2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Louisiana





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.

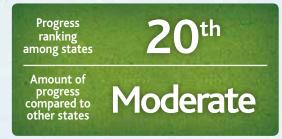
Louisiana at a Glance

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade:

Overall 2009 Yearbook Grade: C-

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

Overall Progress



Highlights from recent progress in Louisiana include:

- Evidence of student learning in teacher evaluations
- Annual evaluations for all teachers
- Licensure renewal based on evidence of teacher effectiveness

How is Louisiana Faring?

Area 1 Delivering Well Prepared Teachers

Policy Strengths

- Teacher candidates are required to pass a basic skills test as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- Middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.
- 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.
- Although teacher preparation programs are required to address the science of reading, candidates are not required to pass a test to ensure knowledge.
- Neither teacher preparation program nor licensure test requirements ensure that new elementary teachers are adequately prepared to teach mathematics.

- All new teachers must pass a pedagogy test.
- The approval process for teacher preparation programs holds them accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce, most notably by connecting student achievement data to preparation programs.

С

C+

- Although most secondary teachers must pass a content test to teach a core subject area, some secondary science and social studies teachers are not required to pass content tests for each discipline they intend to teach.
- Requirements for teacher preparation do not ensure a high-quality student teaching experience.

Area 2 Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Policy Strengths

- Admission requirements for alternate routes to certification include evidence of subject-matter knowledge and offer flexibility for nontraditional candidates.
- There are no restrictions on alternate route usage or providers.

Policy Weaknesses

 Alternate route preparation is not streamlined or geared toward the immediate needs of new teachers.

- The state offers a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time, although its use is limited.
- 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.

How is Louisiana Faring?

Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers

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.

Policy Weaknesses

Tenure decisions are not connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

- All teachers must be evaluated annually.
- Licensure advancement and renewal are based on teacher effectiveness.

C+

D+

D+

 Little school-level data are reported that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

Area 4 Retaining Effective Teachers

Policy Strengths

- Teachers receive feedback from their evaluations, and professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.
- Teachers can receive performance pay as well as additional compensation for working in high-need schools or shortage subject areas.

Policy Weaknesses

- All new teachers do not receive mentoring or other induction support.
- Teacher compensation is controlled by a state salary schedule based on years of experience and advanced degrees.
- The state does not support additional compensation for relevant prior work experience.
- Teachers are only offered a defined benefit pension plan as their mandatory pension plan, and pension policies are not portable, flexible or fair to all teachers.
- The pension system is significantly underfunded and requires excessive contributions.
- Teachers are allowed to retire with unreduced benefits well before Social Security retirement age.

Area 5 Exiting Ineffective Teachers

Policy Strengths

Teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations are required to go on improvement plans and, if they do not improve, are eligible for dismissal.

Policy Weaknesses

- Teachers can teach for up to three years before having to pass required subject-matter tests.
- Ineffective classroom performance is not grounds for dismissal.
- Seniority, rather than a teacher's performance in the classroom, is considered in determining which teachers to lay off during reductions in force.

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Louisiana Goal Summary

	Goal Breakdown	
	★ Best Practice	0
	Fully Meets	9
	Nearly Meets	4
	Partially Meets	11
	Only Meets a Small Part	3
8	O Does Not Meet	9
alone y	Progress on Goals Since 2009	
	Area 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
	1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs	•
	1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation	
	1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	0
	1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	0
	1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation	•
	1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation	\bigcirc
	1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	•
	1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies	0
	1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation	0
	1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge	•
	1-K: Student Teaching	0
	1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	•
6	Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers	
	2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility	•
	2-B: Alternate Route Preparation	0
	2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers	
	2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses	0
	2-E: Licensure Reciprocity	0

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers		
3-A: State Data Systems		
3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness	•	
3-C: Frequency of Evaluations	•	
3-D: Tenure	0	
3-E: Licensure Advancement		
3-F: Equitable Distribution	•	
Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers		
4-A: Induction	0	
4-B: Professional Development	•	
4-C: Pay Scales	0	
4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience	0	
4-E: Differential Pay	•	
4-F: Performance Pay	0	
4-G: Pension Flexibility	0	
4-H: Pension Sustainability	•	
4-I: Pension Neutrality	•	
Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers		
5-A: Licensure Loopholes	0	
5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations	•	
5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance	٥	
5-D: Reductions in Force	0	

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 feed-back from state officials, practitioners, policy groups and other education organizations, as well as from NCTQ's own nationally respected advisory board. These goals meet five criteria for an effective reform framework:

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

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

How to Read the Yearbook

NCTQ rates state teacher policy in several ways.

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



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

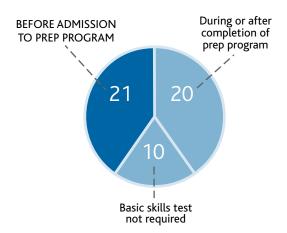


Some goals are marked with this symbol , which indicates that the bar has been raised for this goal since the 2009 *Yearbook*. With many states making considerable progress in advancing teacher effectiveness policy, NCTQ raised the standards for some goals where the bar had been quite low. As this may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

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

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

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



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Goals

AREA 1: DELIVERING WELL PREPARED TEACHERS

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

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.

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Goals

AREA 3: IDENTIFYING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

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

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.

4-1: 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

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.

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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 **Best Practice State** 1 Texas States Meet Goal 11 States Nearly Meet Goal Connecticut, Georgia 1, Hawaii 1, Indiana¹, LOUISIANA, Mississippi, North Carolina, Rhode Island 1, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia 6 States Partly Meet Goal Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa 1, Missouri, Nebraska, Washington States Meet a Small Part of Goal 2 Florida, Wisconsin States Do Not Meet Goal 31 Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming

> Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 👄 : 45

1:6

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↓:0

Area 1: Goal A **Louisiana** Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal

ਨ Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 (🖯

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana 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.

Louisiana also allows teacher preparation programs to exempt candidates who demonstrate equivalent performance on the SAT or ACT.

Supporting Research

Part XLV Bulletin 996 Standards for Approval of Teacher Education Programs 501

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—Louisiana should require an assessment that demonstrates that candidates are academically competitive with all peers, regardless of their intended profession. Requiring a common test normed to the general college population would allow for the selection of applicants in the top half of their class, as well as facilitate program comparison.

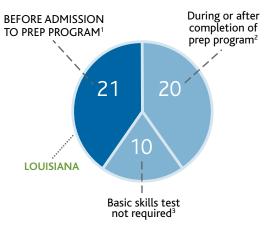
LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

T 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 3

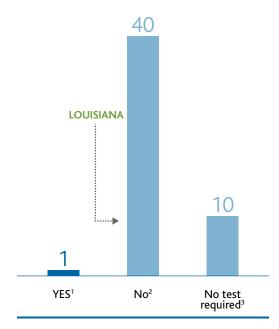
When do states test teacher candidates' basic skills?



- 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
- Alabama, Alaska, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachussets, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont
- Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

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, Mississispi, Missouri, Nebraska, Newada, 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

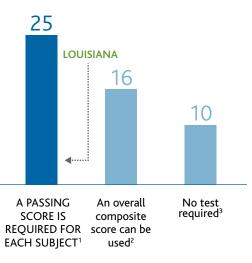
3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Figure 4

Figure 4 Do states appropriately test teacher candidates academic proficiency?	EST NORMED TO CC.	Test normed only to Read on the Phone Service Se	Test normed only to tess	"Uon of prep program No test required	
	7 B -	/ `° 2`/	ି ଓ ଚୁ 	/ ~~	
Alabama Alaska					
Alaska Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
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lowa					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
LOUISIANA					
Maine					
Maryland					
Massachusetts					
Michigan					
Minnesota					
Mississippi					
Missouri					
Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada New Llamachira					
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					
	1	20	20	10	

Figure 5

Do states measure performance in reading, mathematics and writing?



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

Goal B – Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

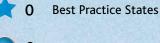
- The state should require that its approved teacher preparation programs deliver a comprehensive program of study in broad liberal arts coursework. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours to ensure appropriate depth in the core subject areas of English, science, social 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.
- 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.
- 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



0 States Meet Goal

- States Meet Ooal
- 4 States Nearly Meet Goal Indiana 1, Massachusetts, Minnesota 1, New Hampshire



States Partly Meet Goal California, Georgia, LOUISIANA, Michigan, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington

18 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah 1, Virginia, West Virginia

21 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

1:3 ↔:44 ↓:4



Area 1: Goal B **Louisiana** Analysis

State Partly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Although Louisiana 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.

