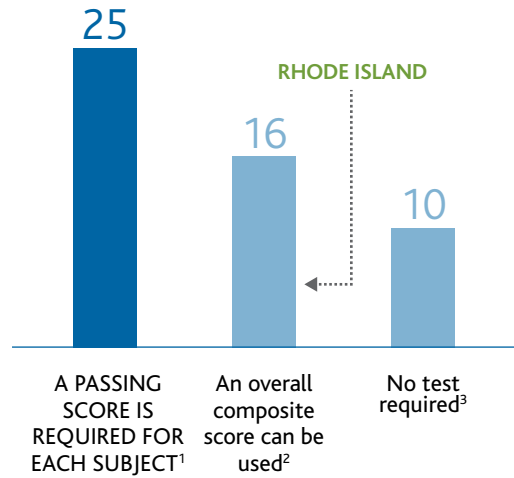
Figure 4

Do states appropriately test teacher candidates' academic proficiency?

| | TEST NORMED TO COLLEGE-BOUND POPULATION PRIOR TO ADMISSION TO PREP PROGRAM | Test normed only to teacher candidates before admission to prep program | Test normed only to teacher candidates during or after completion of prep program | No test required |
|----------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | 1 | 20 | 20 | 10 |

Figure 5

Do states measure performance in reading, mathematics and writing?



- Strong Practice:** Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- California⁴, District of Columbia⁴, Hawaii⁴, Indiana, Iowa, Maine⁴, Maryland, New Hampshire⁴, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota², Pennsylvania⁴, Rhode Island⁴, Vermont, Virginia
- Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming
- Minimum score must be met in each section.
- Composite score can only be used if passing score is met on two of three subtests.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal B – Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 6

How States are Faring in Elementary Teacher Preparation



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 3 ↔ : 44 ↓ : 4



ANALYSIS

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

Rhode Island requires candidates to pass the Praxis II general elementary content test, which does not report teacher performance in each subject area, meaning that it is possible to pass the test and still fail some subject areas, especially given the state's low passing score. Further, based on available information on the Praxis II, there is no reason to expect the current version would be well aligned with the Common Core Standards.

Although the state does not specify any coursework requirements for general education or elementary teacher candidates, Rhode Island has adopted NCATE's Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) standards for approving its elementary programs. However, ACEI standards fall far short of the mark by offering no mention of world and American history; world, British and American literature; American government; or grammar and composition. ACEI standards do mention important topics in science, but even in those areas, its standards consist mainly of extremely general competencies that programs should help teacher candidates to achieve.

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

Supporting Research

The Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards

www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/DOCS/General_Documents/PDF/RIPTS_final_08-2008.pdf

Praxis II

www.ets.org

RECOMMENDATION

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

Rhode Island should ensure that its subject-matter test for elementary teacher candidates is well aligned with the Common Core Standards, which represent an effort to significantly raise the standards for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness.

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

■ **Provide broad liberal arts coursework relevant to the elementary classroom.**

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

■ **Require at least an academic concentration.**

An academic concentration, if not a full academic major, would not only enhance Rhode Island teachers' content knowledge, but it would also ensure that prospective teachers have taken higher-level academic coursework. Further, it would provide an option for teacher candidates unable to fulfill student teaching or other professional requirements to still earn a degree.

■ **Ensure arts and sciences faculty teach liberal arts coursework.**

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

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that new certification regulations are being proposed that will eventually address a change in testing. Further, the competency approach to certification will not rely solely on ACEI standards.

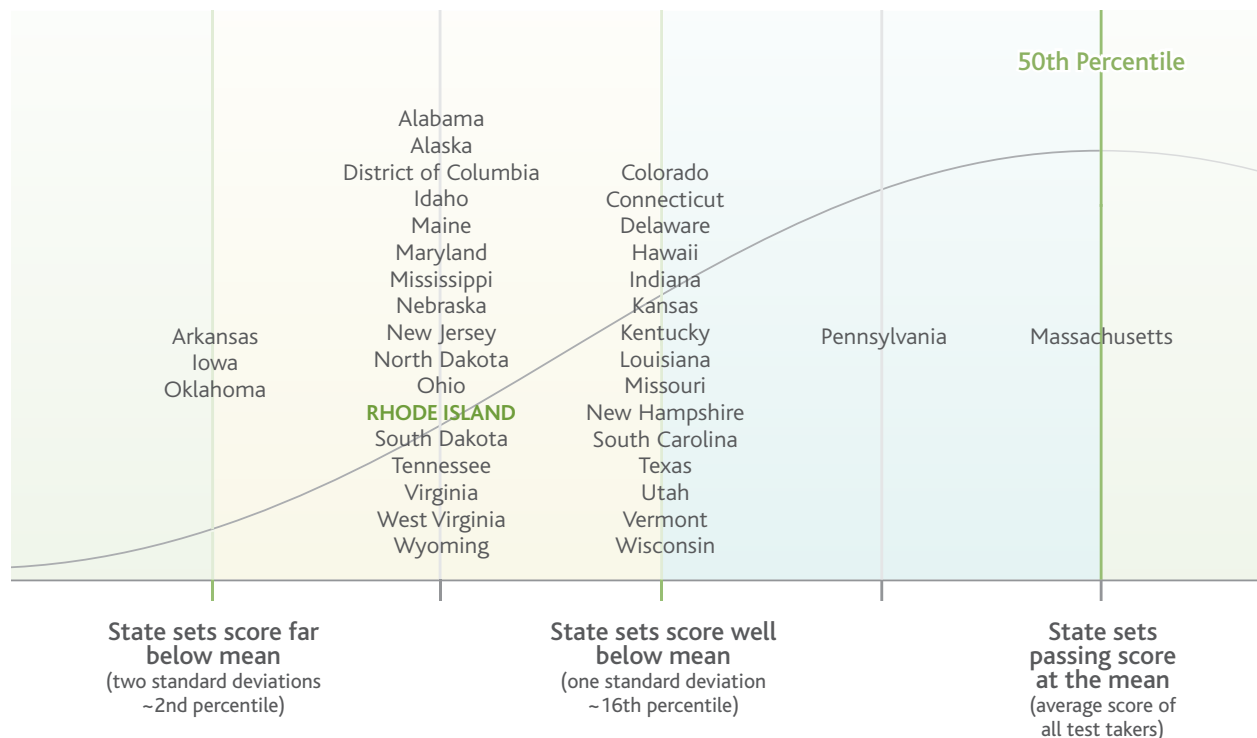
Rhode Island also pointed out that ACEI is not the only set of required standards. The program-approval process reviews the content knowledge development of elementary teachers, and programs align to other standards, such as NCTM, to meet this requirement.

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 7

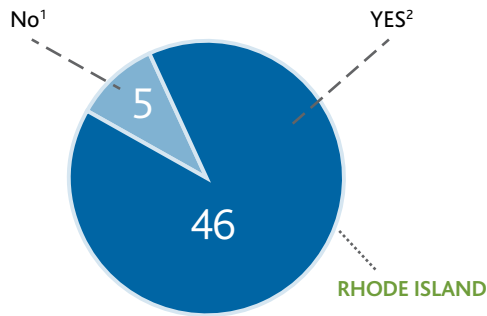
Where do states set the passing score on elementary content licensure tests¹?



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

Figure 8

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



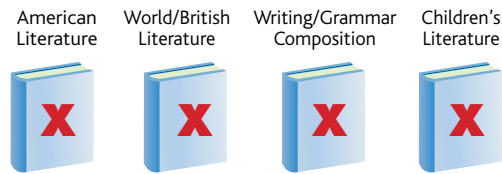
1. Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, Virginia

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

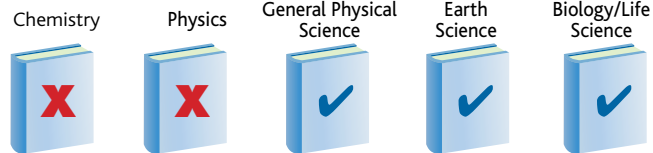
Figure 9

What subjects does Rhode Island expect elementary teachers to know?

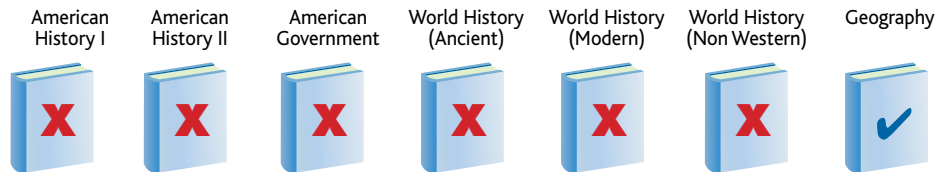
ENGLISH



SCIENCE



SOCIAL STUDIES



FINE ARTS



- ✓ State requirements mention subject
- ★ State requirements cover subject in depth
- X State does not require subject

Figure 10

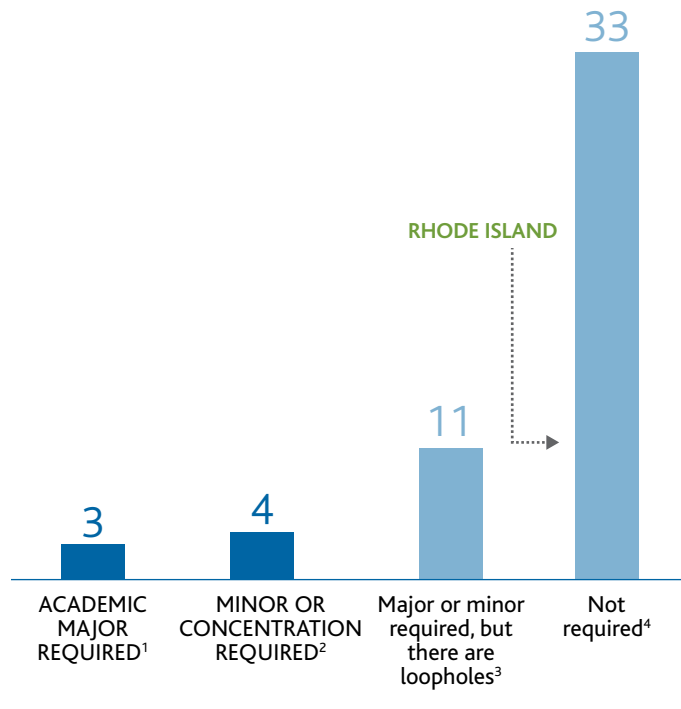
Do states expect elementary teachers to have in-depth knowledge of core content?

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| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Subject mentioned Subject covered in depth

Figure 11

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



1. **Strong Practice:** Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico

2. **Strong Practice:** Indiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Oklahoma

3. California, Connecticut, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia
These states require a major, minor or concentration but there is no assurance it will be in an academic subject area.

4. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

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. To ensure that teacher preparation programs adequately prepare candidates in the science of reading instruction, the state should require that these programs train teachers in the five instructional components shown by scientifically based reading research to be essential to teaching children to read.
2. The state should require that new elementary teachers pass a rigorous test of reading instruction in order to attain licensure. The design of the test should ensure that prospective teachers cannot pass without knowing the science of reading instruction.

Background

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

Figure 12

How States are Faring in Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 5 ↔ : 46 ↓ : 0



ANALYSIS

Rhode Island does not require that teacher preparation programs for elementary teacher candidates address the science of reading. The state has neither coursework requirements nor standards related to this critical area. Rhode Island does require that all elementary teacher candidates must take some coursework in reading; however, it does not explicitly require that teachers receive training in the five essential components of reading instruction.

Although Rhode Island's PK-12 Literacy Policy addresses the five components of scientifically based reading instruction, it serves only as guidance for local curricula decisions and undergraduate and graduate teacher preparation coursework.

Rhode Island also does not require teacher candidates to pass an assessment that measures knowledge of scientifically based reading instruction prior to certification or at any point thereafter.

Supporting Research

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Certification/Certreqs.aspx>

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/instruction/readingpolicy.aspx>

RECOMMENDATION

- **Ensure that teacher preparation programs prepare elementary teaching candidates in the science of reading instruction.**

Rhode Island should ensure that teacher preparation programs adequately prepare elementary teacher candidates in the science of reading by requiring, not just recommending, that these programs train candidates in the five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

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

Rhode Island 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 if it is combined with an assessment that also tests general pedagogy or elementary content, it should report a subscore for the science of reading specifically. Elementary teachers who do not possess the minimum knowledge in this area should not be eligible for licensure.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

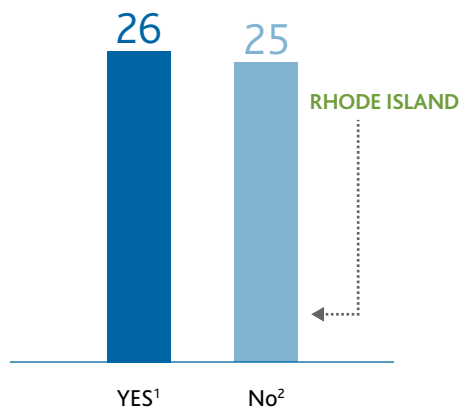
Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is proposing new certification regulations that may address some of these concerns. The draft was to be released for public comment at the end of August, and the schedule would include adopting new regulations by December.

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 13

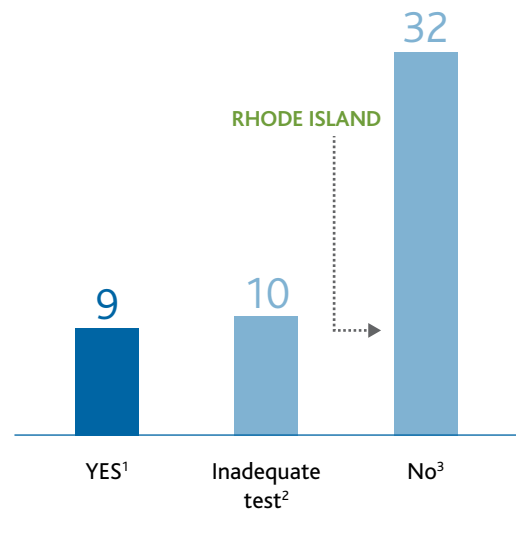
Do states require preparation for elementary teachers in the science of reading?



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

Figure 14

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



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

Figure 15

Do states ensure that elementary teachers know the science of reading?

| | PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS | | TESTING REQUIREMENTS | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | FULLY ADDRESS READING SCIENCE | Do not address reading science | APPROPRIATE TEST | Inadequate test | No reading test |
| Alabama | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | 26 | 25 | 9 | 10 | 32 |

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

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

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.)

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

Background

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

Figure 16

How States are Faring in Teacher Preparation in Mathematics



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑: 4 ↔: 47 ↓: 0

**ANALYSIS**

Rhode Island relies on national accreditation standards for teacher preparation programs as the basis for articulating its requirements for the mathematics content knowledge of elementary teacher candidates.

The state has adopted NCATE's ACEI (Association for Childhood Education International) standards for approving its elementary programs. ACEI standards address content in mathematics foundations, but these standards lack the specificity needed to ensure that teacher preparation programs deliver other mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates. For example, ACEI algebra standards state that teacher candidates should "know, understand and apply algebraic principles," but these standards make little mention of the actual knowledge that might contribute to such an understanding.

Finally, Rhode Island requires that all new elementary teachers pass a general subject-matter test, the Praxis II. This commercial test lacks a specific mathematics subscore, so one can likely fail the mathematics portion and still pass the test. Further, while this test does include important elementary school-level content, it barely evaluates candidates' knowledge beyond an elementary school level, does not challenge their understanding of underlying concepts and does not require candidates to apply knowledge in nonroutine, multistep procedures.

Supporting Research

Rhode Island Program Approval Process

<http://www.acei.org/standhp.htm>

www.ets.org/praxis

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

Although ACEI standards require some knowledge in key areas of mathematics, Rhode Island should require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers. This includes specific coursework in foundations, algebra and geometry, with some statistics.

- **Require teacher candidates to pass a rigorous mathematics assessment.**

Rhode Island should assess mathematics content with a rigorous assessment tool, such as the test required in Massachusetts, that evaluates mathematics knowledge beyond an elementary school level and challenges candidates' understanding of underlying mathematics concepts. Such a test could also be used to allow candidates to test out of coursework requirements. Teacher candidates who lack minimum mathematics knowledge should not be eligible for licensure.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

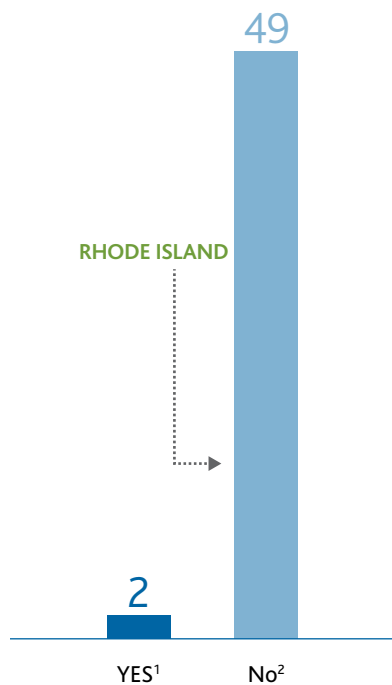
Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that changes to certification that have been drafted for public comment will begin to address these concerns.

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 17

Do states articulate appropriate mathematics preparation for elementary teachers?