Louisiana 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 that the current version would be well aligned with the Common Core Standards.

In addition, Louisiana requires all teacher candidates to complete 54 credit hours of general education coursework requirements, including:

- 12 credit hours in English;
- 15 credit hours in sciences;
- 12 credit hours in social studies; and
- 3 credit hours in arts.

This is a strong set of general requirements; however, it still does not ensure that teacher candidates will take courses specific to the topics that they will encounter in the elementary classroom.

Commendably, Louisiana ensures that arts and sciences faculty will teach liberal arts classes to elementary teacher candidates.

Supporting Research

Louisiana Administrative Code Title 28, Bulletin 746, section 207 Louisiana Board of Regents Guidelines for Teacher Preparation Programs http://regents.state.la.us/Academic/PP/Guidelines/III.html Praxis II www.ets.org

RECOMMENDATION

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

Louisiana 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, Louisiana should ensure that these passing scores reflect high levels of performance.



Provide broad liberal arts coursework relevant to the elementary classroom.

Louisiana should either articulate a specific set of standards or establish more 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 Louisiana 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.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

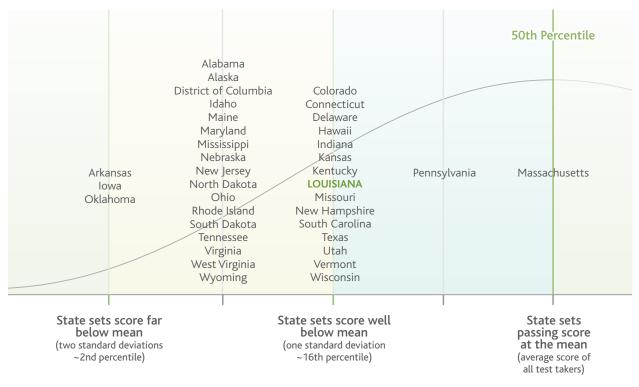


T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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.

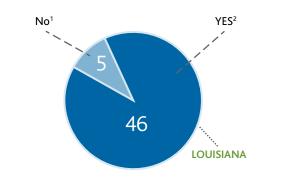
Figure 7

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.

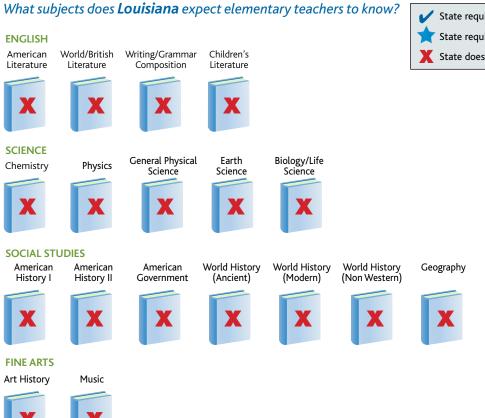
Figure 8 Have states adopted the K-12 Common Core State Standards?



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



State requirements mention subject

- State requirements cover subject in depth
- X State does not require subject

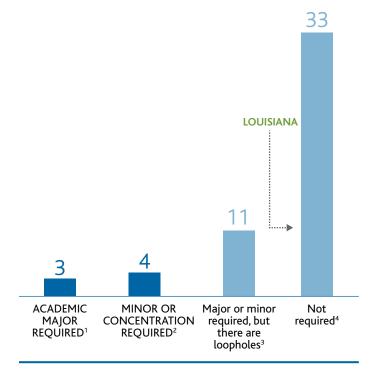
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18 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 LOUISIANA

Subject mentioned to be 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
- 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, Wyorning



Goal C – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 12 How States are Faring in Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction 3 **Best Practice States** Connecticut, Massachusetts, Virginia 5 States Meet Goal Alabama 1, Minnesota 1, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania 1, Tennessee 5 States Nearly Meet Goal California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Texas 14 States Partly Meet Goal Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana¹, LOUISIANA, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico 1, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia States Meet a Small Part of Goal 2 Arizona, New York 22 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:5 😝 : 46 **-**:0

Area 1: Goal C **Louisiana** Analysis

State Partly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

In its reading and language competencies, Louisiana requires all teacher preparation programs, including elementary programs, to address the science of reading. Programs must provide training in the five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Louisiana also requires all teacher candidates to study reading instruction:

- Elementary teacher candidates must take nine credit hours in reading.
- Middle school teacher candidates must take six credit hours in reading.
- Secondary teacher candidates must take three credit hours in reading.

External evaluators review all reading courses in university teacher preparation programs to determine if the courses adequately address all of the competencies.

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

Supporting Research

Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC): Title 28, Part XCV, Bulletin 113 and Title 28, Part XLV, Bulletin 996

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana asserted that effective September 1, 2010, all early childhood, elementary and special education alternate route teacher candidates must pass the Praxis II "Teaching Reading" assessment for issuance of a level one certificate.

Supporting Research

Bulletin 746 http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/lac/28v131/28v131.doc

LAST WORD

Louisiana should extend its policy and require that all teacher candidates demonstrate requisite knowledge in the science of reading instruction by passing a rigorous assessment prior to licensure.

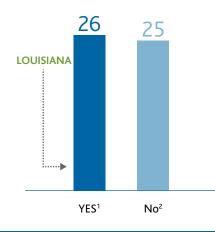


T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 13

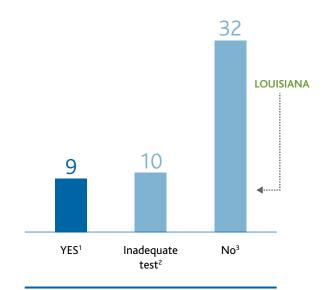
Do states require preparation for elementary teachers in the science of reading?



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

Figure 14

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



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

Figure 15		REPARATION	/	TEST	
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Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
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lowa					
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Michigan					
Minnesota			1		
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New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico			2		
New York					
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Oregon					
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South Carolina					
South Dakota					
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Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	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.

Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

	State	es are Faring in Teacher Preparation
in Ma		natics Best Practice State Massachusetts
•	0	States Meet Goal
•	1	State Nearly Meets Goal
•	5	States Partly Meet Goal California, Florida, Minnesota 🕇, New Mexico, Utah 🕇
•	30	States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa T, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming
0	14	States Do Not Meet Goal Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, LOUISIANA, Maine, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, West Virginia, Wisconsin
	Pro	ogress on this Goal Since 2009:
		★:4 ⇔:47 ↓:0

Area 1: Goal D Louisiana Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana relies on its coursework requirements as the basis for articulating its requirements for the mathematics content knowledge of elementary teacher candidates.

The state requires that elementary teacher candidates complete 12 semester hours of mathematics. However, Louisiana specifies neither the requisite content of these courses nor that they must meet the needs of elementary teachers.

Louisiana 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 cover 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

Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 28, Bulletin 746, section 207 Louisiana Board of Regents Guidelines for Teacher Preparation Programs http://regents.louisiana.gov/

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. f

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Require teacher candidates to pass a rigorous mathematics assessment.

Louisiana 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.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

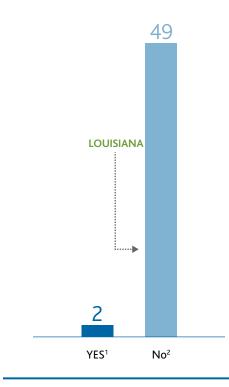


T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 17

Do states articulate appropriate mathematics preparation for elementary teachers?

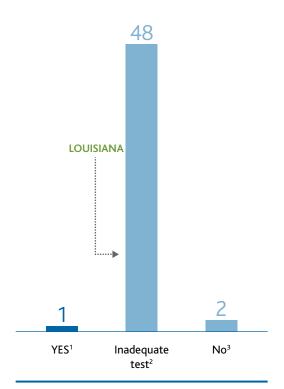


1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Massachusetts

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

Figure 18

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



1. Strong Practice: Massachusetts

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

3. Montana, Nebraska

Goal E – Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

- The state should encourage middle school candidates who intend to teach multiple subjects to earn minors in two core academic areas rather than earn a single major. Middle school candidates intending to teach a single subject area should earn a major in that area.
- 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, Florida¹, Kentucky, LOUISIANA, Mississippi, New Jersey, South Carolina 1 States Nearly Meet Goal 8 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, Minnesota¹, 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: 关 : 45 ↓:1 1:5



Area 1: Goal E **Louisiana** Analysis



State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana requires a middle grades certificate (grades 4-8) for all middle school teachers. Candidates must focus on two in-depth teaching areas that include language arts, science, social studies and mathematics. Each focus area consists of 19 credit hours total, including general education and focus-area coursework. The state also allows secondary teachers to teach middle school; they must earn a total of 31 hours of combined general education and focus-area coursework in the primary teaching area. They must also earn a total of 19 hours of coursework in a secondary teaching area.