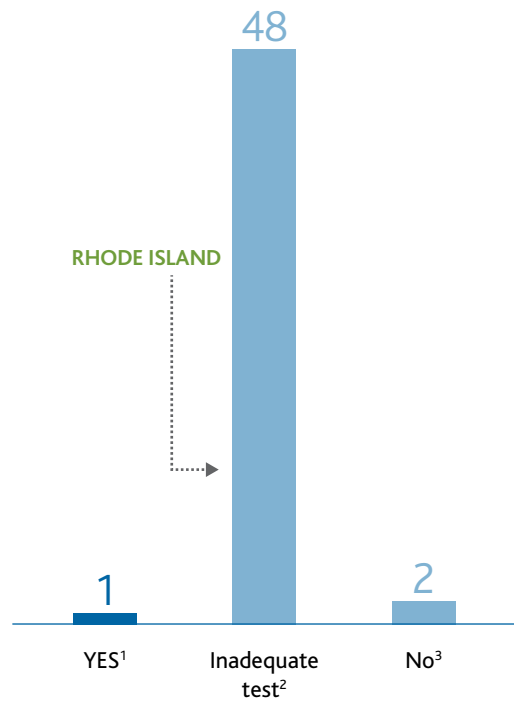


1. **Strong Practice:** Indiana, Massachusetts

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

Figure 18

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



1. **Strong Practice:** Massachusetts

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

3. Montana, Nebraska

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal E – Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 19

How States are Faring in Middle School Teacher Preparation

-  **3** Best Practice States
Arkansas↑, Georgia, Pennsylvania↑
-  **7** States Meet Goal
Connecticut, Florida↑, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, South Carolina↑
-  **8** States Nearly Meet Goal
Alabama, District of Columbia, Indiana, Kansas, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia
-  **11** States Partly Meet Goal
Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, **RHODE ISLAND**, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia
-  **11** States Meet a Small Part of Goal
Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota↑, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, Wyoming
-  **11** States Do Not Meet Goal
Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, North Carolina↓, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 5 ↔ : 45 ↓ : 1



ANALYSIS

Rhode Island requires a middle school endorsement for middle school teachers. In addition to either an elementary or secondary certificate, all middle school teachers must also have either 21 credits in the content area and pass the specific Praxis content test, or earn a major in the content area. Regrettably, Rhode Island also allows middle school teachers to teach on the elementary teaching certificate, "where grades 7 and 8 are organized on the elementary school plan."

Supporting Research

Certificate Requirements <http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Certification/Certreqs.aspx>

www.ets.org/praxis

RECOMMENDATION

■ Prepare middle school teachers to teach middle school.

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

■ Strengthen middle school teachers' subject-matter preparation.

Rhode Island should encourage middle school teachers who plan to teach multiple subjects to earn two minors in two core academic areas. However, Rhode Island should require a subject-area major for middle school candidates who intend to teach a single subject.

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

Rhode Island should require subject-matter testing for all middle school teacher candidates in every core academic area they intend to teach as a condition of initial licensure.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that regulatory changes to certification being released for public comment will no longer include the clause allowing elementary educators to teach in grades 7 and 8 if organized on an elementary plan. This has been in place for many years to accommodate very small districts with only one school. Rhode Island noted that even these schools are already requiring grades 7 and 8 teachers to hold middle school endorsements to meet content needs. "The clause in the elementary regulations is outdated and is not reflective of state practice. We do not allow middle school teachers to teach on a generalist license."

In addition, the state pointed out that all middle-level teachers must be highly qualified for their positions, which means all middle-level teachers must have a major or minor and pass a test in the content area. Further, middle school teachers must have at least 21 credits in each core content area and pass each test.

Supporting Research

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/HighlyQualified.aspx>

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 20

Do states distinguish middle grade preparation from elementary preparation?

| | K-8 LICENSE NOT OFFERED | K-8 license offered for self-contained classrooms | K-8 license offered |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Alabama | ■ | □ | □ |
| Alaska | □ | □ | ■ |
| Arizona | □ | □ | ■ |
| Arkansas | ■ | □ | □ |
| California | □ | ■ ¹ | □ |
| Colorado | □ | □ | ■ |
| Connecticut | ■ | □ | □ |
| Delaware | ■ | □ | □ |
| District of Columbia | ■ | □ | □ |
| Florida | ■ | □ | □ |
| Georgia | ■ | □ | □ |
| Hawaii | ■ | □ | □ |
| Idaho | □ | □ | ■ |
| Illinois | □ | □ | ■ ² |
| Indiana | ■ | □ | □ |
| Iowa | ■ | □ | □ |
| Kansas | ■ | □ | □ |
| Kentucky | ■ | □ | □ |
| Louisiana | ■ | □ | □ |
| Maine | □ | □ | ■ |
| Maryland | ■ | □ | □ |
| Massachusetts | ■ | □ | □ |
| Michigan | □ | ■ | □ |
| Minnesota | □ | ■ | □ |
| Mississippi | ■ | □ | □ |
| Missouri | ■ | □ | □ |
| Montana | □ | □ | ■ |
| Nebraska | □ | ■ | □ |
| Nevada | □ | □ | ■ |
| New Hampshire | □ | □ | ■ |
| New Jersey | ■ | □ | □ |
| New Mexico | □ | □ | ■ |
| New York | ■ | □ | □ |
| North Carolina | ■ | □ | □ |
| North Dakota | □ | □ | ■ |
| Ohio | ■ | □ | □ |
| Oklahoma | □ | □ | ■ ³ |
| Oregon | □ | □ | ■ ⁴ |
| Pennsylvania | ■ | □ | □ |
| RHODE ISLAND | □ | ■ | □ |
| South Carolina | ■ | □ | □ |
| South Dakota | □ | □ | ■ |
| Tennessee | ■ | □ | □ |
| Texas | ■ | □ | □ |
| Utah | □ | ■ | □ |
| Vermont | ■ | □ | □ |
| Virginia | ■ | □ | □ |
| Washington | □ | □ | ■ |
| West Virginia | ■ | □ | □ |
| Wisconsin | □ | □ | ■ ⁵ |
| Wyoming | ■ | □ | □ |
| | 29 | 6 | 16 |

1. California offers a K-12 generalist license for self-contained classrooms.
2. Illinois offers K-9 license.
3. With the exception of mathematics.
4. Oregon offers 3-8 license.
5. Wisconsin offers 1-8 license.

Figure 21

What academic preparation do states require for a middle school endorsement or license?

| | MAJOR OR MORE | MAJOR OR TWO MINORS | TWO MINORS | Less than a major or "loose" requirements | No requirement of content major or minor |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Alabama | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | 13 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 14 |

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

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal F – Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

1. The state should require that secondary teachers pass a licensing test in every subject they intend to teach.
2. The state should require that secondary teachers pass a content test when adding subject-area endorsements to an existing license.

Background

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

Figure 22

How States are Faring in Secondary Teacher Preparation



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

New Goal



ANALYSIS

Rhode Island does not require secondary teachers to pass content tests.

RECOMMENDATION

■ **Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.**

As a condition of licensure, Rhode Island should require its secondary teacher candidates to pass a content test in each subject area they plan to teach to ensure that they possess adequate subject-matter knowledge and are prepared to teach grade-level content. While a degree—even an advanced degree—may be generally indicative of background in a particular subject area, only a subject-matter test ensures that teachers know the specific content they will need to teach.

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

Rhode Island should require passing scores on subject-specific content tests, regardless of other coursework or degree requirements, for teachers who are licensed in core secondary subjects and wish to add another subject area, or endorsement, to their licenses.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it has been working toward meeting this goal for a couple of years, and that it is part of the proposed changes in the new certification regulations. If the new regulations are adopted by the Board of Regents, all teachers will be required to pass subject-matter tests.

LAST WORD

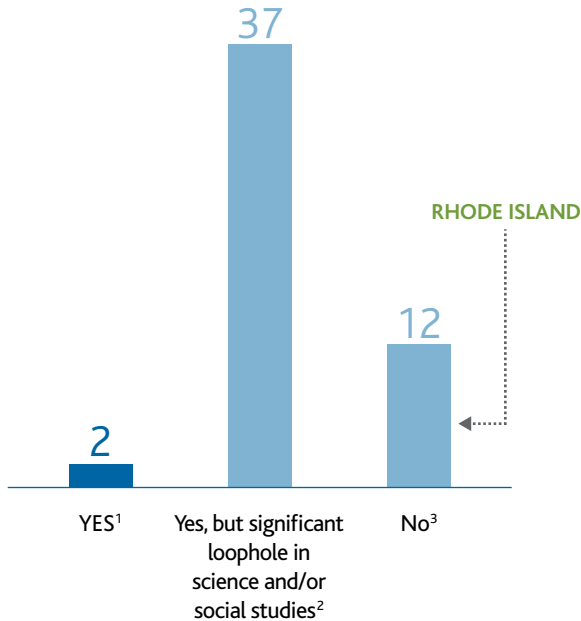
NCTQ looks forward to reviewing the state's progress in future editions of the *Yearbook*.

★ **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 23

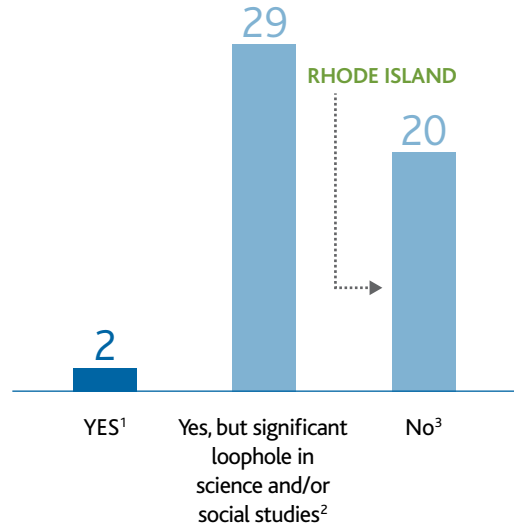
Do all secondary teachers have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



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

Figure 24

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



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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal G – Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 25

How States are Faring in Preparation to Teach Science

- ★ 1 **Best Practice State**
New Jersey
- 7 **States Meet Goal**
Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Virginia
- 11 **States Nearly Meet Goal**
Arkansas, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia
- 16 **States Partly Meet Goal**
Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington
- 4 **States Meet a Small Part of Goal**
Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Wisconsin
- 12 **States Do Not Meet Goal**
Alaska, California, Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, RHODE ISLAND, Texas, Wyoming

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

New Goal



ANALYSIS

Rhode Island offers secondary certification in general science. Candidates must earn a total of 30 semester hours, with at least six semester hours each in biology, physics and chemistry. However, they are not required to pass a content test. Although the state has indicated that teachers with certification in general science cannot teach biology, chemistry or physics, its certification requirements place no articulated restrictions or limitations on the usage of this certificate.

Middle school science teachers in Rhode Island must earn a middle school science endorsement. In addition to either an elementary or secondary certificate, candidates must also have either 21 credits in science (to include coursework in at least three of the following: biology, chemistry, physics, earth/space science, environmental sciences and technology science) and pass the Praxis II "Middle School Science" test, or earn a major in the content area.

Further, current state policy allows a teacher with a K-8 license to teach grades 7 and 8, if they are "organized on the elementary school plan." Rhode Island has indicated, however, that there are no longer any such schools, although the policy does remain on the books.

Supporting Research

Secondary Certificate Requirements

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Certification/Certreqs.aspx>

Middle School Endorsement

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Certification/Certreqs.aspx>

Praxis Testing Requirements

www.ets.org

RECOMMENDATION

- **Require secondary science teachers to pass tests of content knowledge for each science discipline they intend to teach.**

Although coursework plays a key role in teachers' acquisition of content knowledge, it should be accompanied by the requirement of an assessment, which is the only way to ensure that teachers possess adequate knowledge of the subject area.

- **Require middle school science teachers to pass a test of content knowledge that ensures sufficient knowledge of science.**

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

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island asserted that it does not issue a K-8 license. The elementary license is for grades 1-6.

Rhode Island also contended that state law and regulations do not allow for out-of-area teaching and that each certificate is valid only in the area issued. The state noted that its regulations for general science clearly state that secondary certificates are for special content areas: "In the same way an English

teacher can't teach math or a Spanish teacher can't teach French because they are different certificates, a general science teacher can't teach biology. The biology certificate is required to teach biology, physics is required for physics, etc."

Further, Rhode Island pointed out that a district would be notified that a teacher was out of area if a general science certified teacher was assigned to a biology section, asserting: "It is very clear to our districts and is reflected in emergency requests when a physics teacher can't be found." Additionally, secondary teachers must be highly qualified in core content areas, which means that a biology teacher must be HQT in biology, not general science. The state also requires a content major for each science area.

LAST WORD

NCTQ is unable to find policy that limits teachers with a general science certificate to teaching only general science courses. Rather than rely on assumed common understandings regarding which courses a teacher with a general science certificate may or may not teach, Rhode Island should articulate specific policy ensuring that all science teachers are required to pass a subject-specific content test for each area they plan to teach.

Figure 26

Do states ensure that secondary science teachers have adequate subject-matter knowledge?

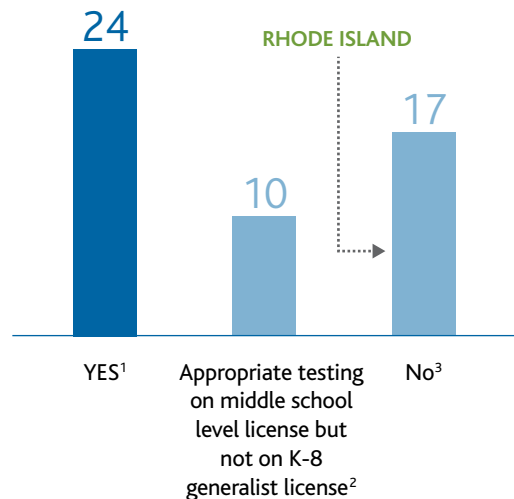
| | STATE OFFERS GENERAL SCIENCE OR COMBINATION SCIENCE LICENSES WITH ADEQUATE TESTING | State offers general science or combination science licenses without adequate testing | STATE OFFERS ONLY SINGLE-SUBJECT SCIENCE LICENSES WITH ADEQUATE TESTING | State offers only single-subject science licenses without adequate testing |
|----------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 1 | 39 | 10 | 1 |

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 27

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



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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal H – Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 28

How States are Faring in Preparation to Teach Social Studies



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

New Goal



ANALYSIS

Rhode Island offers secondary certification in general social studies. Candidates must earn a total of 36 semester hours, with at least 24 semester hours in history as required for a history certificate. In addition to being valid for teaching history, it may also be endorsed to include any academic area in which a candidate has completed six semester hours. Academic areas include anthropology, economics, geography, political science and sociology. Content tests, however, are not required. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general social studies but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

Middle school social studies teachers in Rhode Island must earn a middle school science endorsement. In addition to either an elementary or secondary certificate, candidates must also have either 21 credits in social studies (to include coursework in U.S. history, Western history and nonwestern history, and coursework in at least three of the following: anthropology, economics, geography, political science and sociology), and they must pass the Praxis II "Citizenship Education" content test, or earn a major in the content area.

Further, current state policy allows a teacher with a K-8 license to teach grades 7 and 8, if they are "organized on the elementary school plan." Rhode Island has indicated, however, that there are no longer any such schools; however, the policy does remain on the books.

Supporting Research

Secondary Certificate Requirements

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Certification/Certreqs.aspx>

Requirements for Middle School Endorsement

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/DOCS/Certification/Requirements/MiddleSchoolEndorsement.pdf>

Praxis Testing Requirements

www.ets.org

RECOMMENDATION

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

Although coursework plays a key role in teachers' acquisition of content knowledge, it should be accompanied by the requirement of an assessment, which is the only way to ensure that teachers possess adequate knowledge of the subject area.

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

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

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island asserted that it does not issue a K-8 license. The elementary license is for grades 1-6.

The state also noted that it is drafting new regulations that will require a content test for secondary social studies. Currently, Rhode Island requires the Citizenship test for middle school teachers with 21 credits only.

Figure 29

Do states ensure that secondary social studies teachers have adequate subject-matter knowledge?

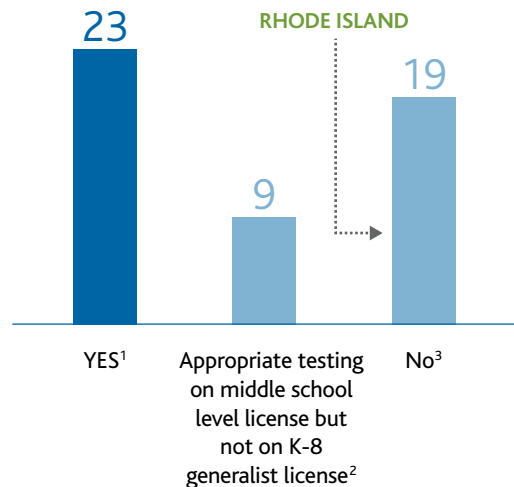
| | OFFERS GENERAL SOCIAL STUDIES LICENSE WITH ADEQUATE TESTING | OFFERS ONLY SINGLE SUBJECT SOCIAL STUDIES LICENSES | Offers general social studies license without adequate testing |
|----------------------|---|--|--|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ |
| Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Tennessee | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | 1 | 3 | 47 |

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 30

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



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

Figure 29

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal I – Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

1. The state should not permit special education teachers to teach on a K-12 license that does not differentiate between the preparation of elementary teachers and that of secondary teachers.
2. All elementary special education candidates should have a broad liberal arts program of study that includes study in mathematics, science, English, social studies and fine arts and should be required to pass a subject-matter test for licensure that is no less rigorous than what is required of general education candidates.
3. The state should require that teacher preparation programs graduate secondary special education teacher candidates who are highly qualified in at least two subjects. The state should also customize a "HOUSSE" route for new secondary special education teachers to help them achieve highly qualified status in all the subjects they teach.



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

Background

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

Figure 31

How States are Faring in Special Education Teacher Preparation



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 3 ← : 48 ↓ : 0



ANALYSIS

Commendably, Rhode Island does not offer a K-12 special education certification.

Rhode Island also appropriately requires its elementary special education teacher candidates to pass the same subject-matter test as general education candidates. However, the state does not ensure that its elementary special education teachers—who are required to meet the same preparation requirements as all elementary candidates—are provided with a broad liberal arts program of study relevant to the elementary classroom (see Goal 1-B).

Further, Rhode Island fails to require that secondary special education teacher candidates are highly qualified in at least two subject areas, and it does not customize a HOUSSE route for new secondary special education teachers to help them achieve highly qualified status in all subjects they teach.

Supporting Research

Certification Requirements

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Certification/Certreqs.aspx>

Praxis Test Requirements

www.ets.org

RECOMMENDATION

■ Provide a broad liberal arts program of study to elementary special education candidates.

Rhode Island should ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess not only knowledge of effective learning strategies but also knowledge of the subject matter at hand. Although the state commendably requires the same content test as general education teachers, it should also require core-subject coursework relevant to the elementary classroom. Failure to ensure that teachers possess requisite content knowledge deprives special education students of the opportunity to reach their academic potential.

■ Ensure that secondary special education teacher candidates graduate with highly qualified status in at least two subjects, and customize a HOUSSE route so that they can achieve highly qualified status in all subjects they plan to teach.

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

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that pending certification changes would require that secondary candidates complete programs highly qualified in content areas.

Figure 32

Do states distinguish between elementary and secondary special education teachers?

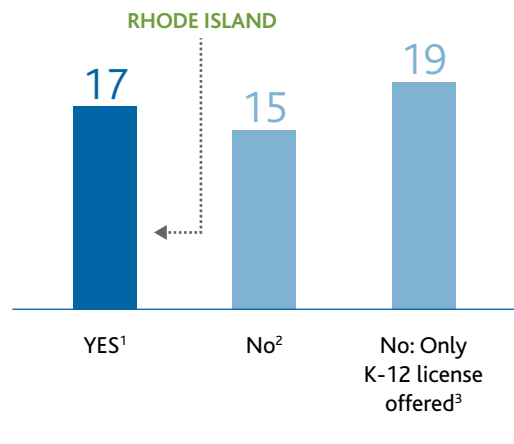
| | DOES NOT OFFER A K-12 CERTIFICATION | Offers K-12 and grade-specific certification(s) | Offers only a K-12 certification |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania ¹ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 16 | 16 | 19 |

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 33

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



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

Figure 32

1. Beginning January 1, 2013

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal J – Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

Goal Components

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

1. 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 www.nctq.org/stpy.

Figure 34

How States are Faring in Assessing Professional Knowledge



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 1 ↔ : 49 ↓ : 1



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Rhode Island requires all new secondary teachers to pass a popular pedagogy test from the Praxis series in order to attain licensure. The state only requires all new elementary teachers to pass a popular content test from the Praxis series that combines both subject-matter knowledge and pedagogy in order to attain licensure.

Supporting Research

<http://www.ets.org/praxis/ri/requirements>

RECOMMENDATION

■ **Require that all new teachers pass a pedagogy test.**

Rhode Island should verify that all new teachers meet professional standards through a test of professional knowledge for elementary teachers, in addition to secondary teachers.

■ **Verify that commercially available tests of pedagogy actually align with state standards.**

Rhode Island should ensure that its selected test of professional knowledge measures the knowledge and skills the state expects new teachers to have.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that proposed certification changes will include testing changes. Rhode Island's full testing plan is under development, and a review will take place to ensure that any required general pedagogy test aligns to state teaching standards.

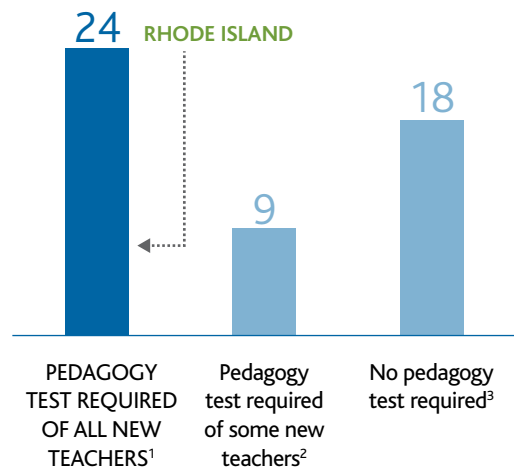
Rhode Island also noted that the analysis only mentions one of the required elementary tests, the content knowledge test for elementary teachers. The state pointed out that it also requires the content area exercises assessment.

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Twenty-three states meet this goal, and although NCTQ has not singled out one state's policies for "best practice" honors, it additionally commends the nine states (**Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas**) that utilize their own assessments to measure pedagogical knowledge and skills.

Figure 35

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



1. **Strong Practice:** Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia

2. Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah⁴, Wyoming

3. Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin

4. Not required until teacher advances from a Level One to a Level Two license.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal K – Student Teaching

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 36

How States are Faring in Student Teaching



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

New Goal



ANALYSIS

Rhode Island requires candidates to complete at least 12 weeks of student teaching. It is unclear, however, whether the state intends this to be a full-time experience. Rhode Island also does not articulate any requirements for cooperating teachers.

Supporting Research

Office of Educator Quality and Certification

www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Teacher_Prep/default.aspx

RECOMMENDATION

■ **Require teacher candidates to spend at least 10 weeks student teaching full time.**

Rhode Island should require that student teaching be a full-time commitment, as requiring coursework and student teaching simultaneously does a disservice to both. Alignment with a school calendar for at least 10 weeks ensures both adequate classroom experience and exposure to a variety of ancillary professional activities.

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

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

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

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

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that in addition to the quantitative requirement of 12 weeks, the program approval rubric requires that field experiences culminate in an experience that approximates full teaching responsibility.

The state also pointed out that its new evaluation system will provide programs with data on cooperating teachers and student achievement for the first time in 2013-2014. As these data are available and changes to preparation requirements evolve, this information will be required.

Supporting Research

http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Teacher_Prep/Round%203%20Guidelines%20Final%2001-08-09.pdf

Figure 37

Do states require the elements of a high-quality student teaching experience?

| | COOPERATING TEACHER SELECTED BASED ON EFFECTIVENESS | STUDENT TEACHING LASTS AT LEAST 10 WEEKS |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 2 | 29 |

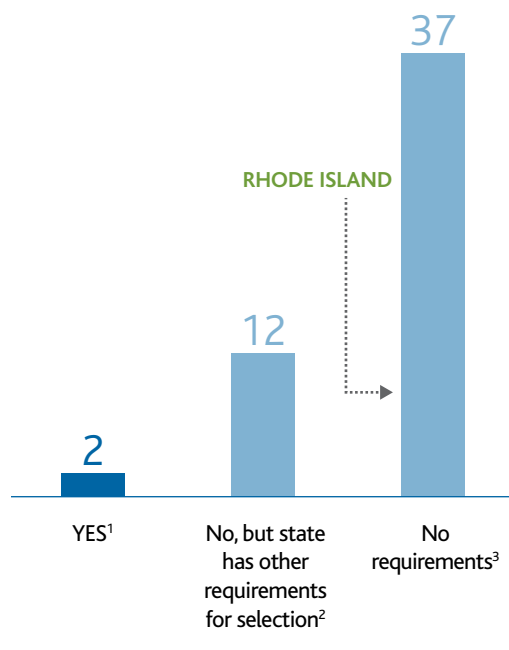
★ **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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

Figure 38

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



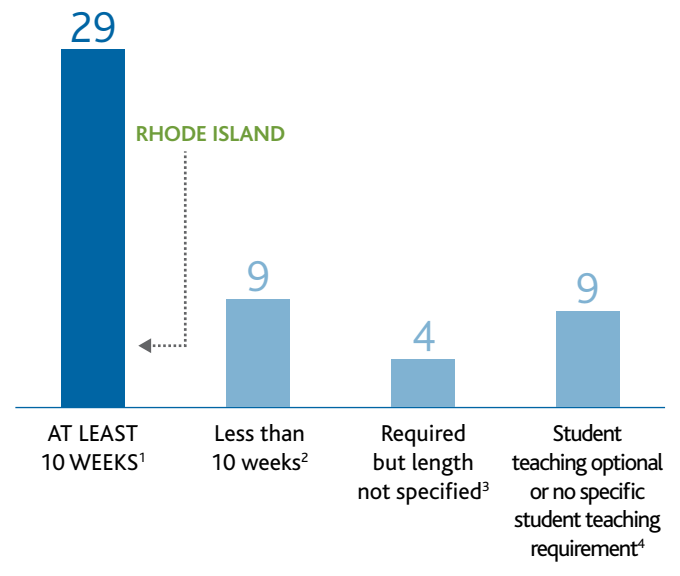
1. **Strong Practice:** Florida, Tennessee

2. Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Washington, Wisconsin

3. Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming

Figure 39

Is the summative student teaching experience of sufficient length?



1. **Strong Practice:** Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia⁵, Wisconsin

2. Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Virginia, Wyoming

3. Illinois, Maine, New Mexico, Utah

4. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Maryland, Montana

5. Candidates can student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal L – Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

Goal Components

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

1. The state should collect value-added data that connects student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.
2. The state should collect other meaningful data that reflects program performance, including some or all of the following:
 - a. Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including basic skills, subject matter and professional knowledge tests;
 - b. Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests;
 - c. Satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs’ student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison;
 - d. Evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching;
 - e. Five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.
3. The state should establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data. Programs should be held accountable for meeting these standards, with articulated consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.
4. The state should produce and publish on its website an annual report card that shows all the data the state collects on individual teacher preparation programs.



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

Background

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

Figure 40

How States are Faring in Teacher Preparation Program Accountability



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

: 4 : 44 : 3



State Partly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Rhode Island'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, Rhode Island does not collect value-added data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.

However, Rhode Island does rely on some objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs. The state requires that programs "engage in regular and systematic evaluations (including, but not limited to, information obtained through student assessment, and collection of data from students, recent graduates, and other members of the professional community)." Regrettably, Rhode Island does not apply any transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval.

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 the state have been identified in required federal reporting as low performing.

Commendably, Rhode Island makes its findings available by posting the data and program grades on its website.

According to the state's winning Race to the Top application, Rhode Island plans to integrate its new evaluation system with its longitudinal data system to link teachers' impact on student growth to preparation programs, and will use these data to support improvement or close programs that do not produce effective teachers. The state has also articulated that it will use RttT funds to create publicly available educator preparation program report cards, which will include information on the impact of graduates on student growth and academic achievement. However, there is no evidence to date of specific policy to support these plans.

Supporting Research

Approval Guidelines, Standard 6

http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Teacher_Prep/Round%203%20Guidelines%20Final%2001-08-09.pdf

http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Teacher_Prep/Standards%20for%20Alternate%20Route%20to%20Certification%20Programs%20FINAL%20BoR%20Adopted.pdf

Title II State Reports

<https://title2.ed.gov>

Report Card

http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Teacher_Prep/default.aspx

Race to the Top Application

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/phase2-applications/rhode-island.pdf>

RECOMMENDATION

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

To ensure that programs are producing effective classroom teachers, Rhode Island should consider academic achievement gains of students taught by the programs' graduates, averaged over the first three years of teaching. Although the state has commendably outlined its intentions in its RttT application, to ensure that preparation programs are held accountable, it is urged to codify these requirements.

- **Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance.**

Although Rhode Island relies on some objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs, the state should expand its requirements to include other metrics such as average raw scores of graduates on licensing tests, including basic skills, subject matter and professional knowledge tests; satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison; and five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.

- **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 after appropriate due process.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island noted that its scope of work for Race to the Top commits the state to linking graduate performance and student achievement data to the program approval process. The evaluation system launches in 2011-12, with the policy work around preparation beginning that same year.

Rhode Island also asserted that its list of required evidence to be provided by programs is very transparent, and includes both qualitative and quantitative evidence. The state further contended that the only measure of accountability is not a federal designation of low performing, and pointed out that it is one of the only states that does not issue a standard approval of five or seven years. Programs receive a range of approvals from zero to five years, and only three programs in five years have received a five-year approval. One program has been notified that it is at risk of being low performing. "Improvement at this point may not be statistically quantifiable, but it is evident across visits and reports."

Figure 41

Do states hold teacher preparation programs accountable?

| | TRADITIONAL PREPARATION | | | ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| | OBJECTIVE PROGRAM-SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED | MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE SET | DATA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE | OBJECTIVE PROGRAM-SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED | MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE SET | DATA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE |
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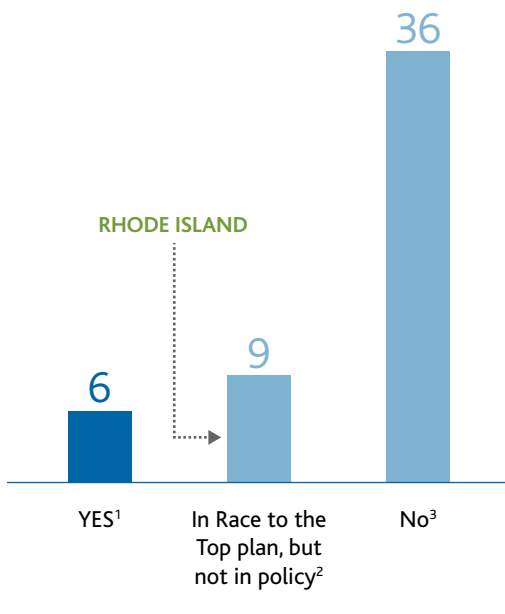
1. Reported institutional data do not distinguish between candidates in the traditional and alternate route programs.
2. The posted data do not allow the public to review and compare program performance because data are not disaggregated by program provider.

★ **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 42

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



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

Figure 43

Which states collect meaningful data?

AVERAGE RAW SCORES ON LICENSING TESTS

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

SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

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

EVALUATION RESULTS FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES

Alabama, Arizona, Delaware¹, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Pennsylvania, **RHODE ISLAND**, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont

STUDENT LEARNING GAINS

Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas

TEACHER RETENTION RATES

Arizona, Colorado, Delaware¹, Missouri, New Jersey

1. For alternate route only

Figure 44

What is the relationship between state program approval and national accreditation?

| | STATE HAS ITS OWN APPROVAL STANDARDS | National accreditation is required for state approval | National accreditation can be substituted for state approval | While not technically required, the approval process is indistinguishable from accreditation | While not technically required, there is some overlap |
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| | 23 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 6 |

1. According to information posted on NCATE's website.

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Goal A – Alternate Route Eligibility

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

Goal Components

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

1. With some accommodation for work experience, alternate route programs should screen candidates for academic ability, such as requiring a minimum 2.75 overall college GPA.
2. All alternate route candidates, including elementary candidates and those having a major in their intended subject area, should be required to pass the state's subject-matter licensing test.
3. Alternate route candidates lacking a major in the intended subject area should be able to demonstrate subject-matter knowledge by passing a test of sufficient rigor.

Background

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

Figure 45

How States are Faring in Alternate Route Eligibility



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 12 ↔ : 32 ↓ : 7



ANALYSIS

The admission requirements for Rhode Island's alternate route exceed those for traditional preparation programs and allow flexibility for nontraditional candidates.

Rhode Island requires that alternative certification programs require candidates to demonstrate prior academic performance with a minimum 3.0 GPA in undergraduate studies or a 3.0 GPA in 24 semester hours at the graduate level.

Secondary candidates must have a major in, or closely related to, the intended teaching field. Secondary candidates may demonstrate subject-matter knowledge on an approved content measure by the state. The state does not outline additional degree or coursework requirements for those candidates seeking elementary or early childhood licensure.

However, candidates are not required to pass a subject-matter test. All applicants must pass a test of basic skills. The state will accept equivalent scores on the SAT, ACT, or GRE in lieu of the basic skills requirement.

Supporting Research

http://www.ride.ri.gov/educatorquality/teacher_prep/

RECOMMENDATION

■ **Require applicants to pass a subject-matter test for admission.**

The state should require all candidates, including those with a major in the subject, to pass a content-knowledge 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.

■ **Consider accommodations for meeting the minimum GPA requirements.**

While the state is commended for requiring applicants to provide evidence of past academic performance, Rhode Island should consider whether some accommodation in this standard might be appropriate for career changers with relevant work experience. Alternatively, the state could require one of the standardized tests of academic proficiency commonly used in higher education for graduate admissions, such as the GRE.

■ **Eliminate basic skills test requirement.**

The state's requirement that alternate route candidates pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffectual, although Rhode Island is recognized for allowing candidates to use equivalent scores to fulfill this admission criterion. Basic skills tests measure minimum competency—essentially those skills that a person should have acquired in middle school—and are inappropriate for candidates who have already earned a bachelor's degree. Passage of a basic skills test provides no assurance that the candidate has the appropriate subject-matter knowledge needed for the classroom.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state also noted that it is moving toward regulation that requires content testing. Rhode Island stated, however, that current standards do require applicants to pass a content test prior to placement and that "programs are required to have an objective measure of content."