All new middle school teachers in Louisiana are also required to pass a single-subject Praxis II content test to attain licensure; a general content knowledge test is not an option.

Supporting Research

Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 28, Bulletin 746, Section 209 and 211 www.ets.org/praxis

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

T 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.

- 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 20

Figure 20	K-8 LICENSE NOT OFFERED	= K-8 license offered for Self-contained classrooms	
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Figure 21		/	/	Less than a major or "	No requirement of content
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Vermont					
Virginia					
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West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					

^{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.

Goal F – Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 22 How States are Faring in Secondary **Teacher Preparation Best Practice States** 2 Indiana, Tennessee 29 States Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin States Nearly Meet Goal 0 8 States Partly Meet Goal District of Columbia, Hawaii, LOUISIANA, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico States Meet a Small Part of Goal 0 12 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: New Goal



Area 1: Goal F **Louisiana** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

Louisiana requires that its secondary teacher candidates pass a Praxis II content test to teach any core secondary subjects. Unfortunately, Louisiana permits a significant loophole to this important policy by allowing both general science and general social studies licenses, without requiring subject-matter testing for each subject area within these disciplines (see Goals 1-G and 1-H).

To add a core subject area to a secondary license, teachers in Louisiana must either submit a passing score on the Praxis II content test or complete 30 credit hours in the content area.

Supporting Research

Praxis Requirements https://www.teachlouisiana.net/teachers.aspx?PageID=698 Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 28, Bulletin 746, Section 611

RECOMMENDATION

Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

Louisiana wisely requires subject-matter tests for most secondary teachers but should address any loopholes that undermine this policy (see Goals 1-G and 1-H).

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

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

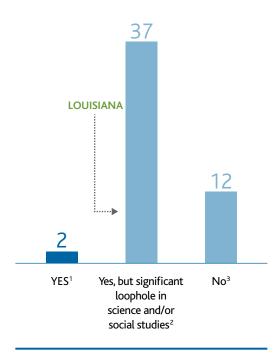
LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 23

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



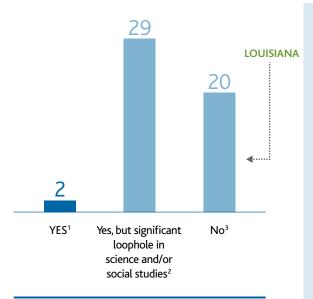
1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

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

Figure 24

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





1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

- 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.)
- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Wyoming

Goal G – Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 25 How States are Faring in Preparation to Teach Science **Best Practice State** 1 New Jersey 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 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

Area 1: Goal G **Louisiana** Analysis



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana requires that secondary science teachers have a focus area in general science, which requires 22 hours of science coursework, in addition to the nine hours required for general education. Candidates must also pass the Praxis II "General Science" test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general science but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

Middle school science teachers in Louisiana must have two focus areas and must take a total of 19 semester hours of science: 15 hours are a general education requirement, and four hours are a focus-area coursework requirement. Commendably, candidates must also pass the Praxis II "Middle School Science" test.

Supporting Research

Louisiana Administrative Code Title 28, Bulletin 746, sections 209, 211 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.

States that allow general science certifications—and only require a general knowledge science exam—are not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. Louisiana's required general assessment combines all subject areas (e.g., biology, chemistry, physics) and does not report separate scores for each subject area. Therefore, candidates could answer many—perhaps all—chemistry questions, for example, incorrectly, yet still be licensed to teach chemistry to high school students. The state's single-subject testing option could result in a teacher teaching physics, having only been tested in biology.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana asserted that secondary science candidates who pass the Praxis II General Science test are issued a general science certification and are limited to teaching general science courses. The state also noted that it offers additional secondary science endorsements in the following areas: biology, chemistry and physics. These endorsements require passing scores on the corresponding subject-specific Praxis II exam.

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, Louisiana 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.

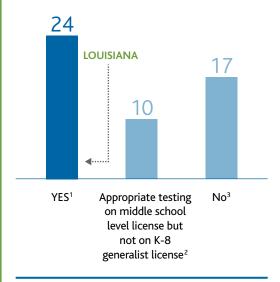
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have adequate subject-	JFFER BINIA	fers fiers		fers cense testin	
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Connecticut					
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Georgia					
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lowa Kansas					
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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					
	1	39	10	1	

T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 27

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



 Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

2. Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin

 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.)

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

Background

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 1 **Best Practice State** Indiana 2 States Meet Goal Georgia, South Dakota States Nearly Meet Goal 2 Minnesota, Oklahoma 32 States Partly Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, LOUISIANA, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming State Meets a Small Part of Goal Illinois 13 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas Progress on this Goal Since 2009: New Goal



Area 1: Goal H **Louisiana** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal

ANALYSIS

Louisiana requires that secondary social studies teachers have a focus area in general social studies, which requires a total of 25 hours of social studies coursework, in addition to the six semester hours required for general education. Candidates must also pass both the Praxis II "Social Studies: Content Knowledge" test and the "Social Studies: Interpretation of Materials" test. 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 Louisiana must have two focus areas and must take a total of 19 semester hours of science: 12 hours are a general education requirement; seven hours are a focus-area coursework requirement. Commendably, candidates must also pass the Praxis 2 "Middle School Social Studies" test.

Supporting Research

Louisiana Administrative Code Title 28, Bulletin 746, sections 209, 211 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.

States that allow general social studies certifications—and only require a general knowledge social studies exam—are not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. Louisiana's required assessments combine all subject areas (e.g., history, geography, economics) and do not report separate scores for each subject area. Therefore, candidates could answer many history questions, for example, incorrectly, yet still be licensed to teach history to high school students.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 29

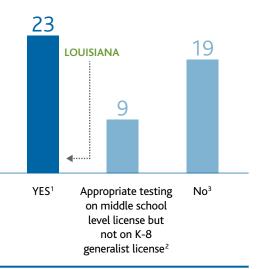
Figure 29	K	OFFERS ONLY SINGLE SUBJECT SOCIAL STUDIES	Offos general social studies testing withour adequate
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Arizona			
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Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
J	1	2	47
	1	3	47

T 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 teachthrough both coursework and content testingbut the state's policy also does not make it overly burdensome for social studies teachers to teach multiple subjects. Other notable states include Georgia and South Dakota, which also do not offer secondary general social studies certifications.

Figure 30

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



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

Figure 29

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal I – Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

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

Background

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** 0 **Best Practice States** States Meet Goal State Nearly Meets Goal Massachusetts 15 States Partly Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, LOUISIANA, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey 1, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania¹, Rhode Island, Texas¹, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin State Meets a Small Part of Goal Kansas 34 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:3 ↔ : 48 **!**:0

Area 1: Goal I **Louisiana** Analysis

State Partly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Commendably, Louisiana will no longer be offering K-12 special education certification. Only gradespecific options are now available to new teachers.

Although Louisiana does appropriately require its elementary special education teacher candidates to pass the same subject-matter test as general education candidates, the state does not ensure that its elementary special education teachers are provided with a broad liberal arts program of study relevant to the elementary classroom (see Goal 1-B).

Further, Louisiana 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

Bulletin 746, sections 219, 220, 221 http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/lac/28v131/28v131.doc Teacher Preparation Program Requirements & Structure http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/tsac/2717.html Praxis Test Requirements www.ets.org

RECOMMENDATION

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

Louisiana 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, Louisiana 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).

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis.

Figure 32

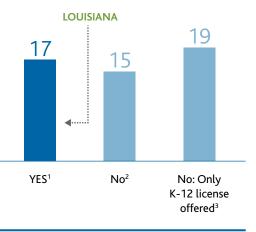
Figure 32		Chers K-12 and Brade-specific	/
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between elementary	ION ION	⁷ adé	\sim
and secondary special	25	pue (a K.
		21-5/100	12.8
education teachers?	CENDIOFERA	Offers k ertificat	$\Box Offers only a k-12 certification a k-12$
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Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
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District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
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lowa Kansas			
Kentucky			
LOUISIANA			
Maine			
Maryland			
Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Mississippi			
Missouri			
Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania ¹ Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
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Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	16	16	19

T 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?