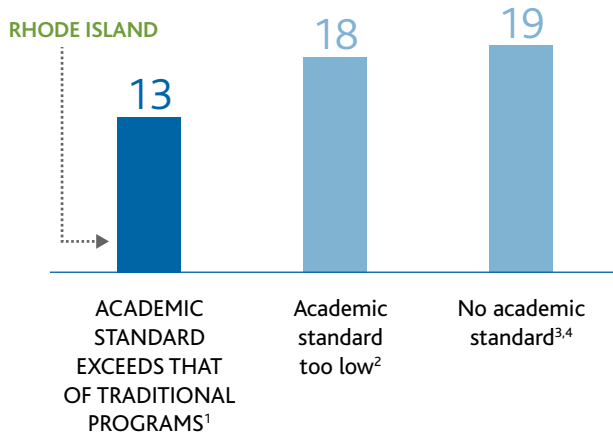
Figure 46

Are states' alternate routes selective yet flexible in admissions?

| | ACADEMIC STANDARD FOR TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS ADMISSION EXCEEDS | SUBJECT-MATTER TEST REQUIRED | NO MAJOR REQUIRED OR TEST CAN BE USED IN LIEU |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Indiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Maryland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| New Jersey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 13 | 24 | 27 |

Figure 47

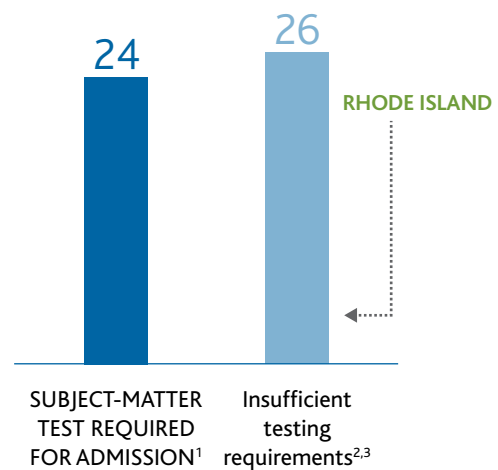
Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



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

Figure 48

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



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

Figure 46

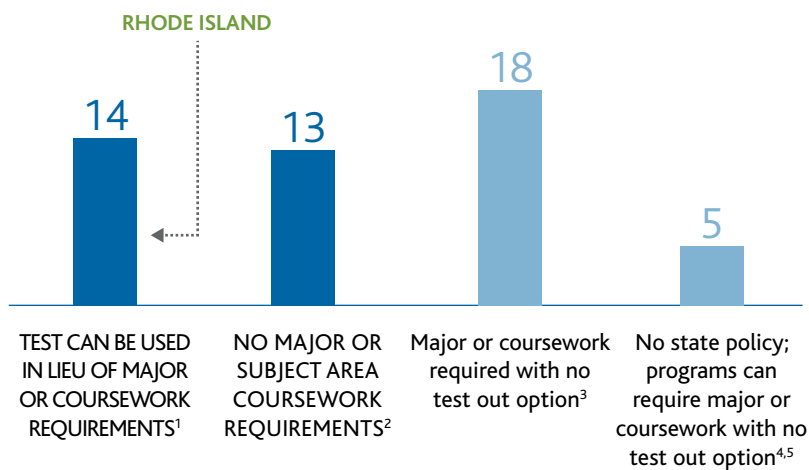
- North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 49

Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



1. **Strong Practice:** Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut⁶, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas

2. **Strong Practice:** Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Virginia, Washington

3. Alaska, Delaware, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming

4. Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Wisconsin

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

6. Test out option available to candidates in shortage areas only.

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Goal B – Alternate Route Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 50

How States are Faring in Alternate Route Preparation

- ★ 1 **Best Practice State**
Connecticut
- 4 **States Meet Goal**
Arkansas, Delaware ↑, Georgia, New Jersey
- ◐ 7 **States Nearly Meet Goal**
Alabama, Florida, Maryland ↑, Mississippi, RHODE ISLAND ↑, South Carolina, Virginia
- ◑ 11 **States Partly Meet Goal**
Alaska, California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada ↑, New Mexico, New York, Ohio ↑, South Dakota, West Virginia
- ◒ 18 **States Meet a Small Part of Goal**
Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa ↓, Kansas ↑, Michigan ↑, Minnesota ↑, Missouri, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming
- 10 **States Do Not Meet Goal**
Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont, Wisconsin

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 8 ↔ : 42 ↓ : 1



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Rhode Island offers an alternate route with streamlined preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers.

Rhode Island sets guidelines for all alternate route programs. Providers are required to have a preservice experience for a minimum of five weeks that includes instruction in classroom management and pedagogy. The preservice experience must also include a practice-teaching opportunity. New teachers also participate in seminars and courses throughout the first year of teaching, although no additional guidelines are provided to the nature or quantity of coursework to be provided.

New teachers are assigned a mentor who is responsible for modeling effective practice and providing feedback focused on improving performance.

Upon program completion candidates are eligible for standard certification.

Supporting Research

http://www.ride.ri.gov/educatorquality/teacher_prep/

RECOMMENDATION

■ Establish coursework guidelines for all alternate route preparation programs.

While Rhode Island is commended for providing a sound framework, the state should consider establishing more specific guidelines for alternate route programs. Setting minimum requirements, without established maximums, does not ensure that the new teacher will be able to complete the program in an appropriate amount of time without being overburdened by coursework. Also, simply mandating coursework without specifying the purpose can inadvertently send the wrong message to program providers—that “anything goes” as long as credits are granted.

■ Strengthen the induction experience for new teachers.

While Rhode Island is commended for requiring all new teachers to work with a mentor, there are insufficient guidelines indicating that the program is structured for new teacher success. Effective induction strategies include intensive mentoring with full classroom support in the first few weeks or months of school, a reduced teaching load and release time to allow new teachers to observe experienced teachers during each school day.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island asserted that “alternative route programs undergo program review to the same standards as traditional programs. Those standards provide more specificity to program requirements beyond what is contained in the alt route regulations. Nothing in the regulations specifically mentions coursework and the only alternative programs in RI are offered by private entities.” Rhode Island also found NCTQ’s statement that “anything goes” unclear because “RI does not mandate credits.”

In addition, the state noted that Rhode Island is implementing a new induction program for all beginning teachers. A specialized plan is being developed for alternative route candidates to tailor the support for them.

Supporting Research

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/mentoring.aspx>

LAST WORD

The issue of “anything goes” in coursework may not be a concern with Rhode Island’s current non-higher ed providers. The state should consider making its requirements more specific so that they could be interpreted appropriately by any provider, whether college or university, school district or private organization.

Figure 51

Do states' alternate routes provide streamlined preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers?

| | STREAMLINED COURSEWORK | RELEVANT COURSEWORK | REASONABLE PROGRAM LENGTH | PRACTICE TEACHING OPPORTUNITY | INTENSIVE SUPPORT |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida ¹ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 13 | 12 | 29 | 18 | 13 |

★ **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

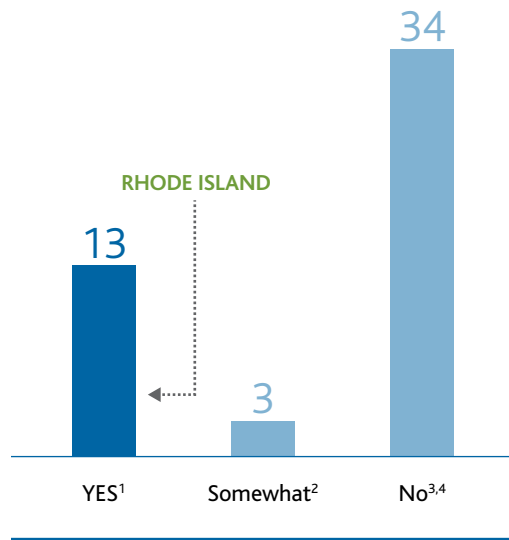
Connecticut ensures that its alternate route provides streamlined preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. The state requires a manageable number of credit hours, relevant coursework, a field placement and intensive mentoring. Other notable states include **Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia**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

1. Florida requires practice teaching or intensive mentoring.

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

Figure 52

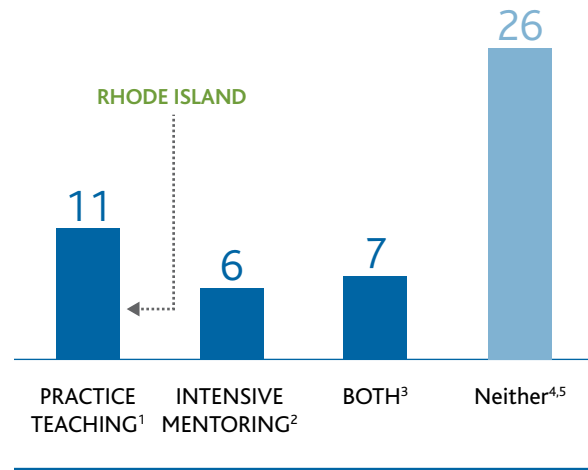
Do states curb excessive coursework requirements?



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

Figure 53

Do states require practice teaching or intensive mentoring?



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

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 54

How States are Faring in Alternate Route Usage and Providers



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 12 ↔ : 39 ↓ : 0



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Rhode Island does not limit the usage or providers of its alternate route.

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

Rhode Island permits institutions of higher education, professional organizations and private service providers, such as The New Teacher Project, to offer alternate route programs. The state is commended for structuring its programs to allow a diversity of providers. A good diversity of providers helps all programs, both university- and non-university-based, to improve.

Supporting Research

Board of Regents Standards for Alternative Route to Certification Programs C.1

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 55

Are states' alternate routes free from limitations?

| | BROAD USAGE ACROSS SUBJECTS, GRADES AND GEOGRAPHIC AREAS | DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Massachusetts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 32 | 29 |

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 56

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

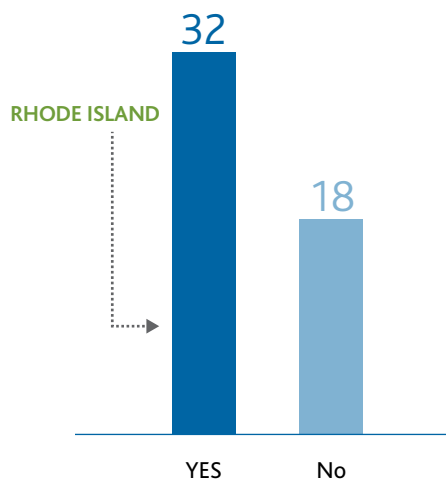
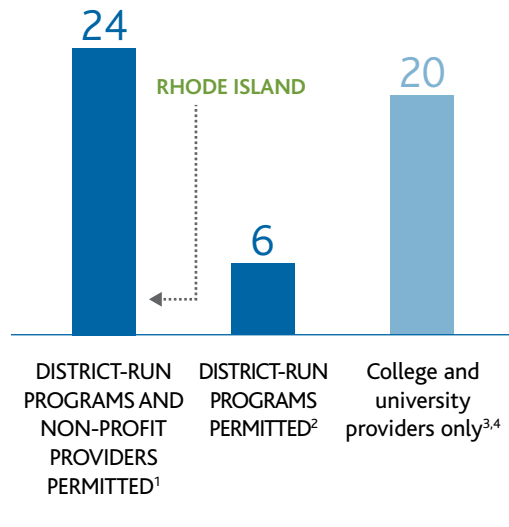


Figure 55 and 56

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

Figure 57

Do states permit providers other than colleges or universities?



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

Figure 58

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

Figure 58

Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification?

| | GENUINE OR NEARLY GENUINE ALTERNATE ROUTE | Alternate route that needs significant improvements | Offered route is disingenuous |
|---------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | 7 | 25 | 18 |

Figure 59

What are the characteristics of states' alternate routes?

| | PREREQUISITE OF STRONG ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE | VERIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE | AVAILABILITY OF TEST OUT OPTIONS | STREAMLINED COURSEWORK | RELEVANT COURSEWORK | REASONABLE PROGRAM LENGTH | PRACTICE TEACHING AND/OR INTENSIVE MENTORING | BROAD USAGE | DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS |
|----------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 13 | 24 | 27 | 13 | 12 | 29 | 24 | 32 | 29 |

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

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

Goal Components

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

1. Either through a discrete license or by waiving most licensure requirements, the state should authorize individuals with content expertise to teach as part-time instructors.
2. All candidates for a part-time teaching license should be required to pass a subject-matter 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 www.nctq.org/stpy.

Figure 60

How States are Faring in Part Time Teaching Licenses



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

New Goal



ANALYSIS

Rhode Island 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.**

Rhode Island 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.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of NCTQ's analysis and added that proposed certification regulations would create this type of license if adopted.

LAST WORD

NCTQ looks forward to reviewing the state's progress in future editions of the *Yearbook*.

Figure 61

Do states offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part-time?

| | YES | No |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | 16 | 35 |

★ **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

Arkansas offers a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time. Individuals seeking this license must pass a subject-matter test and are also required to complete specially-designed pedagogy training that is not overly burdensome.

1. License has restrictions.

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

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Goal E – Licensure Reciprocity

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

Goal Components

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

1. The state should offer a standard license to fully certified teachers moving from other states, without relying on transcript analysis or recency requirements as a means of judging eligibility. The state can and should require evidence of good standing in previous employment.
2. The state should uphold its standards for all teachers by insisting that certified teachers coming from other states meet the incoming state's testing requirements.
3. The state should accord the same license to teachers from other states who completed an approved alternate route program that it accords teachers prepared in a traditional preparation program.

Background

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

Figure 62

How States are Faring in Licensure Reciprocity



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 2 ↔ : 49 ↓ : 0



ANALYSIS

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

Regrettably, Rhode Island grants a waiver for its licensing tests to out-of-state teachers who have passed tests in their previous states, regardless of whether or not they have met Rhode Island's passing scores.

Teachers with comparable out-of-state certificates may be eligible for Rhode Island's standard certificate. Applicants are required to complete an approved teacher education program. However, it appears that the state offers "enhanced reciprocity" for alternate route teachers, who must have three years of experience and submit transcripts, which are then possibly reviewed by a state official, who then determines what additional coursework must be taken to qualify for a license. This process discounts previous experience and training, resulting in teachers having to repeat some, most or all of a teacher preparation program in the new state.

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

Supporting Research

www.ride.ri.gov/educatorquality/certification/reciprocity.aspx

www.ride.ri.gov/educatorquality/DOCS/Certification/Gen%20Instr%20%202009.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

Rhode Island takes considerable risk by granting a waiver for its licensing tests to any out-of-state teacher who has passed a test in another state. It should not provide any waivers of its teacher tests unless an applicant can provide evidence of a passing score under its own standards. The negative impact on student learning stemming from a teacher's inadequate subject-matter knowledge is not mitigated by the teacher's having met another state's standards.

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

Rhode Island should reconsider its recency requirement regarding experience for alternative route teachers, as it may deter talented teachers from applying for certification. Rhode Island should ensure that its experience requirement does not preclude fully certified, alternate route teachers who have completed their preparation from obtaining reciprocal licensure. For example, certified Teach For America teachers who have fulfilled their two-year commitment in other states should be eligible for licensure in Rhode Island.

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

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state noted that proposed certification regulations will require all out-of-state teachers to meet the state's testing expectations, and that clearer language around reciprocity practices is include in the proposed regulations.

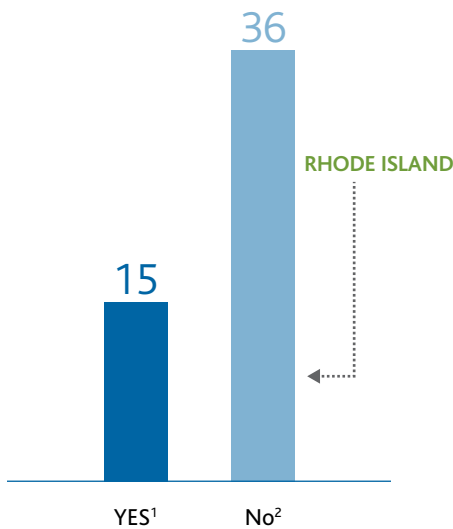
Rhode Island also asserted that any individual who holds a full license from another state is eligible for licensure in Rhode Island. The state added that it does not send alternate route candidates for additional coursework if they have completed an approved program, or if they hold the full state license. It also pointed out that it does not require recency as long as the certificate is currently valid, and that there is no recency of experience requirement used in the decision-making process. Further, Teach For America candidates are eligible for licensure and have been issued Rhode Island certificates after completion of their two-year commitment.

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 63

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



1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York³, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania³, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington³, Wisconsin

2. Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana⁴, Nebraska⁴, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming

3. Exception for teachers with National Board Certification.

4. No subject-matter testing for any teacher certification.

Figure 64

1. For traditionally prepared teachers only.

2. Transcript review required for those with less than 3 years experience.

Figure 64

What do states require of teachers transferring from other states?

| | LICENSE RECIPROcity WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED | Transcript analysis | Recency requirements |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| Alabama | ■ | □ | □ |
| Alaska | □ | ■ | ■ |
| Arizona | □ | ■ | □ |
| Arkansas | □ | ■ | □ |
| California | □ | ■ | □ |
| Colorado | □ | ■ | □ |
| Connecticut | □ | ■ | ■ |
| Delaware | ■ | □ | □ |
| District of Columbia | □ | ■ | □ |
| Florida | □ | ■ | □ |
| Georgia | □ | □ | ■ |
| Hawaii | □ | ■ | □ |
| Idaho | □ | ■ | □ |
| Illinois | □ | ■ | □ |
| Indiana | □ | ■ | □ |
| Iowa | □ | ■ | ■ |
| Kansas | □ | ■ | ■ |
| Kentucky | □ | ■ | □ |
| Louisiana | □ | ■ | ■ |
| Maine | □ | ■ | ■ |
| Maryland | □ | ■ | □ |
| Massachusetts | □ | ■ | ■ |
| Michigan | □ | ■ | □ |
| Minnesota | □ | ■ | □ |
| Mississippi | □ | ■ | □ |
| Missouri | □ | ■ | □ |
| Montana | □ | ■ | □ |
| Nebraska | □ | ■ | ■ |
| Nevada | □ | ■ | □ |
| New Hampshire | □ | ■ | □ |
| New Jersey | □ | ■ | □ |
| New Mexico | □ | ■ | □ |
| New York | ■ ¹ | □ | □ |
| North Carolina | ■ | □ | □ |
| North Dakota | □ | ■ | □ |
| Ohio | □ | ■ | □ |
| Oklahoma | □ | ■ | □ |
| Oregon | □ | ■ | □ |
| Pennsylvania | □ | ■ | □ |
| RHODE ISLAND | ■ ¹ | □ | □ |
| South Carolina | □ | ■ | ■ |
| South Dakota | □ | ■ | ■ |
| Tennessee | □ | ■ | □ |
| Texas | ■ | □ | □ |
| Utah | □ | ■ | □ |
| Vermont | □ | ■ | □ |
| Virginia | □ | ■ | □ |
| Washington | ■ ² | □ | □ |
| West Virginia | ■ | □ | □ |
| Wisconsin | □ | ■ | ■ |
| Wyoming | ■ ¹ | □ | □ |
| | 9 | 41 | 12 |

Figure 65

Do states treat out-of-state teachers the same whether they were prepared in a traditional or an alternate route program?

| | STATE TREATS TEACHERS EQUALLY | State specifies different requirements for alternate route teachers | State has policies with the potential to create obstacles for alternate route teachers |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Alabama | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 6 | 6 | 39 |

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

Goal A – State Data Systems

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 66

How States are Faring in the Development of Data Systems



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 17 ↔ : 33 ↓ : 1



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

Rhode Island 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.

Supporting Research

Data Quality Campaign

www.dataqualitycampaign.org

RECOMMENDATION

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

A definition of teacher of record is necessary in order to use the student-teacher data link for the purpose of providing value-added evidence of teacher effectiveness. Rhode Island defines the teacher of record as the teacher who is responsible for content instruction and determining students' grades. However, to ensure that data provided through the state data system are actionable and reliable, Rhode Island should articulate a more distinct definition of teacher of record and require its consistent use throughout the state.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it has draft policies for teacher of record: "Because this term causes confusion with HQT, we are using the term 'contributing educator.'" During the 2010-2011 school year, Rhode Island collected two snapshots of data to inform definitions and data-collection needs.

Supporting Research

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/Default.aspx>

Figure 67

Do state data systems have the capacity to assess teacher effectiveness?

| | UNIQUE STUDENT IDENTIFIER | UNIQUE TEACHER IDENTIFIER SYSTEM THAT CAN MATCH STUDENT RECORDS TO | TEST RECORDS MATCH OVER TIME |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Alabama | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Alaska | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| Arizona | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| Arkansas | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| California | □ | □ | □ |
| Colorado | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| Connecticut | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| Delaware | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| District of Columbia | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| Florida | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Georgia | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Hawaii | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Idaho | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Illinois | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Indiana | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Iowa | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Kansas | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Kentucky | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Louisiana | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Maine | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| Maryland | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Massachusetts | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Michigan | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| Minnesota | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Mississippi | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Missouri | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Montana | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| Nebraska | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Nevada | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| New Hampshire | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| New Jersey | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| New Mexico | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| New York | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| North Carolina | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| North Dakota | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Ohio | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Oklahoma | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Oregon | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| Pennsylvania | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| RHODE ISLAND | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| South Carolina | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| South Dakota | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| Tennessee | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Texas | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| Utah | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Vermont | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| Virginia | ■ | ◻ | ■ |
| Washington | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| West Virginia | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Wisconsin | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Wyoming | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | 50 | 35 | 50 |

★ **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Key

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

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

Goal Components

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

1. The state should either require a common evaluation instrument in which evidence of student learning is the most significant criterion or specifically require that student learning be the preponderant criterion in local evaluation processes. Evaluation instruments, whether state or locally developed, should be structured to preclude a teacher from receiving a satisfactory rating if found ineffective in the classroom.
2. Evaluation instruments should require classroom observations that focus on and document the effectiveness of instruction.
3. Teacher evaluations should consider objective evidence of student learning, including not only standardized test scores but also classroom-based artifacts such as tests, quizzes and student work.
4. The state should require that evaluation instruments differentiate among various levels of teacher performance. A binary system that merely categorizes teachers as satisfactory or unsatisfactory is inadequate.



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

Background

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

Figure 68

How States are Faring in Evaluating Teacher Effectiveness



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 26 ↔ : 25 ↓ : 0



State Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

The state's student learning component accounts for a majority of the teacher evaluation score. Although initially Rhode Island had articulated 51 percent for this particular component, the state has opted for a matrix model. The state measures contributions to student progress toward academic goals and learning standards, and combines them with results from the Rhode Island Growth Model, for teachers in tested grades 3-7 and for subjects in reading and math.

Classroom observations are required, and teachers must be rated based on the following multiple rating categories: highly effective, effective, developing and ineffective.

Supporting Research

The RI Model: Guide to Evaluating Building Administrators and Teachers

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/Docs/RIModelGuide.pdf>

RI Growth Model

http://www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/DOCS/RIGM/RIGM_Pamphlet_FINAL-Spring_2011.pdf

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 69

Do states consider classroom effectiveness as part of teacher evaluations?

| | REQUIRES THAT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/GROWTH IS THE PREPONDERANT CRITERION | Teacher evaluations are to be significantly informed by student achievement/growth | Teacher evaluations must include objective evidence of student learning | Student achievement data not required |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Nevada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 12 | 5 | 7 | 27 |

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

NCTQ has not singled out any one state for "best practice" honors. Many states have made significant strides in the area of teacher evaluation by requiring that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion. Because there are many different approaches that result in student learning being the preponderant criterion, all 10 states that meet this goal are commended for their efforts.

Figure 70

Using state data in teacher evaluations

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

Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Michigan, Nevada

States with Data System Capacity but No Student Achievement Requirements

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

Figure 69

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

Figure 71

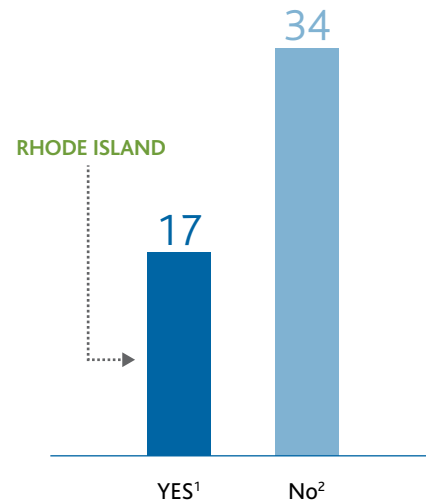
Sources of objective evidence of student learning

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

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

Figure 72

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



1. **Strong Practice:** Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington

2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Figure 73

Do states direct how teachers should be evaluated?

| | Single statewide teacher evaluation system | State-designed teacher evaluation with district opt-in | District-designed system consistent with state framework/criteria | District-designed system with minimal input from state | No state policy |
|----------------------|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Louisiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 9 | 10 | 24 | 5 | 3 |

1. State approval required.

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

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 74

How States are Faring in Frequency of Evaluations



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 13 ↔ : 37 ↓ : 1



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Commendably, by school year 2012-2013, all teachers in Rhode Island will be evaluated annually.

As part of the evaluation, each teacher will receive at least one long, announced observation in the first semester of the year, followed by written feedback and a post-observation conference. Each teacher will also receive several unannounced observations, for a total of at least four observations throughout the year.

Supporting Research

The RI Model: Guide to Evaluating Building Administrators and Teachers

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/Docs/RIModelGuide.pdf>

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 75

Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?

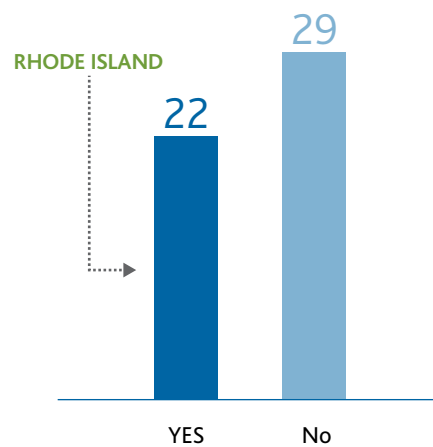
| | ANNUAL EVALUATION OF ALL VETERAN TEACHERS | ANNUAL EVALUATION OF ALL NEW TEACHERS |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Alabama | ■ | ■ |
| Alaska | □ | ■ |
| Arizona | ■ | ■ |
| Arkansas | □ | ■ |
| California | □ | ■ |
| Colorado | ■ | ■ |
| Connecticut | ■ | ■ |
| Delaware ¹ | ■ | ■ |
| District of Columbia ² | □ | □ |
| Florida | ■ | ■ |
| Georgia | ■ | ■ |
| Hawaii | □ | ■ |
| Idaho | ■ | ■ |
| Illinois | □ | ■ |
| Indiana | ■ | ■ |
| Iowa | □ | □ |
| Kansas | □ | ■ |
| Kentucky | □ | ■ |
| Louisiana | ■ | ■ |
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| Missouri | □ | ■ |
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| Nebraska | □ | ■ |
| Nevada | ■ | ■ |
| New Hampshire | □ | □ |
| New Jersey | ■ | ■ |
| New Mexico | □ | ■ |
| New York | ■ | ■ |
| North Carolina | ■ | ■ |
| North Dakota | ■ | ■ |
| Ohio | □ | ■ |
| Oklahoma | ■ | ■ |
| Oregon | □ | ■ |
| Pennsylvania | ■ | ■ |
| RHODE ISLAND | ■ | ■ |
| South Carolina | □ | ■ |
| South Dakota | □ | ■ |
| Tennessee | ■ | ■ |
| Texas | □ | ■ |
| Utah | ■ | ■ |
| Vermont | □ | □ |
| Virginia | □ | ■ |
| Washington | ■ | ■ |
| West Virginia | □ | ■ |
| Wisconsin | □ | □ |
| Wyoming | ■ | ■ |
| | 22 | 43 |

★ **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 76

Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?

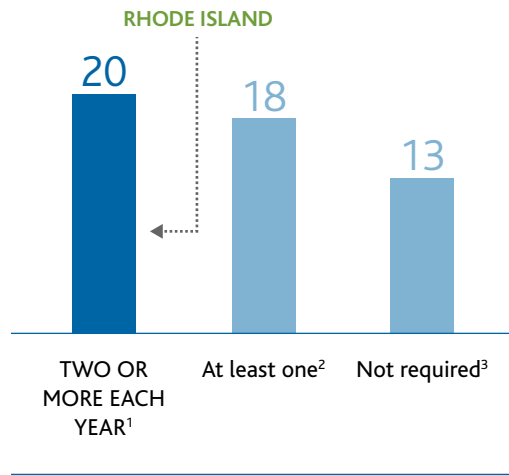


Figures 75 and 76

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

Figure 77

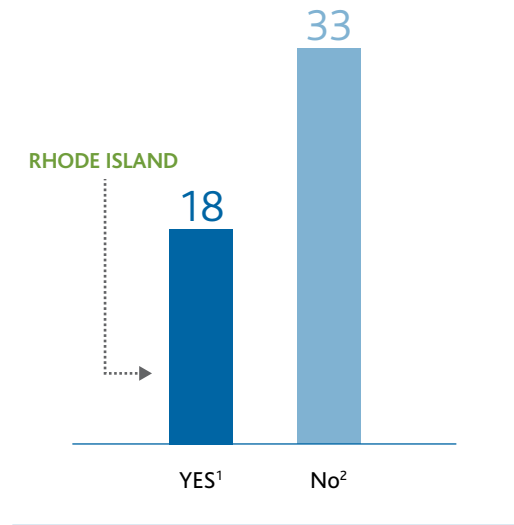
Do states require classroom observations?



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

Figure 78

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



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

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

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.)

1. 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.
3. The state should articulate a process, such as a hearing, that local districts must administer in considering the evidence and deciding whether a teacher should receive tenure.
4. The minimum years of service needed to achieve tenure should allow sufficient data to be accumulated on which to base tenure decisions; five years is the ideal minimum.



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

Background

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

Figure 79

How States are Faring on Tenure



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 15 ↔ : 36 ↓ : 0



State Nearly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

Teachers who receive two years of ineffective evaluations will be dismissed. Any teacher with five years of ineffective ratings would not be eligible to have his or her certification renewed by the state.

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

Supporting Research

Rhode Island Model Educator Evaluation System

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/default.aspx>

RECOMMENDATION

- **Articulate a process that local districts must administer when deciding which teachers get tenure.**

Although Rhode Island has taken important steps to ensure that ineffective teachers are not awarded tenure, the state should still 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. Without such a process, there is no assurance that teachers with a single "ineffective" rating or multiple "needs improvement" ratings are not awarded tenure automatically.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 80

How long before a teacher earns tenure?

| | No policy | 1 year | 2 years | 3 years | 4 YEARS | 5 YEARS | STATE ONLY AWARDS ANNUAL CONTRACTS |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 1 | 1 | 5 | 32 | 4 | 5 | 3 |

1. Teachers may also earn career status with an average rating of at least effective for a four-year period and a rating of at least effective for the last two years.

2. While technically not on annual contracts, Rhode Island teachers who receive two years of ineffective evaluations are dismissed.

Figure 81

How are tenure decisions made?

| | EVIDENCE OF STUDENT LEARNING IS THE PREPONDERANT CRITERION | Some evidence of student learning is considered | Virtually automatically |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ |
| Florida | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | 8 | 4 | 39 |

★ **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 82

How are tenure decisions made?

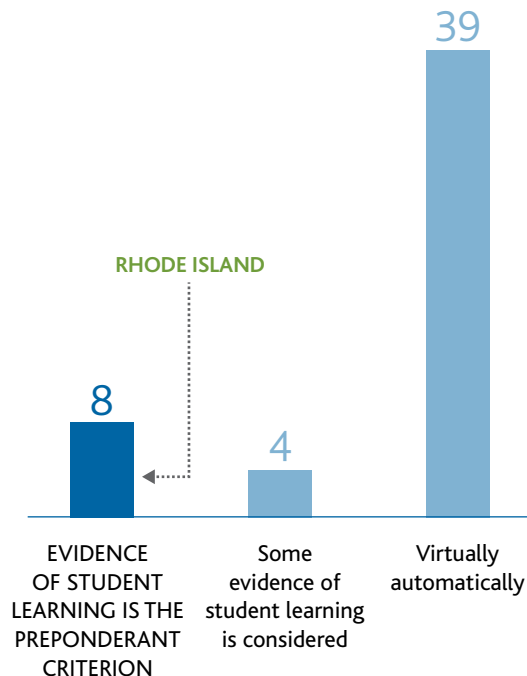


Figure 81

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

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

Goal E – Licensure Advancement

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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

Figure 83

How States are Faring on Licensure Advancement



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 4 ↔ : 45 ↓ : 2



Best Practice State



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Rhode Island requires evidence of teacher effectiveness in licensing and advancement policies.

Initial certification for elementary or secondary education (or other specific or specialty) is a three-year renewable certificate of eligibility for employment. The state also has a one-year professional transitional certificate for teachers who have secured regular employment. Under this transitional process, professional development requirements do not apply while the state is working to develop a new certification and certification renewal process that will integrate certification, certification renewal, and educator evaluation. Until the new system is implemented, the transitional certification process remains in effect.

Under the new system, renewal and advancement of certification will be based on teacher performance and will be linked to evaluation ratings. Certificates will not be renewed if educators consistently demonstrate ineffective performance on local evaluations.

Supporting Research

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/iplans.aspx>

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/>

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 84

Do states require teachers to show evidence of effectiveness before conferring professional licensure?

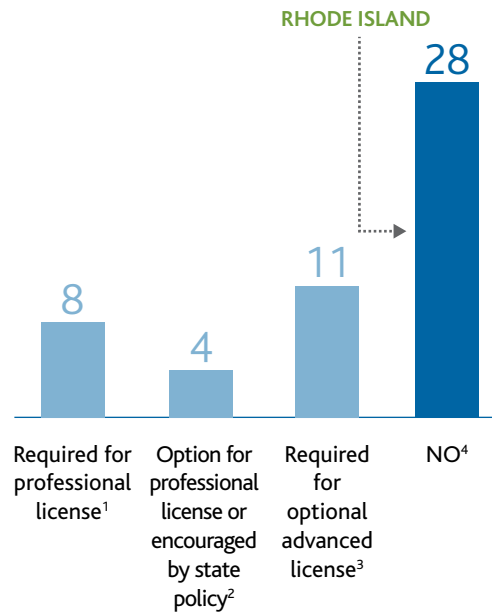
| | OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS IS REQUIRED | Some objective evidence of effectiveness is considered | Consideration given to teacher performance, but performance is not tied to classroom effectiveness | Performance not considered |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Louisiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| RHODE ISLAND | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | 3 | 3 | 11 | 34 |

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 85

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



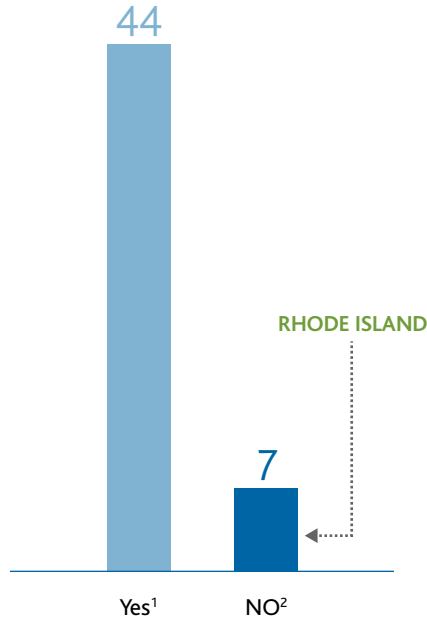
1. Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New York and Oregon all require a master's degree or coursework equivalent to a master's degree
2. Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Tennessee
3. Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia,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

Figure 84

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

Figure 86

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



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

Figure 87

Do states award lifetime professional licenses?



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

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers

Goal F – Equitable Distribution

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

Goal Components

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

The state should make the following data publicly available:

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

Background

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

Figure 88

How States are Faring on Equitable Distribution



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 4 ↔ : 47 ↓ : 0



ANALYSIS

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

Rhode Island collects and publicly reports some of the data recommended by NCTQ. Although the state does not provide a school-level teacher quality index that demonstrates the academic backgrounds of a school's teachers, Rhode Island does report on the percentage of teachers on emergency certification, the percentage of classes taught by highly qualified teachers, the percentage of classes taught by teachers in the field of education for less than one year and teacher retention. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. Rhode Island compares the percentage of highly qualified teachers in high- and low-poverty schools in the state report card.

Supporting Research

Rhode Island School Recruiting and Supporting Teachers

<http://infoworks.rhode.uri.edu/2009/pdf/recruit/21111H-recr.pdf> =

Information Works 2009

<http://infoworks.rhode.uri.edu/2009/state/infoworks2009-full.pdf>

RECOMMENDATION

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

Rhode Island is commended for reporting more school-level data than most states. However, the state should utilize a teacher quality index with such data as with 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. This can shine a light on how equitably teachers are distributed both across and within districts. Rhode Island 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.

Rhode Island should collect and report other school-level data that reflect the stability of a school's faculty, including the rate of teacher absenteeism.

■ Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

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

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 89

Do states publicly report school-level data about teachers?

| | AN INDEX FOR EACH SCHOOL ASSOCIATED WITH TEACHER QUALITY | PERCENTAGE OF TEACHERS ON EMERGENCY CREDENTIALS ¹ | PERCENTAGE OF NEW TEACHERS ¹ | PERCENTAGE OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS | ANNUAL TURNOVER RATE | TEACHER ABSENTEEISM RATE |
|----------------------|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 0 | 18 | 10 | 41 | 6 | 5 |

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal A – Induction

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 90

How States are Faring on Induction

- ★ 1 **Best Practice State**
South Carolina
- 7 **States Meet Goal**
Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, West Virginia
- 17 **States Nearly Meet Goal**
California, Colorado, Connecticut↑, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland↑, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, RHODE ISLAND, Utah, Virginia
- 11 **States Partly Meet Goal**
Alaska, Arizona, Illinois, New Mexico, North Dakota↑, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin
- 6 **States Meet a Small Part of Goal**
Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Minnesota↑, Montana, Texas
- 9 **States Do Not Meet Goal**
District of Columbia, Georgia, Indiana↓, Louisiana↓, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota↓, Vermont, Wyoming

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 4 ↔ : 44 ↓ : 3



ANALYSIS

Rhode Island requires that all new teachers receive mentoring. New teachers are required to participate in a mentoring program for at least the first two years of employment. Local districts determine mentor selection, although the state does require mentors to have at least five years' teaching experience and additional training; the match of subject matter or grade level experience is not expected. Mentors are compensated, and state funds must also be used to provide release time for the pair to "engage in conferencing and observation." A regular survey and evaluation process to assess the program's effectiveness is also required.

Supporting Research

Rhode Island General Law 16-7.1-2

Rhode Island Mentor Program Standards

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/DOCS/mentoring/Rhode%20Island%20Mentor%20Program%20Standards%20%20January-02%20x.pdf>

RECOMMENDATION

■ Expand guidelines to include other key areas.

While still leaving districts flexibility, Rhode Island should articulate minimum guidelines for a high-quality induction experience. The state should require a timeline in which mentors are assigned to all new teachers, ideally soon after the commencing of teaching, to offer support during those first critical weeks of school, and mentors should also be required to be trained in a content area or grade level similar to that of the new teacher.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island noted that as part of its Race to the Top commitment, the state has contracted with the New Teacher Center and is implementing a new statewide induction program for the 2011-2012 school year.

Supporting Research

Educator Quality Induction Program

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/mentoring.aspx>

Figure 91

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

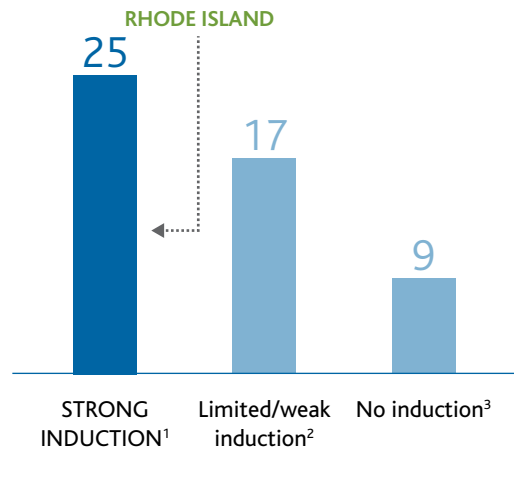
| | MENTORING FOR ALL NEW TEACHERS | MENTORING OF SUFFICIENT FREQUENCY AND DURATION | MENTORING PROVIDED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR | CAREFUL SELECTION OF MENTORS | MENTORS MUST BE TRAINED | MENTORS/PROGRAM MUST BE EVALUATED | MENTOR IS COMPENSATED | USE OF A VARIETY OF EFFECTIVE INDUCTION STRATEGIES |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Alabama | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 30 | 18 | 9 | 17 | 28 | 12 | 21 | 17 |

★ **EXAMPLES 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 92

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



1. *Strong Practice:* Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia

2. Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin

3. District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Vermont, Wyoming

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal B – Professional Development

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

Goal Components

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

1. The state should require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance.
2. The state should direct districts to align professional development activities with findings from teachers' evaluations.

Background

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

Figure 93

How States are Faring on Professional Development

-  **0** Best Practice State
-  **10** States Meet Goal
Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, **RHODE ISLAND**, South Carolina, Wyoming
-  **7** States Nearly Meet Goal
Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, New Mexico, New York, Texas
-  **10** States Partly Meet Goal
Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia
-  **12** States Meet a Small Part of Goal
Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah
-  **12** States Do Not Meet Goal
District of Columbia, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

New Goal



ANALYSIS

Rhode Island requires that all teachers receive written, detailed feedback that informs recommendations for professional growth. The state also specifies that evaluation systems be designed to provide "agreement between the evaluation analysis and the identified goals and improvement expectations that inform professional development."

Supporting Research

Rhode Island Educator Evaluation System Standards Rubric <http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/Docs/Educator%20Evaluation%20Rubric%2007%2011%2010.pdf>

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

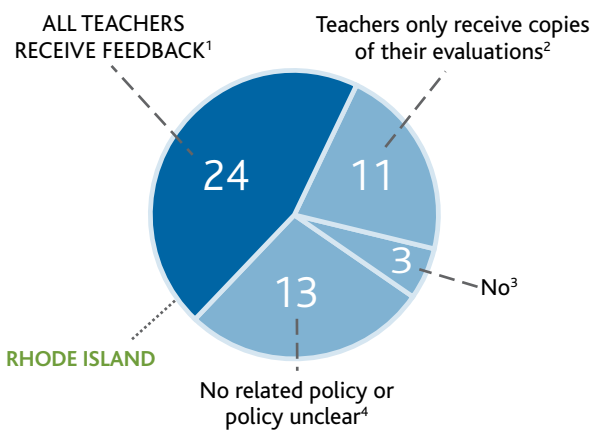
Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 94

Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?



1. *Strong Practice*: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming

2. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma

3. Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Utah

4. Alabama, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin

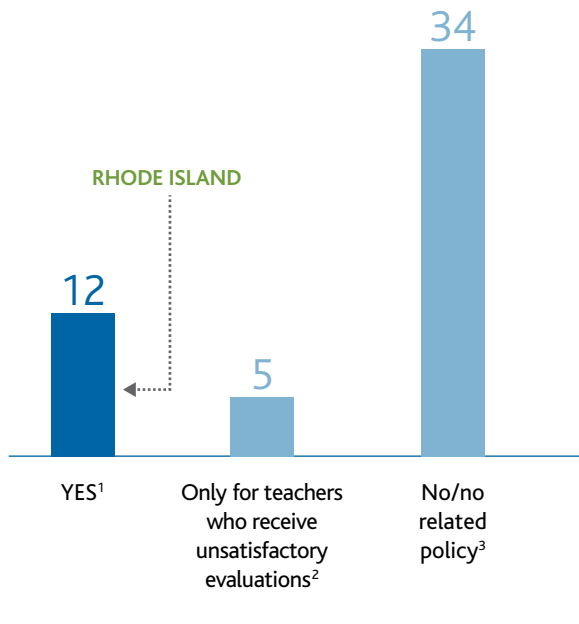
Figure 95

Do states ensure that evaluations are used to help teachers improve?

| | ALL TEACHERS RECEIVE FEEDBACK | EVALUATION INFORMS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | 24 | 12 |

Figure 96

Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



1. **Strong Practice:** Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wyoming

2. Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Texas

3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi⁴, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

4. Mississippi requires professional development based on evaluation results only for teachers in need of improvement in school identified as at-risk.

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.)

1. While the state may find it appropriate to articulate teachers' starting salaries, it should not require districts to adhere to a state-dictated salary schedule that defines steps and lanes and sets minimum pay at each level.
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 by seniority.

Background

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

Figure 97

How States are Faring in Pay Scales





ANALYSIS

Rhode Island mandates that local districts establish a minimum salary schedule that recognizes “years of service, experience and training” and has no more than 12 annual steps.

Supporting Research

Rhode Island Code 16-7-29

RECOMMENDATION

■ **Give districts flexibility to determine their own pay structure and scales.**

While Rhode Island does not require local districts to adhere to a state-dictated schedule, it still mandates that local salary schedules are based on “years of service, experience and training,” thereby not giving full authority to districts.

■ **Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.**

While leaving districts the flexibility to establish their own pay scale, Rhode Island 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, Rhode Island should articulate policies that discourage districts from determining the highest steps on the pay scale solely by seniority.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

★ **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 98

What role does the state play in deciding teacher pay rates?

| | Sets minimum salary schedule | Sets minimum salary | DISTRICTS SET SALARY SCHEDULE |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | 16 | 8 | 27 |

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.

Figure 99

Do states discourage districts from basing teacher pay on advanced degrees?

| | REQUIRES PERFORMANCE TO COUNT MORE THAN ADVANCED DEGREES | Leaves pay to district discretion | Requires compensation for advanced degrees |
|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 3 | 32 | 16 |

1. Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training".

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

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 Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 100

How States are Faring in Compensation for Prior Work Experience



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 0 ↔ : 51 ↓ : 0



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Rhode Island does not encourage local districts to provide compensation for 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, Rhode Island 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.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

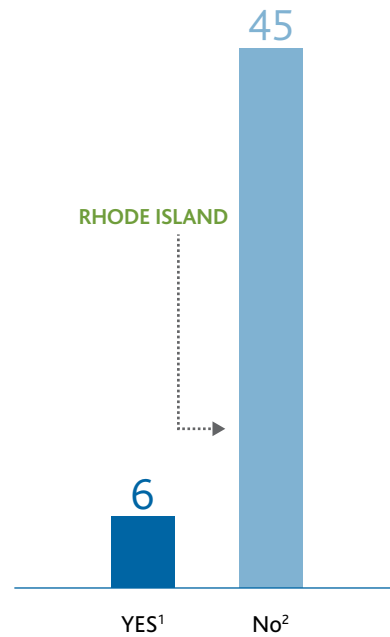
Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

★ **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 101

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



1. **Strong Practice:** California, Delaware, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, Washington

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

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 www.nctq.org/stpy.

Figure 102

How States are Faring on Differential Pay

- ★ **1** Best Practice State
Georgia
- **12** States Meet Goal
Arkansas, California, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas
- ◐ **3** States Nearly Meet Goal
Maryland, Virginia, Washington
- ◑ **8** States Partly Meet Goal
Colorado, Hawaii↓, Idaho↑, North Carolina, Pennsylvania↓, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming↓
- ◒ **10** States Meet a Small Part of Goal
Connecticut, Illinois, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, RHODE ISLAND↑, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont
- **17** States Do Not Meet Goal
Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Iowa↓, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, West Virginia

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 2 ↔ : 45 ↓ : 4



ANALYSIS

Rhode Island supports incentives that teachers can earn by teaching certain subjects. Loans may be partially or completely canceled for licensed teachers of mathematics, science, foreign languages, bilingual education or any other field of expertise where there is a shortage of qualified teachers.

Rhode Island does not support differential pay for those teaching in high-needs schools. However, the state has no regulatory language that would directly block districts from providing differential pay.

Supporting Research

Teacher Shortage Report

http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/DOCS/General_Documents/PDF/USDOE%20Tchr%20Shortage%20letter.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

- **Expand differential pay initiative for teachers in subject shortage areas.**

Although the state's loan forgiveness program is a desirable recruitment and retention tool for teachers early in the career, Rhode Island should expand its program to include those already part of the teaching pool. A salary differential is an attractive incentive for every teacher, not just those with education debt.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 103

Do states provide incentives to teach in high-need schools or shortage subject areas?

| | HIGH NEED SCHOOLS | | SHORTAGE SUBJECT AREAS | | No support |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | DIFFERENTIAL PAY | Loan Forgiveness | DIFFERENTIAL PAY | Loan Forgiveness | |
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Connecticut ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Maryland ² | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Nevada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota ³ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁴ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 21 | 7 | 17 | 11 | 17 |

1. Connecticut offers mortgage assistance and incentives to retired teachers working in shortage subject areas.

2. Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in shortage subject areas.

3. South Dakota offers signing bonuses and scholarships to fill shortages in high-need schools.

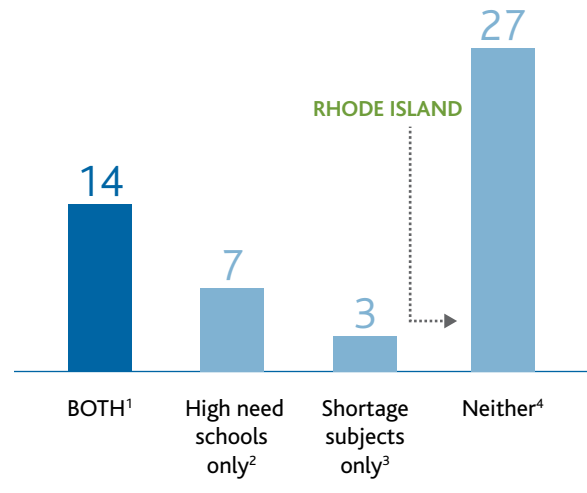
4. Shortage subject area differential pay is limited to the Middle School Teacher Corps program.

★ **EXAMPLES 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 new compensation strategy for math and science teachers, which moves teachers along the salary schedule rather than just providing a bonus or stipend. The state also supports differential pay initiatives to link compensation more closely with district needs and to achieve a more equitable distribution of teachers. Georgia's efforts to provide incentives for National Board Certification teachers to work in high-need schools are also noteworthy.

Figure 104

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



1. **Strong Practice:** Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia

2. Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, North Carolina, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

3. Idaho, Pennsylvania, Utah

4. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia

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 www.nctq.org/stpy.

Figure 105

How States are Faring on Performance Pay



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 11 ↔ : 37 ↓ : 3



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Rhode Island 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, Rhode Island 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.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island noted that under its Race to the Top grant, the state will support two pilot programs to examine performance pay models.

★ 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.

Figure 106

Do states support performance pay?

| | PERFORMANCE FACTORED INTO SALARY FOR ALL TEACHERS | PERFORMANCE BONUSES AVAILABLE TO ALL TEACHERS | Performance pay permitted / encouraged by the state | State-sponsored performance pay initiatives offered in select districts | Does not support performance pay |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | 3 | 4 | 12 | 5 | 27 |

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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal G – Pension Flexibility

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 107

How States are Faring on Pension Flexibility



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 2 ↔ : 39 ↓ : 10



ANALYSIS

Rhode Island only offers a defined benefit pension plan to its teachers as their mandatory pension plan. This plan is not fully portable, does not vest until year 10, and does not provide any employer contribution for teachers who choose to withdraw their account balances when leaving the system. It also limits flexibility by restricting the ability to purchase years of service.

Some teachers in Rhode Island also participate in Social Security, so they must contribute to the state's defined benefit plan in addition to Social Security. Although retirement savings in addition to Social Security are good and necessary for most individuals, the state's policy results in mandated contributions to two inflexible plans, rather than permitting teachers options for their state-provided savings plans.

Vesting in a defined benefit plan guarantees a teacher's eligibility to receive lifetime monthly benefit payments at retirement age. Nonvested teachers do not have a right to later retirement benefits; they may only withdraw the portion of their funds allowed by the plan. Rhode Island's vesting at 10 years of service is very late and limits the options of teachers who leave the system prior to this point.

Many teachers will leave the system before they reach 10 years of service. Teachers in Rhode Island who choose to withdraw their contributions upon leaving only receive their own employee contributions. This means that those who withdraw their funds accrue fewer benefits than they might have earned had they simply put their contributions in basic savings accounts. Therefore, for teachers working in a district that does not participate in Social Security, leaving the pension system would have saved only 9.5 percent of their salary plus interest (see Goal 4-H), which is below the level conventionally recommended by retirement advisers for individuals not contributing to Social Security. While Rhode Island's mandatory contribution rate allows for flexibility in teachers' retirement savings, it also means that the state needs to educate teachers who work in districts not participating in Social Security on what happens if they leave the system and encourage savings in other portable supplemental plans. Further, teachers who remain in the field of education but enter another pension plan (such as in another state) will find it difficult to purchase the time equivalent to their prior employment in the new system because they are not entitled to any employer contribution.

Rhode Island limits teachers' flexibility to purchase years of service. The ability to purchase time is important because defined benefit plans' retirement eligibility and benefit payments are often tied to the number of years a teacher has worked. Rhode Island's plan allows teachers to purchase time for previous teaching experience, up to five years. While better than not allowing any purchase at all, this provision is less than most states' and disadvantages teachers who move to Rhode Island with more teaching experience. The state's plan also allows for the purchase of approved leaves of absence, up to four years. This may be a disadvantage for teachers who need to take more than four years of total leave over the course of their careers for personal reasons such as maternity or paternity care.

Supporting Research

Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island Handbook

http://www.ersri.org/public/documentation/Membership&RetirementHandbook_Sept2010.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

- **Increase the portability of its defined benefit plan.**

If Rhode Island maintains its defined benefit plan, it should allow teachers that leave the system to withdraw their employee contributions plus interest and employer contributions. The state should also allow teachers to purchase their full amount of previous teaching experience, allow for the purchase of at least one year per parental leave and decrease the vesting requirement to year three. A lack of portability is a disincentive to an increasingly mobile teaching force.