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

Figure 32 1. Beginning January 1, 2013

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal J – Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 34

0

How States are Faring in Assessing Professional Knowledge



Best Practice States

23 States Meet Goal Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia , Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, LOUISIANA, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma,

South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia 2 States Nearly Meet Goal

- Maryland, Rhode Island 3 States Partly Meet Goal
 - Idaho, North Carolina, Utah
- 5 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Connecticut, Indiana, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Wyoming

18 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii↓, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

1:1 ↔:49 ↓:1



Area 1: Goal J **Louisiana** Analysis



State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana requires new teachers to pass a popular pedagogy test from the Praxis series in order to attain licensure.

Supporting Research www.ets.org/praxis

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

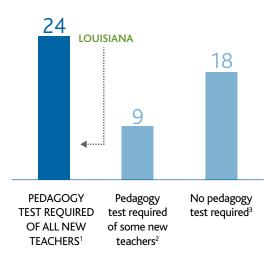
LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

★ 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?



- 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
- 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 Figure 36 (The factors considered in determining the states' How States are Faring in Student Teaching rating for the goal.) 1. The state should require that student **Best Practice States** teachers only be placed with cooperating teachers for whom there is evidence of their 2 States Meet Goal effectiveness as measured by consistent gains Florida, Tennessee in student learning. 2. The state should require that teacher State Nearly Meets Goal candidates spend at least 10 weeks Kentucky student teaching. 21 States Partly Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Hawaii, Background Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, A detailed rationale and supporting research for North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy. Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin States Meet a Small Part of Goal 5 Indiana, Michigan, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota 22 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, LOUISIANA, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: New Goal

Area 1: Goal K **Louisiana** Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana requires candidates to spend at least 270 hours student teaching, with at least 180 of those hours spent in actual teaching. Candidates must complete a substantial portion of these 180 hours of actual student teaching on an all-day basis. The state does not articulate any requirements for cooperating teachers.

Supporting Research Louisiana Revised Statute 17:7.1

RECOMMENDATION

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

Louisiana should require a more extensive summative clinical experience for all prospective teachers. Student teaching should be a full-time commitment, as requiring coursework and student teaching simultaneously does a disservice to both. Alignment with a school calendar for at least 10 weeks ensures both adequate classroom experience and exposure to a variety of ancillary professional activities.

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

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

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

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

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 37

Figure 37		18	
Do states require	Ľ.	PENT TEACHING LAST 10 WEEKS CUST	
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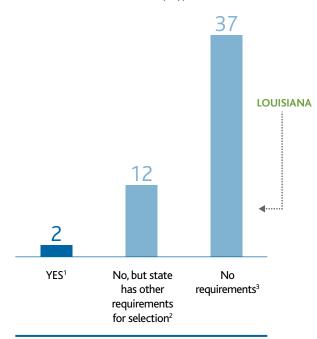
T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

Figure 38

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

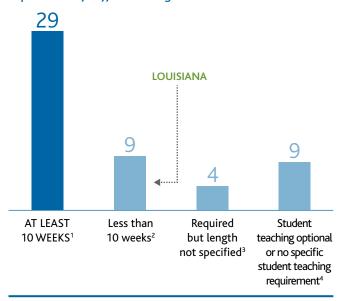


1. Strong Practice: Florida, Tennessee

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

Figure 39

Is the summative student teaching experience of sufficient length?



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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal L – Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

Goal Components

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

- 1. The state should collect value-added data that connects student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.
- 2. The state should collect other meaningful data that reflects program performance, including some or all of the following:

a. Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including basic skills, subject matter and professional knowledge tests;

b. Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests;

c. Satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison;

d. Evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching;

e. Five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.

- 3. The state should establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data. Programs should be held accountable for meeting these standards, with articulated consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.
- 4. The state should produce and publish on its website an annual report card that shows all the data the state collects on individual teacher preparation programs.

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

Background

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 Best Practice State** Florida State Meets Goal LOUISIANA States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama, Colorado 1, Georgia 1, Tennessee, Texas States Partly Meet Goal 6 Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina 16 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Illinois¹, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia 1 22 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:4 ↔:44 ↓:3

Area 1: Goal L Louisiana Analysis

State Meets Goal

Bar Raised for this Goal 🤇 (=) Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana's approval process for its traditional and alternate route teacher preparation programs holds programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

Commendably, Louisiana relies on its Value-Added Teacher Preparation Assessment Model, which collects value-added data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs. The model evaluates first- and second-year teachers who teach grades 4-9 in math, science, social studies, reading or language arts. It predicts the achievement of individual students based on prior achievement, demographics and attendance, and then compares this growth to actual performance using the state's LEAP tests. Programs are then placed into one of five levels to identify how well students taught by new teachers meet achievement targets as compared to students taught by experienced teachers.

Value-added results are available for eight traditional teacher preparation programs for 10 universities and two private providers; results are not yet available for nine additional universities due to the small number of new teachers who have completed the redesigned programs in the five content areas.

The state also relies on some objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs. The state requires that certain indicators be integrated into the formula to calculate the "Teacher Preparation Performance Score." Indicators include percentage of program completers who passed Praxis subtests, ratings by new teachers of the quality of their preparation programs to prepare them for their first year of teaching and the quantity of program completers.

Further, Louisiana appears to apply transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval. Program scores are determined on the basis of a relatively complex rating formula. The state provides a system to reward programs that attain performance scores each year at an "exemplary" and "high performing" level. Teacher preparation programs that are rated as being "at risk" for four years, or programs designated as "low performing" who do not become "satisfactory" within two years, lose their state approval.

Regrettably, however, there is no evidence that the state's criteria for conferring program approval are resulting in greater accountability. In the past three years, not a single program in the state has been identified in required federal reporting as low performing.

Finally, Louisiana makes its findings available by posting the data and program grades on its website.

Supporting Research

Value-Added Teacher Preparation Program Assessment Model http://regents.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=113 Title II State Reports https://title2.ed.gov

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that criteria for program approval result in greater accountability.

Louisiana has taken commendable steps to develop an accountability system for its teacher preparation programs. The state should ensure that its system is sufficient to differentiate program performance and that follow-up actions are taken as warranted.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 41				/		
Do states hold teach preparation program accountable?		PRE VININUM	PARATION ^{3/JSB2M} No 3/84/17/17/17/17/17/17/17/17/17/17/17/17/17/	OBIECTIVE PROCESSAN	PREPA	RATION
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 Reported institutional data do not distinguish between candidates in the traditional and alternate route programs.

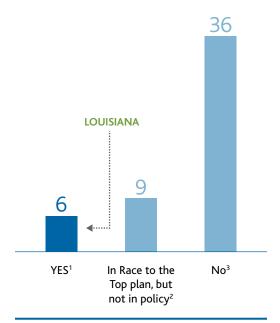
 The posted data do not allow the public to review and compare program performance because data are not disaggregated by program provider.



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

Figure 42

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



1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas

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

Figure 43 Which states collect meaningful data? AVERAGE RAW SCORES ON LICENSING TESTS Alabama, LOUISIANA, Michigan, New Jersey, Tennessee, West Virginia SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland¹, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington¹, West Virginia EVALUATION RESULTS FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES Alabama, Arizona, Delaware¹, Florida, Illiniois, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont STUDENT LEARNING GAINS Colorado, Florida, Georgia, LOUISIANA, Tennessee, Texas **TEACHER RETENTION RATES** Arizona, Colorado, Delaware¹, Missouri, New Jersey

1. For alternate route only

Figure 44

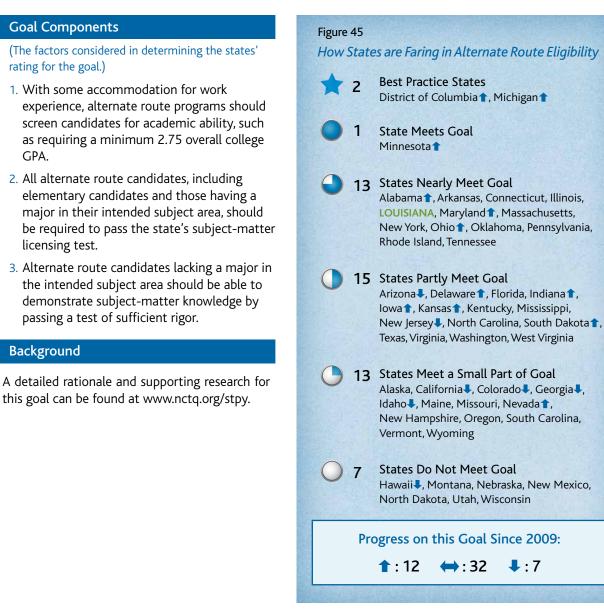
Figure 44		/	National accreditation	3, /	While not technical technical	eď,
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Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
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	25	10	-	0	0	

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.





Area 2: Goal A Louisiana Analysis

State Nearly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

While the admission requirements for Louisiana's alternate routes do not exceed those for traditional preparation programs, the state does require evidence of subject-matter knowledge and allows flexibility for nontraditional candidates.

Louisiana offers three alternate routes to certification: Practitioner Teacher Alternate Certification Program, Master's Degree Alternate Certification Program and Certification-Only Alternate Certification Program.

The state requires candidates to all of the alternate routes to have a minimum GPA. Candidates in the Practitioner Teacher Program and the Certification-Only Program are required to have a minimum 2.5 GPA if applying to a private provider, or a 2.2 minimum GPA if applying to a college or university program. Master's Degree Program applicants must have a minimum 2.5 GPA.

All three routes require applicants to pass a basic skills test and a subject-matter test. The state will accept equivalent scores on the SAT or ACT in lieu of the basic skills requirement. Neither a major nor a coursework equivalent is required, except in cases where a subject-matter test does not exist. Such candidates must demonstrate content knowledge through 31 semester hours of coursework in that specific area.

Supporting Research Louisiana Education Code 28.231 https://www.teachlouisiana.net/Prospect.aspx?PageID=605

RECOMMENDATION

Increase academic requirements for admission.

While a minimum GPA requirement is a first step toward ensuring that candidates are of good academic standing, the current standard of 2.5 does not serve as a sufficient indicator of past academic performance. The standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of 2.75 or higher. It is particularly problematic that the state allows a lower standard for college or university programs than it requires for private providers. The state should require a consistent indicator of above-average academic performance whether the program is run by a private provider or by a college or university. Some accommodation in this standard may be appropriate for career changers. 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.

Louisiana is commended for requiring all applicants to demonstrate content knowledge on a subject-matter test. However, the state's requirement that alternate route candidates pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffectual. Basic skills tests measure minimum competency—essentially those skills that a person should have acquired in middle school—and are inappropriate for candidates who have already earned a bachelor's degree.

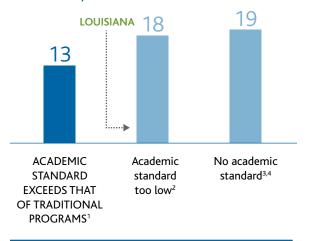
LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 46	¢-	/	
Are states' alternate	AGDEMCSTANDARD DMISSON STANDARD ADITIONAL PRCEDS	SH	NO MAJOR REQURED OR TEST GAN BE USED IN LIEU OF MAJOR BE USED IN LIEU
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Figure 47

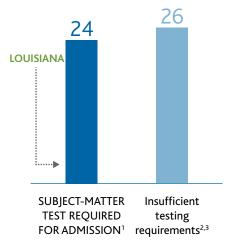
Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



- 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
- 3. Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin
- 4. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

Figure 48

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



- 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
- 2. State does not require test at all, exempts some candidates or does not require passage until program completion. Alaska, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 4. Required prior to entering the classroom.

Figure 46

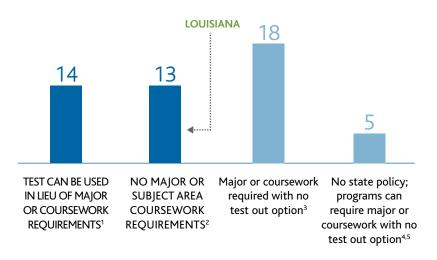
1. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

T 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?



 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
- 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
Best Practice State

- 1 Best Practice : Connecticut
- 4 States Meet Goal Arkansas, Delaware ↑, Georgia, New Jersey
- 7 States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama, Florida, Maryland 1, Mississippi, Rhode Island 1, 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:

1:8 ↔:42 ↓:1

State Partly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana does not ensure that its alternate route candidates will receive streamlined preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers.

Most Practitioner Teacher Program candidates participate in nine credit hours, or the equivalent 135 contact hours, in Summer Preparation Sessions. Grades 1-5, 4-8, 6-12, All-Level K-12 and Mild/Moderate Special Education candidates must complete a range from 21 to 30 credit hours or equivalent 315-450 contact hours of coursework. Grades PK-3 candidates must complete 24-33 credit hours or an equivalent 360-495 contact hours. Coursework topics include instruction in child or adolescent development or psychology, the diverse learner, classroom management/organization, assessment and instructional design/strategies.

Practitioner Teachers participate in two seminars (12 credit hours) during the school year and receive one-on-one mentoring support through an internship.

Program providers, principals, mentors and practitioner teachers form teams to review and evaluate first-year teaching performance. If a practitioner teacher demonstrates weaknesses, a prescriptive plan of up to nine credit hours or 135 contact hours will be implemented. Candidates are eligible to earn full certification after one year.

Master's Degree Alternative Certificate Program certificates must complete a total of 33-39 credit hours. Fifteen credit hours must be coursework on "The Learner and the Learning Environment," 12-15 credit hours are in methods and six-nine credits are required for student teaching or an internship.

Non-Masters/Certification-Only Program candidates must complete 27-33 credit hours within three years. The Certification only program includes 80 hours of classroom readiness training focused on instructional design and delivery and classroom management. The Certification Only route also requires candidates to complete 12 credit hours of coursework on "The Learner and the Learning Environment" as well as six credit hours of student teaching, and six credit hours of methodology coursework.

The Practitioner Teacher Program and the Certification Only program provide new teachers with mentoring support during the first year of teaching, with support for additional years if necessary.

Supporting Research Louisiana Education Code 28.231

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that new teachers are not burdened by excessive requirements.

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

Extend induction to all alternate route teachers.

While Louisiana is commended for requiring Practitioner Program and Certification Only teachers to work with a mentor, all new teachers should receive this support. In addition, the state should consider providing sufficient guidelines to ensure that the induction program is structured for new teacher success. Effective strategies include practice teaching prior to teaching in the classroom, intensive mentoring with full classroom support in the first few weeks or months of school, a reduced teaching load and release time to allow new teachers to observe experienced teachers during each school day.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



Figure 51			,	,	,
-	STREAMLINED COURSEMAN	RELEVANT COURSEMON	× /		
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T 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.

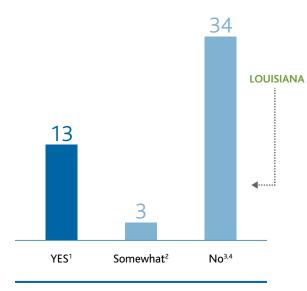
1. Florida requires practice teaching or intensive mentoring.

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

62 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 LOUISIANA

Figure 52

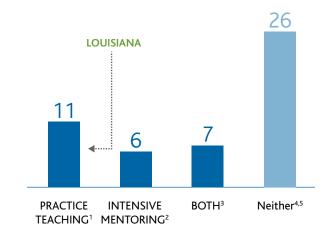
Do states curb excessive coursework requirements?



- 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.)

- 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.
- 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



Area 2: Goal C Louisiana Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

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

The state allows program providers that include colleges and universities, as well as nonprofit organizations such as The New Teacher Project. 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

https://www.teachlouisiana.net/Prospect.aspx?PageID=603

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 55 Are states' alternate routes free from

Figure 55		DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS	
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T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 56

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

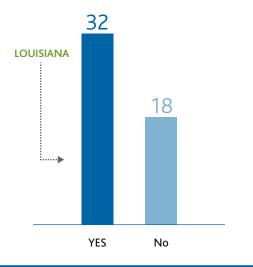


Figure 55 and 56

1. Alabama offers routes without restrictions for candidates with master's degrees. The route for candidates with bachelor's degrees is limited to certain subjects.

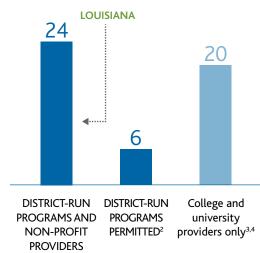
2. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.



Do states permit providers other than colleges or universities?

Figure 58

Do states provide real



- Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin
- 2. Strong Practice: California, Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina, Vermont⁵, West Virginia
- Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho⁶, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi⁶, Missouri⁶, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey⁷, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina⁶, South Dakota, Utah⁶, Wyoming
- 4. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 5. Districts can run Peer Review programs only.
- 6. ABCTE is also an approved provider.

Figure 58

PERMITTED¹

7. Permits school districts to provide programs without university partnerships in some circumstances.

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Pennsylvania Rhode Island										
South Carolina South Dakota										
Tennessee Texas										
Utah										
Vermont										
Virginia										
Washington										
West Virginia										
Wisconsin										
Wyoming										
in joining	13	24	27	13	12	29	24	32	29	
	15	24	21	15	12	29	24	52	23	

68 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 LOUISIANA

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 60



Area 2: Goal D **Louisiana** Analysis

State Partly Meets Goal Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana offers the Math for Professionals Certificate as a part-time license. The Math for Professionals Certificate is valid for one year and allows an individual to teach one or more mathematics courses on a part-time basis. The certificate can be renewed on an annual basis.