- **Offer a fully portable supplemental retirement savings plan.**

If Rhode Island maintains its defined benefit plan, the state should at least offer teachers the option of a fully portable supplemental defined contribution savings plan, with employers matching a percentage of teachers' contributions.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island did not respond to repeated requests to review NCTQ's analyses related to teacher pensions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Figure 109

What type of pension systems do states offer teachers?

| | Defined benefit plan only | Defined benefit plan with defined contribution supplemental plan | Hybrid plan ¹ | CHOICE OF DEFINED BENEFIT OR DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN | DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN ONLY |
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| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington ⁸ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| | 25 | 17 | 4 | 4 | 1 |

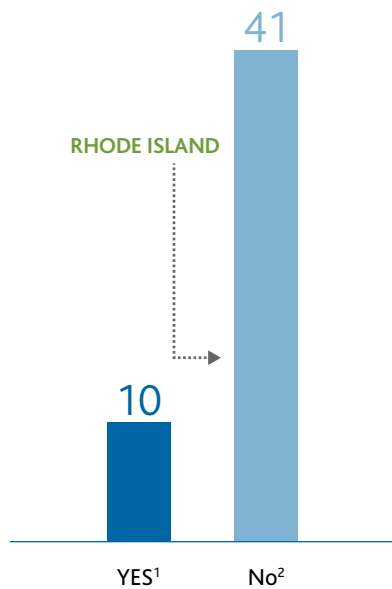
★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

Figure 110

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



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

Figure 111

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

Figure 111

How many years before teachers vest?

| | 3 YEARS OR LESS | 4 to 5 years | 6 to 9 years | 10 years |
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| Florida ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Oregon ⁵ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington ⁷ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 3 | 29 | 3 | 16 |

Figure 112

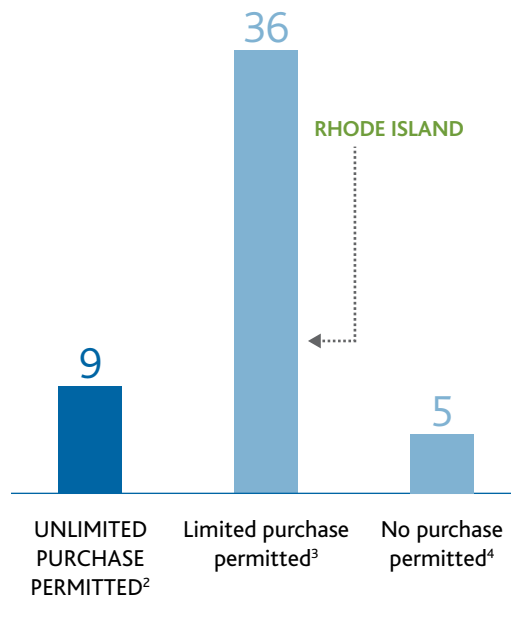
What funds do states permit teachers to withdraw from their defined benefit plans if they leave after five years?¹

| | Less than their own contribution | Only their own contribution | Their own contribution plus interest | Their own contribution and part of the employer contribution plus interest | THEIR OWN CONTRIBUTION AND FULL EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLUS INTEREST |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California ³ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa ⁴ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan ⁵ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada ⁶ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio ⁷ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon ⁸ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina ⁹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah ¹⁰ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington ¹¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 4 | 5 | 34 | 6 | 1 |

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

Figure 113

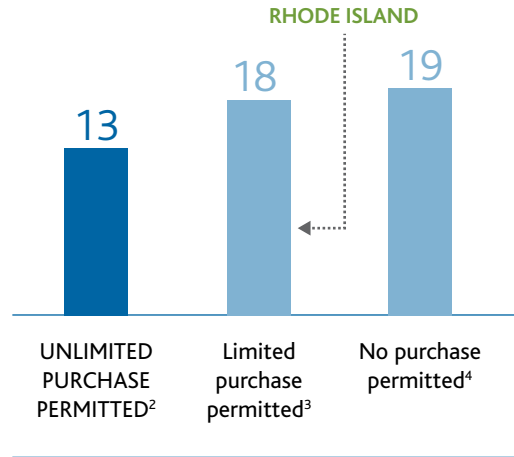
Do states permit teachers to purchase time for previous teaching experience?¹



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

Figure 114

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



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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal H – Pension Sustainability

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 115

How States are Faring on Pension Sustainability

- ★ 3 Best Practice States
South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin
- 3 States Meet Goal
Alaska, District of Columbia ↑, Florida
- 6 States Nearly Meet Goal
Delaware ↓, Georgia, New York, North Carolina, Washington, Wyoming ↑
- 9 States Partly Meet Goal
California ↓, Idaho ↓, Indiana, Iowa ↓, Nebraska ↓, Nevada ↓, Oregon ↓, Texas ↓, Utah ↓
- 20 States Meet a Small Part of Goal
Alabama, Arizona, Colorado ↓, Connecticut, Illinois ↓, Kansas, Kentucky ↓, Louisiana ↓, Maine ↓, Massachusetts ↓, Michigan ↓, Minnesota, Mississippi ↓, New Hampshire ↓, New Jersey ↓, RHODE ISLAND ↓, South Carolina, Vermont ↓, Virginia, West Virginia
- 10 States Do Not Meet Goal
Arkansas ↓, Hawaii ↓, Maryland ↓, Missouri ↓, Montana ↓, New Mexico, North Dakota ↓, Ohio ↓, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania ↓

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 2 ↔ : 20 ↓ : 29



ANALYSIS

As of June 30, 2010, the most recent date for which an actuarial valuation is available, Rhode Island's pension system for teachers is 48.4 percent funded and has a 19-year amortization period. This means that if the plan earns its assumed rate of return and maintains current contribution rates, it would take the state 19 years to pay off its unfunded liabilities. While its amortization period meets requirements, Rhode Island's funding level is too low. The state's system is not financially sustainable according to actuarial benchmarks.

In addition, Rhode Island commits excessive resources toward its teachers' retirement system. The current employer contribution rate of 22.32 percent is extremely high and is set to increase to 35.25 percent for fiscal year 2012, in light of the fact that most local districts are contributing an additional 6.2 percent to Social Security. The employer rate is determined according to statutory requirements, which mandate that the employer contribution rate must equal the cost to fund this year's expenses (the normal cost) plus any amount needed to amortize any unfunded liabilities over a closed period ending June 30, 2029. The state pays 40 percent of the employer contribution and the local districts pay 60 percent. While these rates allow the state to pay off liabilities within a relatively short period, it does so at great cost, precluding Rhode Island from spending those funds on other, more immediate means to retain talented teachers. The employee contribution rate of 9.5 percent (with an additional 1 percent if the municipality has a COLA provision) is reasonable for those teachers in districts not contributing to Social Security but is excessive for those teachers who must also contribute 6.2 percent to Social Security.

Supporting Research

Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island, Actuarial Valuation as of June 30, 2010

https://www.ersri.org/public/actuarialValuations/ERS_VAL10.pdf

Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009

<http://www.ersri.org/public/documentation/50309%20Annual%20Report%20Web.pdf>

RECOMMENDATION

■ Ensure that the pension system is financially sustainable.

The state would be better off if its system was over 95 percent funded to allow more protection during financial downturns. However, Rhode Island should consider ways to improve its funding level without raising the contributions of school districts and teachers. Committing excessive resources to pension benefits can negatively affect teacher recruitment and retention. Improving funding levels necessitates, in part, systemic changes in the state's pension system. Goals 4-G and 4-I provide suggestions for pension system structures that are both sustainable and fair.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island did not respond to repeated requests to review NCTQ's analyses related to teacher pensions.

Figure 116

Do state pension systems meet standard benchmarks for financial health?

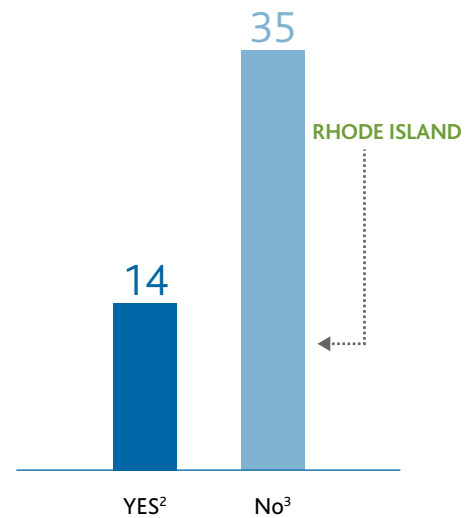
| | AT LEAST 80 PERCENT FUNDED | MAXIMUM 30 YEAR AMORTIZATION PERIOD |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input style="border: 1px solid black;" type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input style="border: 1px solid black;" type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah ³ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 16 | 26 |

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 117

Are state pension systems financially sustainable?¹



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

Figure 116

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

Figure 118

Real Rate of Return

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

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

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

Figure 119

How well funded are state pension systems?

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

Figure 119

1. Alaska has only a defined contribution pension system.
2. Indiana's current plan is 94.7 percent funded. However, when the current plan is combined with its closed plan, the funding level drops to 44.3 percent.

Figure 120

What is a reasonable rate for pension contributions?

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

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

Sources:

- http://www.schwab.com/public/schwab/resource_center/expert_insight/retirement_strategies/planning/how_much_should_you_save_for_retirement_play_the_percentages.html
- <https://personal.vanguard.com/us/insights/retirement/saving/set-retirement-goals>

Figure 121

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

Figure 121

What are the current employer¹ contribution rates to state pension systems?

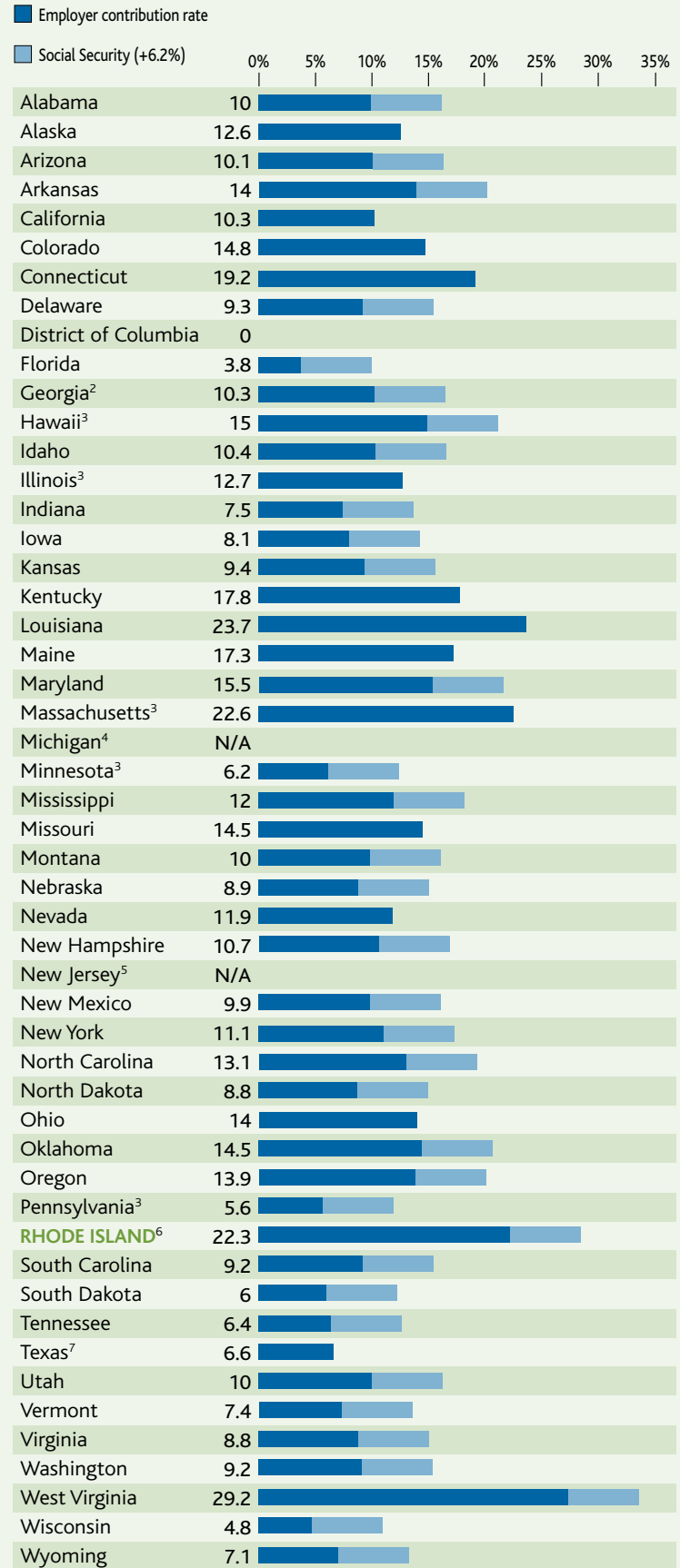
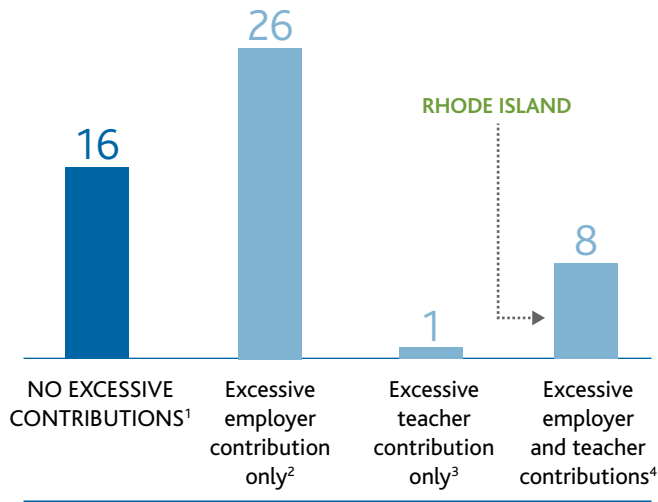


Figure 122

Do states require excessive contributions to their pension systems?



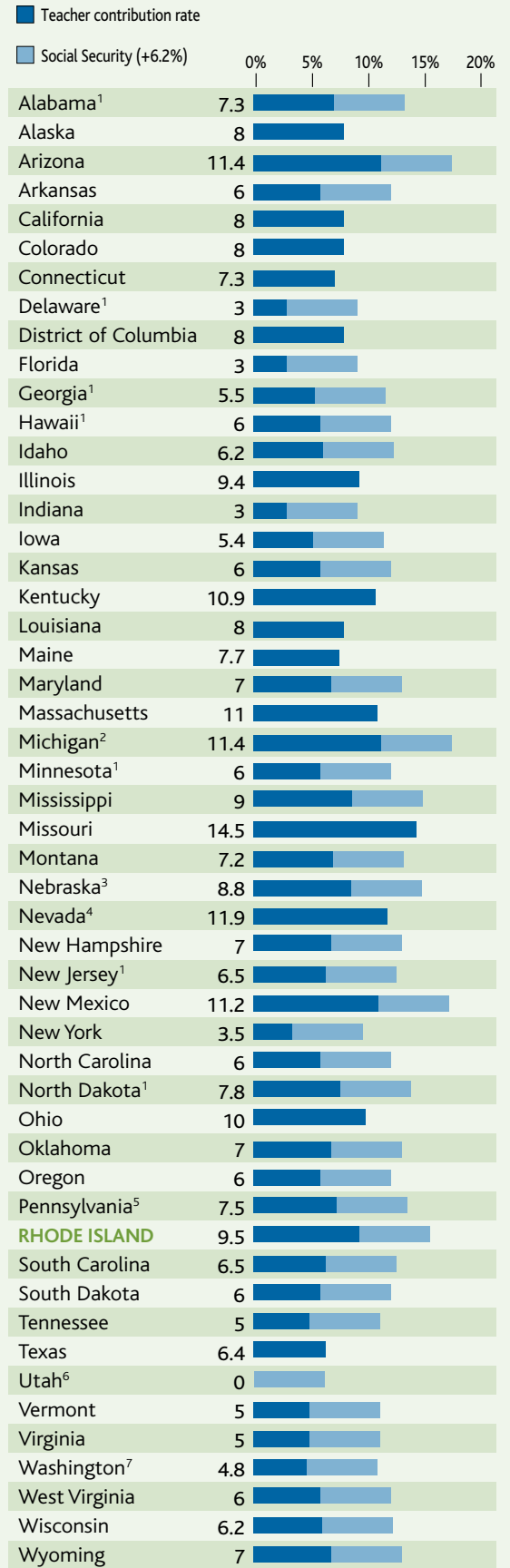
- Strong Practice:** Alaska, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey⁵, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland,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

Figure 123

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

Figure 123

How much do state pension systems require teachers to contribute?



Area 4: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal I – Pension Neutrality

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 124

How States are Faring on Pension Neutrality

- ★ 1 Best Practice State
Alaska
- 3 States Meet Goal
Illinois↑, Minnesota, New Jersey↑
- 8 States Nearly Meet Goal
Louisiana↑, Maine↑, Michigan↑, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah↑, Washington
- 26 States Partly Meet Goal
Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii↑, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota↑, Oklahoma↑, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 1 State Meets a Small Part of Goal
New Hampshire↑
- 12 States Do Not Meet Goal
Arizona, California, Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, RHODE ISLAND, Vermont↓, Wyoming

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 10 ↔ : 40 ↓ : 1



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

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

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

Rhode Island's pension plan does not utilize a constant benefit multiplier for teachers with different years of service. Instead, the multiplier is 1.6 percent for years 1 through 10, 1.8 percent for years 11 to 20, 2 percent for years 20 through 25, 2.25 percent for years 26 through 30 and 2.5 percent for years 31 through 37. After year 37, the multiplier is reduced to 2.25 percent. The maximum benefit teachers can earn is 75 percent of their final average salaries, which is earned at 38 years of service. After 38 years, teachers' total benefit multipliers will not increase; however, their benefits may still increase if their final average salaries continue to escalate.

In addition, teachers may retire before standard retirement age based on years of service without a reduction in benefits. Teachers with 29 years of service may retire at age 59, while other vested teachers with less than 29 years of service may not retire until age 65. Therefore, teachers who begin their careers at age 30 can reach 29 years of service by age 59, entitling them to six additional years of unreduced retirement benefits beyond what other teachers would receive who may not retire until age 65.

These provisions, along with the state's early retirement with reduced benefits based on years of service, may encourage effective teachers to retire earlier than they may otherwise, and they fail to treat equally those teachers who enter the system at a later age and give the same amount of service.

Supporting Research

Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island Handbook

http://www.ersri.org/public/documentation/Membership&RetirementHandbook_Sept2010.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

- **Utilize a constant benefit multiplier to calculate retirement benefits for all teachers, regardless of years of service.**

Each year of service should accrue equal pension wealth. Rhode Island should use a pension formula that treats each year of service equally.

■ **End retirement eligibility based on years of service.**

Rhode Island should change its practice of allowing teachers with 29 years of service to retire at age 59 with full benefits. If retirement at an earlier age is offered to some teachers, benefits should be reduced accordingly to compensate for the longer duration they will be awarded.