Candidates for the certificate must have an undergraduate degree with at least 30 credit hours of mathematics coursework, a master's degree in mathematics or science content area, or be able to pass the mathematics content area test.

Candidates are required to complete a district-developed classroom readiness/training program prior to entering the classroom.

Supporting Research Louisiana Bulletin 746:348

RECOMMENDATION

Allow other subject matter experts to teach under a similar certificate.

While Louisiana is commended for offering a license that increases districts' flexibility to staff mathematics courses, the state should consider extending such a license to content experts in other subjects, including other STEM areas, that are frequently hard to staff or may not have high enough enrollment to necessitate a full-time position.

Require applicants to pass a subject-matter test.

Although Louisiana is recognized for allowing professionals the flexibility to demonstrate their content knowledge on a test, the state should require a subject-matter test of all applicants, including those with 30 credit hours or a master's degree. While the state does require evidence of content knowledge, only a subject-matter test ensures that teachers on the Math for Professionals Certificate know the specific content they will need to teach.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis.

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

	YES	No
Alabama		
Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California	1	
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
lowa		
Kansas	2	
Kentucky		
LOUISIANA	1	
Maine		
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Minnesota		
Mississippi	2	
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Nebraska		
Nevada		
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico		
New York	2	
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio	1	
Oklahoma		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
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Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington	2	
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
		-
	16	35

T 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.)

- 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.
- 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 **Best Practice States** 2 Alabama, Texas States Meet Goal 3 States Nearly Meet Goal Idaho, Ohio, Washington 13 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska, Delaware, Illinois¹, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin 15 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon 1, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Wyoming 18 States Do Not Meet Goal Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, LOUISIANA, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Carolina, Vermont Progress on this Goal Since 2009: ⇔:49 1:2 4:0

Area 2: Goal E **Louisiana** Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

Regrettably, Louisiana grants waivers for its licensing tests to out-of-state teachers who have four years of experience and teach for one year in a Louisiana public school under the Out-of-State Certificate, a three-year nonrenewable certificate issued to teachers who have not met the state's testing requirements.

Teachers with valid out-of-state certificates are eligible for Louisiana's Professional Level 1 certificate. Applicants are required to have completed a teacher preparation program and meet the state's recency requirement of five years of experience immediately preceding application. Candidates who have not taught for five years may be issued a one-year certificate to complete six semester hours. Although transcripts are required for all applicants, it is not clear whether the state analyzes these transcripts to determine whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route or whether additional coursework will be required.

In addition, Louisiana requires out-of-state teachers to have completed student teaching, an internship or have three years of teaching experience in the area of certification. Depending on the state's working definition of the term "student teaching," this policy is unlikely to offer much flexibility for teachers prepared in district-based alternate route programs.

Louisiana 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

Louisiana Administrative Code Title 28, Bulletin 746, Section 305, 309 Out-of-State Certification Application

www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/7106.pdf

National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification www.nasdtec.org

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

1.5

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

Louisiana should reconsider its recency requirement regarding experience, as it may deter talented teachers from applying for certification. It should also consider discontinuing its requirement for the submission of transcripts. Transcript analysis is likely to result in additional coursework requirements, even for traditionally prepared teachers; alternate route teachers, on the other hand, may have to virtually begin anew, repeating some, most or all of a teacher preparation program in Louisiana.

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

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

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana asserted that although out-of-state teachers may waive the Praxis assessments based on teaching experience, they are required to pass the Praxis II content exam for "highly qualified" purposes.

Supporting Research

Section 1103 of Bulletin 746

http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/lac/28v131/28v131.doc.

LAST WORD

The state should require that all out-of-state teachers meet Louisiana's testing requirements as a condition of licensure. What do states require of teachers transferring

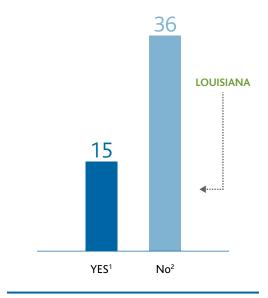
Figure 64

T 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	UCENSE RECIPIOCITY WITH	/	/
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Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York	1		
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania Rhode Island	1		
South Carolina			
South Carolina South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
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Vermont			
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Wyoming	1		
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Figure 65	_		9.8
Do states treat out-of-stat	State Theats teachers	State Specifies different Fouriements for different Loute feachers for alternate	Date has policies with the for alternate route create obstacles for alternate route teaches
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they were prepared in a	3475	cifies nts fo ers	Polic o cre i roui
traditional or an alternate	E TR	e spe	e has Itial t Prhate
route program?	STAT STAT	Statt requii	Stat Doter, Dr alte
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Arizona			
Arkansas			
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Delaware			
District of Columbia			-
Florida Georgia			
Hawaii			
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lowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			
LOUISIANA			
Maine			
Maryland Massachusetts			
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Minnesota			
Mississippi			
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Montana			
Nebraska			
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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			
	6	6	39
	•	-	

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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 Figure 66 (The factors considered in determining the states' How States are Faring in the Development of rating for the goal.) Data Systems 1. The state should establish a longitudinal **Best Practice States** data system with at least the following key components: 35 States Meet Goal a. A unique statewide student identifier Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idahot, Illinoist, Indianat, Iowat, number that connects student data across Kansas¹, Kentucky, LOUISIANA, Maryland¹, key databases across years; Massachusetts 1, Minnesota 1, Mississippi, b. A unique teacher identifier system that Missouri, Nebraska 1, New Hampshire 1, New can match individual teacher records with Mexico, New York 1, North Carolina, North individual student records; and Dakota1, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, c. An assessment system that can match Washington 1, West Virginia, Wisconsin 1, individual student test records from year to Wyoming year in order to measure academic growth. 2. Value-added data provided through the States Nearly Meet Goal state's longitudinal data system should be considered among the criteria used to **15** States Partly Meet Goal determine teachers' effectiveness. Alaska, Arizona¹, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia 1, Maine, Michigan, 3. To ensure that data provided through the Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, state data system is actionable and reliable, South Dakota¹, Texas, Vermont, Virginia the state should have a clear definition of "teacher of record" and require its consistent States Meet a Small Part of Goal 0 use statewide. State Does Not Meet Goal Background California A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy. Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:17 👄 : 33 ↓:1

Area 3: Goal A Louisiana Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

Louisiana 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. The state 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."

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

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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



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Alabama			
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Arizona			
Arkansas			
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Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
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LOUISIANA			
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Massachusetts			
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Minnesota			
Mississippi			
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Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
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Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	50	35	50

T 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.)

- 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



- 18 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alabama, Alaska, California, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Negon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 10 States Do Not Meet Goal District of Columbia, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

Area 3: Goal B **Louisiana** Analysis

State Nearly Meets Goal

ਨ Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 🕜

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

The state's new value-added model requires that 50 percent of evaluations be based on the GO-index, or Growth Outcomes Index, which relies on evidence of growth in student achievement and uses a value-added assessment model as determined by the board. Classroom observations are also required.

Supporting Research Act 54 www.act54.org

RECOMMENDATION

Utilize evaluation ratings that meaningfully differentiate among various levels of teacher performance.

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

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that its Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) is expected to adopt policy providing regulations around the implementation of the new teacher and leader evaluation system in December 2011.

Supporting Research http://www.louisianaschools.net/bese/policies.html

Figure 69	CURES THAT STUDENT ACHIEVENTIAT STUDENT THE PREPONNT CRAIL DENT	Tesche eralurions are to be	Teacher evaluations much	_ /	
Do states consider	DENI	ATH IS RITER	owth	data data	
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as part of teacher	S TH	valua Valua iy info ieven	Valua ective	chieve s	
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Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					_
California Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia ¹					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					_
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana Iowa					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
LOUISIANA					
Maine					
Maryland					
Massachusetts					
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North Dakota Ohio					
Oklahoma					
Oregon					
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Washington					
West Virginia					
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	12	5	7	27	

T 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.

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

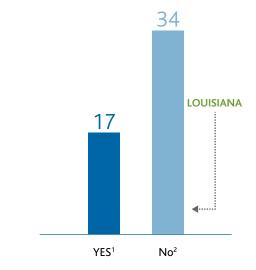
■ Artifacts of student work connected to specific student learning standards that are randomly selected for review by the principal or senior faculty, scored using rubrics and descriptors

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
- 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? Alabama Alaska Alaska Alaska Alaska Alaska Airzona Arizona Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Idaho Illinois	Figure 73		/	.ų	/	^{vith}	
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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 **Best Practice States** 0 9 States Meet Goal Alabama 1, Idaho, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island 1, Tennessee 1, Washington 13 States Nearly Meet Goal Arizona, Colorado 1, Delaware 1, Florida 1, Georgia, Indiana¹, Minnesota¹, New York, North Carolina¹, Ohio¹, Pennsylvania, Utah¹, Wyoming 9 States Partly Meet Goal Connecticut, Kansas, Kentucky, LOUISIANA1, Maryland, Michigan 1, Nebraska, South Carolina, West Virginia States Meet a Small Part of Goal 2 Arkansas, Missouri 18 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:13 ↓:1 👄 : 37

Area 3: Goal C **Louisiana** Analysis



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Commendably, all teachers in Louisiana must now be evaluated annually.

However, the state's policy does not outline when evaluations should occur for new teachers.

Supporting Research

Louisiana Revised Statute 17:3902

RECOMMENDATION

Base evaluations on multiple observations.

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

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

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

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) is expected to adopt policy providing regulations around the implementation of the new teacher and leader evaluation system in December 2011.

Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



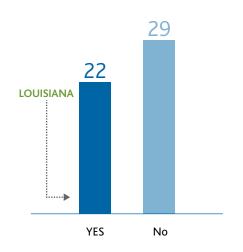
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Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	22		43

T 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

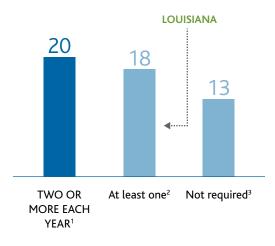
Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



Figures 75 and 76

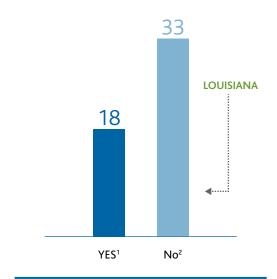
- Although highly effective teachers are only required to receive a summative evaluation once every two years, the student improvement component is evaluated annually.
- 2. All District of Columbia Public Schools teachers are evaluated at least annually.

Figure 77 *Do states require classroom observations?*



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

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



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

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.)

- 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 **Best Practice State** 1 Michigan 1 States Meet Goal 2 Colorado 1. Florida 1 States Nearly Meet Goal 5 Delaware 1, Nevada 1, Oklahoma 1, Rhode Island 1, Tennessee 1 3 States Partly Meet Goal Illinois¹, Indiana¹, New York¹ States Meet a Small Part of Goal 9 Connecticut, Idaho¹, Kentucky, Massachusetts 1, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire 1, North Carolina, Ohio 31 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, LOUISIANA, Maine 1, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:15 + : 36 1:0

Area 3: Goal D Louisiana Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

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

Supporting Research Louisiana Revised Statute 17:442

RECOMMENDATION

End the automatic awarding of tenure.

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

Ensure evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.

Louisiana should make evidence of effectiveness, rather than the number of years in the classroom, the most significant factor when determining this leap in professional standing.

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

Louisiana should require a clear process, such as a hearing, to ensure that the local district reviews a teacher's performance before making a determination regarding tenure.

Require a longer probationary period.

Louisiana should extend its probationary period, ideally to five years. This would allow for an adequate collection of sufficient data that reflect teacher performance.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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							
Alaska							
Arizona							
Arkansas							
California							
Colorado							
Connecticut							
Delaware							
District of Columbia							
Florida							
Georgia							
Hawaii							
Idaho							
Illinois							
Indiana							
lowa							
Kansas							
Kentucky							
LOUISIANA							
Maine							
Maryland							
Massachusetts							
Michigan							
Minnesota							
Mississippi							
Missouri							
Montana							
Nebraska							
Nevada							
New Hampshire							
New Jersey							
New Mexico							
New York North Carolina							
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Pennsylvania							
Rhode Island							2
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Tennessee							
Texas							
Utah							
Vermont							
Virginia							
Washington							
West Virginia							
Wisconsin							
Wyoming							
	1	1	5	32	4	5	3

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

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

EVIDENCE OF STUDENT LEARNING IS THE PREPONDERANT CRITERION Figure 81 Jome evidence of student learning is considered How are tenure Virtually automatically decisions made? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California \square Colorado Connecticut \square Delaware District of Columbia \square Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana lowa \square \square Kansas Kentucky LOUISIANA Maine \square Maryland Massachusetts \square Π Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana \square Nebraska Nevada \square New Hampshire New Jersey \square New Mexico New York \square North Carolina North Dakota Ohio \square Oklahoma 2 Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina \square South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming \square 8 4 39

T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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



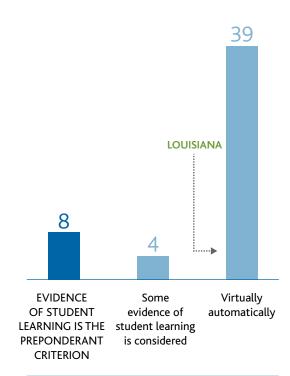


Figure 81

- 1. No state-level policy; however, the contract between DCPS and the teachers' union represents significant advancement in the area of teacher tenure.
- 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.



Area 3: Goal E **Louisiana** Analysis

State Meets Goal

💫 Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 🕥 Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana's requirements for licensure advancement and renewal are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Act 54, passed in May 2010, repealed the state-mandated LaTAAP process for new teachers and established standards to determine whether teachers have met evaluation qualifications for acquiring or retaining certification. Teachers must meet a standard for effectiveness, established by the state, based on a performance evaluation that includes growth in student achievement using value-added data (see Goal 3-B). Teachers must meet the standard for effectiveness for three years during their initial certification or renewal period to be issued a certificate or have their certificate renewed.

Supporting Research

http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/7200.pdf http://www.act54.org/about.html

RECOMMENDATION

Consider implications of connecting evaluation results to license policy.

Louisiana commendably connects its strong evaluation system (see Goal 3-B) to teacher certification in the state. However, Louisiana must consider carefully how to use this evidence, as the standard for denying licensure—the right to practice in the state—should not necessarily be the same standard that might result in termination from a particular position.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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Figure 84	OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENEEVIDENCE OF		Conscienation performance but performance not tied to classroom effective is	chess .
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Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				

T 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?



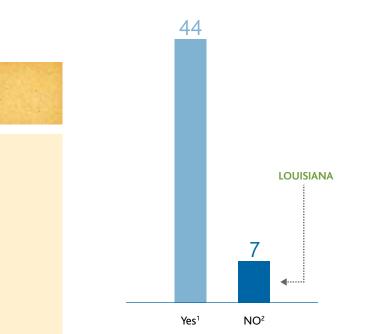
- Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New York and Oregon all require a master's degree or coursework equivalent to a master's degree
- 2. Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, 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, Wyorning

Figure 84

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

NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 : 95 LOUISIANA

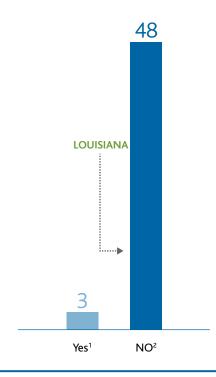
Do states require teachers to take additional, nonspecific coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



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

Figure 87

Do states award lifetime professional licenses?



1. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

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

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	Figure 88
(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)	How States are Faring on Equitable Distribution
The state should make the following data publicly available:	★ 0 Best Practice States
 An "Academic Quality" index for each school that includes factors research has found to be associated with teacher effectiveness, such as: 	 O States Meet Goal O States Nearly Meet Goal
a. percentage of new teachers;	6 States Partly Meet Goal
 b. percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once; 	Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina
 c. percentage of teachers on emergency credentials; 	36 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado,
d. average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions; and	Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho 🕇 , Indiana, Kansas,
e. teachers' average ACT or SAT scores;	Kentucky, LOUISIANA, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi,
 The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area; 	Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania 1 , South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah 1 , Vermont 1 , Virginia, Washington,
 The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school; 	West Virginia, Wisconsin O G States Do Not Meet Goal
 The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school, by district and by reasons that teachers leave. 	Alabama, Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Wyoming
Background	Progress on this Goal Since 2009:
	1 :4 ↔:47 ↓:0
A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.	

State Meets a Small Part of Goal 🛛 🬔 Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

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

Louisiana does report on the percentage of teachers on emergency credentials and the percentage of highly qualified teachers. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. The state is also commended for comparing each school's percentage of teachers on emergency credentials and percentage of highly qualified teachers to the statewide averages for high- and low-poverty schools.