■ **Align eligibility for retirement with unreduced benefits with Social Security retirement age.**

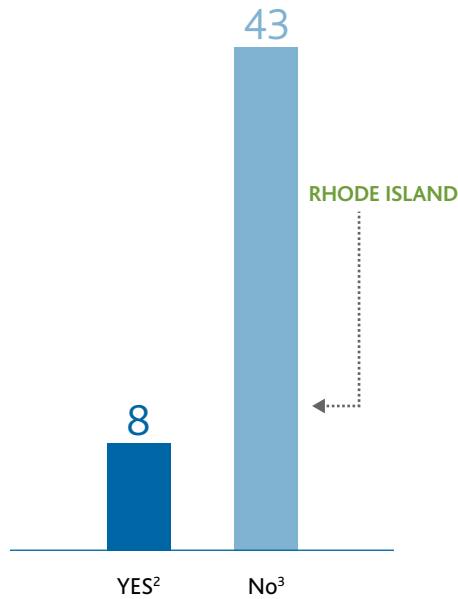
Rhode Island allows all teachers to retire before conventional retirement age, some as young as 59. As life expectancies continue to increase, teachers may draw out of the system for many more years than they contributed. This is not compatible with a financially sustainable system (see Goal 4-H).

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island did not respond to repeated requests to review NCTQ's analyses related to teacher pensions.

Figure 125

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



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

Figure 126

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

Figure 126

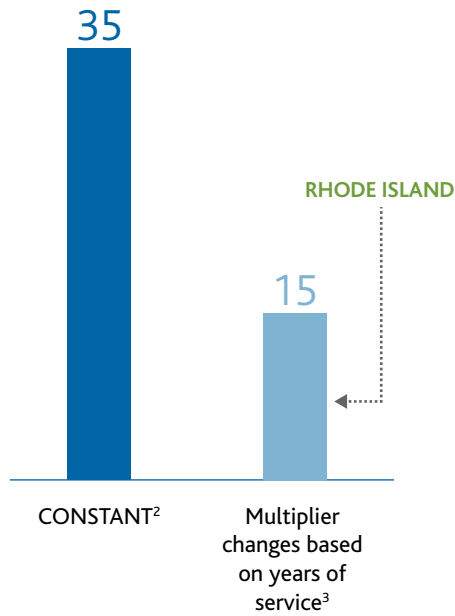
How much do states pay for each teacher that retires with unreduced benefits at an early age?¹

Total amount in benefits paid per teacher from the time of retirement until age 65
 Earliest retirement age that a teacher who started teaching at age 22 may receive unreduced benefits

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Alaska ² | | |
| Illinois | \$0 | 67 |
| Maine | \$0 | 65 |
| Minnesota ³ | \$0 | 66 |
| New Hampshire | \$0 | 65 |
| New Jersey | \$0 | 65 |
| Washington | \$0 | 65 |
| Tennessee | \$238,654 | 52 |
| Michigan | \$289,187 | 60 |
| California ⁴ | \$310,028 | 62 |
| Indiana | \$317,728 | 55 |
| Hawaii ⁵ | \$337,385 | 60 |
| Kansas | \$337,385 | 60 |
| Oregon | \$361,536 | 58 |
| North Dakota | \$385,583 | 60 |
| Oklahoma | \$385,583 | 60 |
| Maryland | \$413,808 | 56 |
| Wisconsin | \$416,007 | 57 |
| RHODE ISLAND | \$430,013 | 59 |
| New York | \$440,819 | 57 |
| Texas | \$443,421 | 60 |
| South Dakota | \$447,707 | 55 |
| Virginia | \$468,982 | 56 |
| Louisiana | \$481,979 | 60 |
| Florida | \$485,257 | 55 |
| Vermont | \$486,832 | 56 |
| Montana | \$518,228 | 47 |
| Connecticut | \$520,009 | 57 |
| Utah | \$520,009 | 57 |
| Iowa | \$551,428 | 55 |
| Idaho | \$551,743 | 56 |
| North Carolina | \$568,555 | 52 |
| South Carolina | \$577,142 | 50 |
| Nebraska | \$577,687 | 55 |
| West Virginia | \$577,687 | 55 |
| Delaware | \$577,927 | 52 |
| District of Columbia | \$585,737 | 52 |
| Massachusetts ⁶ | \$594,296 | 57 |
| Georgia | \$624,786 | 52 |
| Mississippi | \$624,786 | 52 |
| Alabama | \$625,747 | 47 |
| Colorado | \$650,011 | 57 |
| Pennsylvania | \$650,011 | 57 |
| Wyoming | \$655,506 | 54 |
| Arizona | \$664,340 | 55 |
| Arkansas | \$681,789 | 50 |
| Ohio | \$687,265 | 52 |
| New Mexico | \$734,124 | 52 |
| Nevada | \$780,983 | 52 |
| Missouri | \$789,343 | 51 |
| Kentucky | \$791,679 | 49 |

Figure 127

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



★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

1. Alaska has a defined contribution plan, which does not have a benefit multiplier.

2. **Strong Practice:** Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

3. Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wyoming

Figure 128

Double-Dipping: Cure the Disease, Not the Symptom

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

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

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

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

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

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal A – Licensure Loopholes

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

Goal Components

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

1. 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 www.nctq.org/stpy.

Figure 129

How States are Faring on Closing Licensure Loopholes



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 5 ↔ : 46 ↓ : 0



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Rhode Island allows teachers who have not met licensure requirements to teach under its emergency permit. This permit is valid for one year and may be issued to individuals who lack the requirements for the professional certificate if the local superintendent can document that a certified teacher is unavailable.

Supporting Research

Glossary of Terms and Certificate Explanations

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/educatorquality/DOCS/Certification/Glossary%20of%20Terms.pdf>

RECOMMENDATION

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

While Rhode Island's policy minimizes the risks brought about by having teachers in classrooms who lack sufficient or appropriate subject-matter knowledge by offering its alternative license for one year only before teachers are required to take the obligatory subject-matter tests, the state could take its policy a step further and require all teachers to meet subject-matter license requirements prior to entering the classroom.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state noted that if adopted, proposed certification regulations would address this issue.

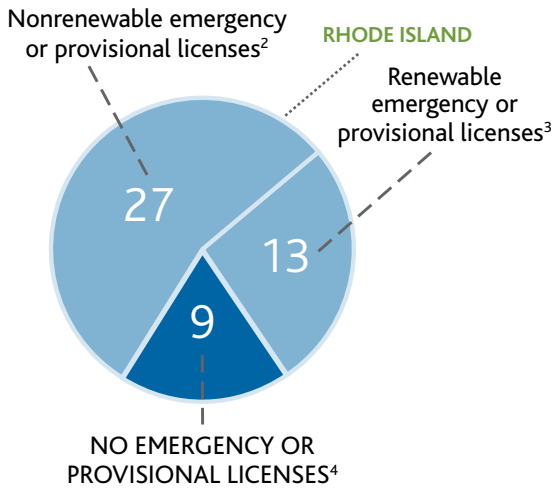
LAST WORD

NCTQ looks forward to reviewing the state's progress in future editions of the *Yearbook*.

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 130
Do states still award emergency licenses?¹



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

Figure 131

How long can new teachers practice without passing licensing tests?

| | NO DEFERRAL | Up to 1 year | Up to 2 years | 3 years or more (or unspecified) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Mississippi | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana ² | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska ³ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennessee | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Utah ⁴ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming ⁵ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 9 | 14 | 8 | 18 |

- Figure 131
1. Iowa only requires subject-matter testing for elementary teachers.
 2. Montana does not require subject-matter testing.
 3. Nebraska does not require subject-matter testing.
 4. There is a potential loophole in Utah, as alternate route teachers appear able to delay passage of subject-matter tests.
 5. Wyoming only requires subject-matter testing for elementary and social studies teachers.

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal B – Unsatisfactory Evaluations

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 132

How States are Faring on Consequences for Unsatisfactory Evaluations

- ★ 2 **Best Practice States**
Illinois↑, Oklahoma
- 11 **States Meet Goal**
Alaska, Arkansas↑, Colorado↑, Delaware↑, Florida, Indiana↑, Louisiana, New Mexico, New York↑, RHODE ISLAND↑, Washington
- ◐ 6 **States Nearly Meet Goal**
Georgia, Hawaii, Michigan↑, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas
- ◑ 13 **States Partly Meet Goal**
California, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts↑, Minnesota↑, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada↑, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee↑, Utah, West Virginia
- ◒ 5 **States Meet a Small Part of Goal**
Arizona, Idaho↑, Ohio↑, Virginia, Wyoming↑
- 14 **States Do Not Meet Goal**
Alabama↓, District of Columbia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 15 ↔ : 35 ↓ : 1



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Rhode Island's new Educator Evaluation System requires that teachers rated "ineffective or minimally effective" be placed on improvement plans. All teachers who receive two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations will be dismissed.

Supporting Research

Rhode Island Educator Evaluation System Standards Rubric <http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/Docs/Educator%20Evaluation%20Rubric%2007%2011%2010.pdf>

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 133

What are the consequences for teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations?

| | IMPROVEMENT PLAN AFTER A SINGLE UNSATISFACTORY RATING | ELIGIBLE FOR DISMISSAL AFTER MULTIPLE UNSATISFACTORY RATINGS | Other consequences | No articulated consequences |
|----------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arkansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| California | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connecticut | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delaware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Florida | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Illinois | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iowa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Massachusetts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minnesota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ³ |
| Missouri | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁴ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New York | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> ⁵ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⁶ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oklahoma | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oregon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RHODE ISLAND | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Carolina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| West Virginia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wyoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | 27 | 17 | 8 | 17 |

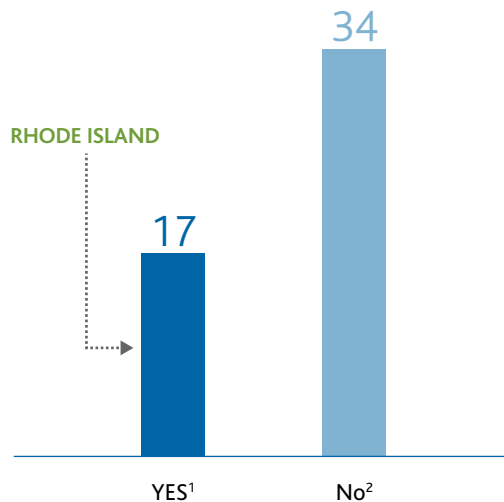
1. Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
2. While results of evaluations may be used in dismissal decisions, there are no specific criteria for a teacher's eligibility for dismissal.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

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 134

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



1. **Strong Practice:** Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington

2. Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho³, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada⁴, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

3. Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.

4. A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal.

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal C – Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

Goal Components

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

1. The state should articulate that teachers may be dismissed for ineffective classroom performance.
2. A teacher who is terminated for poor performance should have an opportunity to appeal. In the interest of both the teacher and the school district, the state should ensure that this appeal occurs within a reasonable time frame.
3. There should be a clear distinction between the process and accompanying due process rights for teachers dismissed for classroom ineffectiveness and the process and accompanying due process rights for teachers dismissed or facing license revocation for felony or morality violations or dereliction of duties.

Background

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

Figure 135

How States are Faring in Dismissal for Poor Performance



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

↑ : 16 ↔ : 35 ↓ : 0



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

In Rhode Island, tenured teachers who are terminated have multiple opportunities to appeal. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher may—within 15 days—request a hearing. The state does not articulate a time frame for this hearing. This decision may then be appealed to both the department of elementary and secondary education and to the superior court.

Rhode Island explicitly makes teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal by requiring districts to dismiss “all educators who are rated ineffective for two consecutive years.” In fact, Rhode Island does not articulate specific grounds for termination of teachers’ contracts other than ineffectiveness.

Supporting Research

Rhode Island General Law 16-13-4

Rhode Island Educator Evaluation System Standards Rubric

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/Docs/Educator%20Evaluation%20Rubric%2007%2011%2010.pdf>

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 136

Do states articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal?

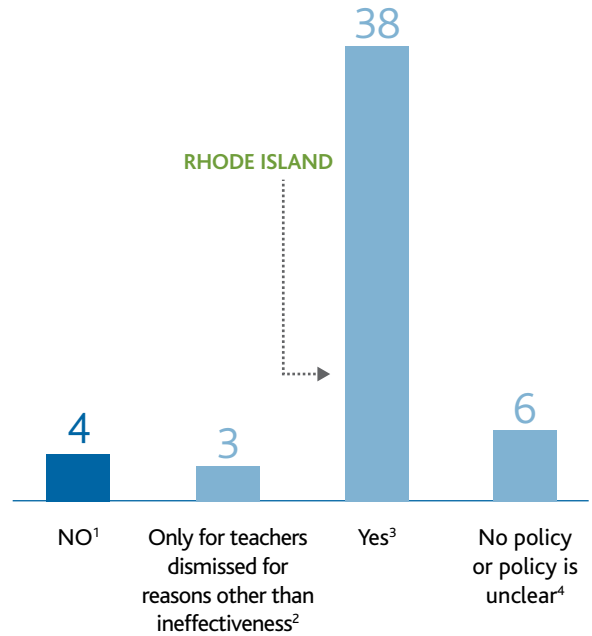
| | YES, THROUGH DISMISSAL POLICY | YES, THROUGH EVALUATION POLICY | No |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ¹ |
| Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ² |
| New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ³ |
| Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| West Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ³ |
| Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| | 9 | 13 | 38 |

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Oklahoma clearly articulates that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal and has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed to be ineffective is expedited. Teachers facing dismissal have only one opportunity to appeal.

Figure 137

Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



1. Strong Practice: Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Wisconsin

2. Teachers in these states revert to probationary status following ineffective evaluation ratings, meaning that they no longer have the due process right to multiple appeals: Colorado, Indiana, Tennessee

3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois⁵, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming

4. District of Columbia, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada⁶, Utah, Vermont

5. The teacher is responsible for the cost of the second appeal.

6. Though a teacher returns to probationary status after two consecutive unsatisfactory ratings, the state does not articulate clear policy about its appeals process.

Figure 136

1. It is left to districts to define "inadequacy of classroom performance."

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

3. Dismissal policy includes dismissal for unsatisfactory evaluations, but the state's evaluation system does not measure teacher effectiveness (see Goal 3-B).

Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Goal D – Reductions in Force

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 138

How States are Faring in Reductions in Force



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

New Goal



ANALYSIS

In Rhode Island, an executive order from the Commissioner ensures that teacher performance and student need, rather than seniority, are factors in determining which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force. The policy requires that a collective bargaining agreement cannot prevent districts from "assigning staff based on a set of performance criteria and on student need rather than by strict seniority," which "may well have implications for personnel decisions [made] for layoff notices."

Supporting Research

Commissioner Advisory/Notice to Superintendents, "Basic Education Program Regulations and Seniority-Based Teacher Assignments," October 20, 2009.

RECOMMENDATION

- **Require that districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.**

While the intent of the executive order appears to be to make performance a factor in layoff decisions and to ensure that seniority is not the only factor, the state should clarify this language.

RHODE ISLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Rhode Island recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that Rhode Island's Basic Education Program also addresses the use of seniority.

Supporting Research

http://infoworks.ride.ri.gov/files/topics/shared/BEP_FINAL_070110.pdf

Figure 139

Do states prevent districts from basing layoffs solely on “last in, first out”?

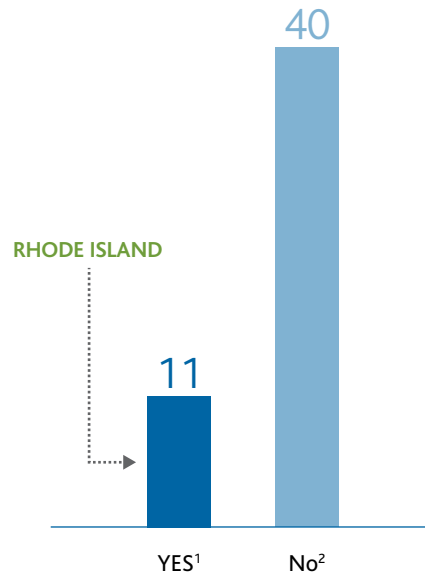
| | PERFORMANCE MUST BE CONSIDERED | SENIORITY CANNOT BE THE DECIDING FACTOR |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
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| Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 140

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



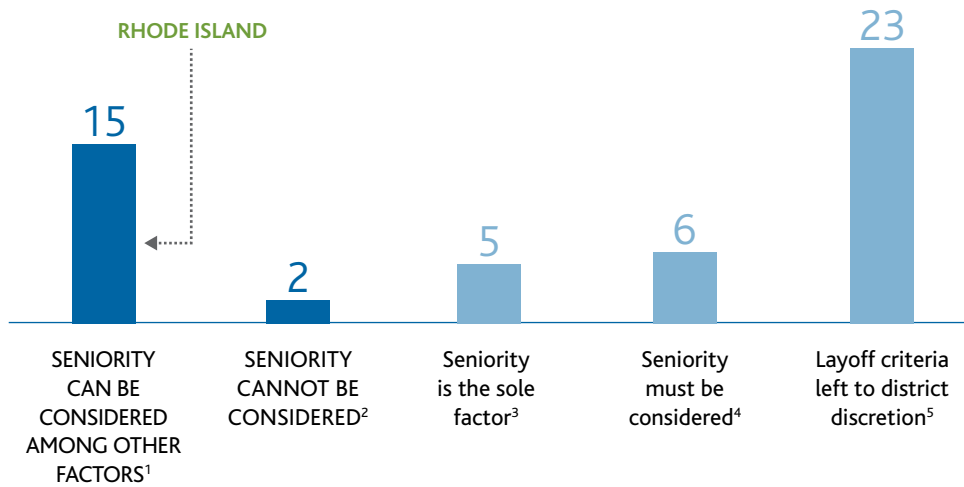
1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah

2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio³, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

3. Tenure is considered first.

Figure 141

Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?



1. *Strong Practice:* Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Missouri⁶, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio⁶, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas

2. *Strong Practice:* Idaho, Utah

3. Hawaii, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin⁷

4. California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon

5. Alabama, Alaska⁶, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia⁶, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts⁶, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska⁶, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming

6. Nontenured teachers are laid off first.

7. Only for counties with populations of 500,000 or more and for teachers hired before 1995.

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