Supporting Research

2009-2010 School Principal Report Card

http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/ReportCards/ReportCards10/Principalsp/015007_Principal_RC.pdf 2009-2010 Parent Report Card

 $http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/ReportCards/ReportCards10/Parentsp/015007_Parent_RC.pdf$

2009-2010 Subgroup Component Report

 $http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/ReportCards/ReportCards10/subgroupsp/015007_School_SCR.pdf$

RECOMMENDATION

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

A teacher quality index, such as the one developed by the Illinois Education Research Council, with data including teachers' average SAT or ACT scores, the percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once, the selectivity of teachers' undergraduate colleges and the percentage of new teachers, can shine a light on how equitably teachers are distributed both across and within districts. Louisiana 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.

Louisiana should collect and report other school-level data that reflect the stability of a school's faculty, including the rates of teacher absenteeism and turnover.

Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

As Louisiana does with teachers on emergency credentials and 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.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 89	AN INDEX FOR THAT INDEX FOR ASSOCIATED DES EACY SCHOOL FAACHER D. WIT, ACTOS FOOL	· /	PERCENTIACE OF NEW.	ŝ	/	/	
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New York							
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Virginia							
Washington							
West Virginia Wisconsin							
Wyoming							
	0	18	10	41	6	5	
	0	10	10	41	0	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.

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

Background

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

Figure 90



Area 4: Goal A **Louisiana** Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana no longer requires that all new teachers receive mentoring. The state's LaTAPP program (Louisiana Teacher Assistance and Assessment Program), which mandated mentors for new teachers, was repealed in 2010.

Supporting Research HB1055 - 2010 (Act 54) http://www.legis.state.la.us/

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Set specific parameters.

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

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

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

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis. Louisiana noted that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) is expected to adopt policy providing regulations around the implementation of the new teacher and leader evaluation system in December 2011, including revised teacher and leader induction programs. This policy will be contained within Bulletin 130 and will be available on the BESE website, following passage by the Board.

Supporting Research BESE Policy Decisions

http://www.louisianaschools.net/bese/policies.html

Figure 91 Do states have policies that articulate the elements of effective induction?	MENTORING FOR ALL	MENTORING OF SUFER-	TOBING PROVING	CARENI SALENDAT THE	MENTORS MUST	MENTORSPROCHMED	MENTOR IS CONN.	USE OF A VANETY OF EFFECTIVE
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District of Columbia								
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Wisconsin								
Wyoming	□ 30	□ 18	9	□ 17	28	□ 12	□ 21	□ 17

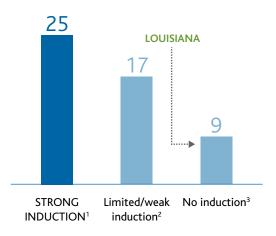
R.

T 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?



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

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 Figure 93 (The factors considered in determining the states' How States are Faring on Professional rating for the goal.) Development 1. The state should require that evaluation **Best Practice State** 0 systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance. 10 States Meet Goal 2. The state should direct districts to align Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, LOUISIANA, professional development activities with Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wyoming findings from teachers' evaluations. States Nearly Meet Goal 7 Background Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, New Mexico, New York, Texas A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy. 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

Area 4: Goal B Louisiana Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana's new evaluation system will provide clear performance expectations and significant regular information on such performance to all teachers. In addition, a post-observation conference between teachers and evaluators will be conducted to discuss "commendation and recommendations."

Louisiana requires local boards to provide targeted professional development to beginning and continuing teachers to "address deficiencies identified in the evaluation process." In addition, each teacher will be given a professional growth plan "designed to assist each teacher and administrator in meeting the standards for effectiveness, effectively addressing the social, developmental, and emotional needs of students and maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning."

Supporting Research

Louisiana Revised Code 17:3902; 17:3881; 17:3885

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state also noted that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) is expected to adopt policy providing regulations around the implementation of the new teacher and leader evaluation system in December 2011, including targeted professional growth opportunities.

Supporting Research Bulletin 130, http://www.louisianaschools.net/bese/policies.html

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



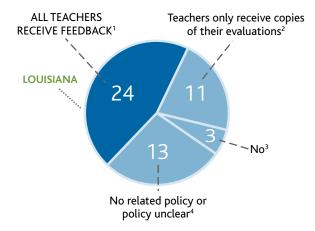
Figure 94

weaknesses.

Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

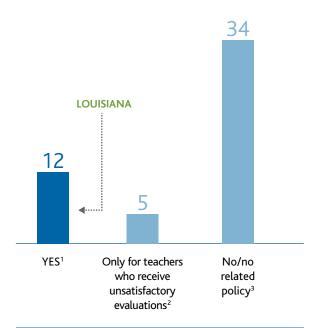
Ten states meet this goal, and although NCTQ has not singled out one state's policies for "best practice" honors, Louisiana is commended for clearly articulating that the feedback provided to a teacher in a post-observation conference must include a discussion of a teacher's strengths and



- 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

	ALL TH RECEIV	EVAL PROFI DEVEL
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South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah Varraant		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	24	12

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.)

- 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 be 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 **Best Practice States** 2 Florida¹, Indiana¹ 1 State Meets Goal Idaho 1 State Nearly Meets Goal Minnesota 29 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming States Meet a Small Part of Goal 3 Illinois, Rhode Island, Texas States Do Not Meet Goal 15 Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, LOUISIANA, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:3 👄 : 48 •:0

Area 4: Goal C Louisiana Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

Supporting Research Louisiana Revised Statutes 17:421:3

RECOMMENDATION

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

While Louisiana may find it appropriate to articulate the starting salary that a teacher should be paid, it should not require districts to adhere to a state-dictated salary schedule.

Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.

The inclusion of advanced degrees in the state schedule is particularly problematic, as this sends a clear message to both districts and teachers that attaining such degrees is desirable and should be rewarded; exhaustive research has shown unequivocally that advanced degrees do not have an impact on teacher effectiveness. Further, by establishing a guideline for teacher salaries that includes advanced degrees, the state limits the ability of districts to structure their pay scale in ways that do emphasize teacher effectiveness.

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

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

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

T 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 schoot	Sets minimum salan.	DISTRICTS SET SALARY
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Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado ¹			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
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lowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			
LOUISIANA			
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Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island ²			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	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	ADVANCES PERFORMANCE	'~ ,	Fequires Compensation for advanced degrees
Do states discourage	EM4	S IN	latio, les
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South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas		2	
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wisconsin Wyoming			

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.

112 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 LOUISIANA

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 **Best Practice State** North Carolina State Meets Goal 1 California States Nearly Meet Goal 4 States Partly Meet Goal Delaware, Georgia, Texas, Washington States Meet a Small Part of Goal 45 States Do Not Meet Goal 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 Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:0 ↔:51 4:0

Area 4: Goal D Louisiana Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana does not encourage local districts to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience. However, the state does not seem to have regulatory language blocking such strategies.

RECOMMENDATION

Encourage local districts to compensate new teachers with relevant prior work experience.

While still leaving districts with the flexibility to determine their own pay scales, Louisiana 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.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

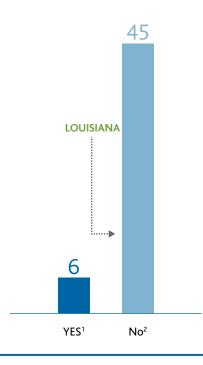
Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

T 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 **Best Practice State** 1 Georgia 12 States Meet Goal Arkansas, California, Florida, Kentucky, LOUISIANA, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas States Nearly Meet Goal 3 Maryland, Virginia, Washington 8 States Partly Meet Goal Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho 1, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming 10 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Connecticut, Illinois, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Rhode Island 1, 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: 1:2 + : 45 4:4

Area 4: Goal E Louisiana Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. As part of the Critical Teacher Shortage Incentive Program, the state defines mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics and special education as shortage areas. The state offers \$3,000 per year for every four consecutive years of teaching to newly certified teachers who agree to teach in one of these subjects at the elementary or secondary level.

Louisiana also supports differential pay for those teaching in high-needs schools. Teachers serving in low-performing or Title I schools are eligible to receive an additional \$6,000 per year for up to four years. Teachers of "exceptional children in special schools" are offered a base salary plus 10-percent.

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

Supporting Research Louisiana Revised Statutes 17:44; 17:421.6; 17:427.2; 17.427.3

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 103 Do states provide		HIGH NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT	. /
incentives to teach in				AREAS	
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-	EV7	Bive	ENT	Bive	ort
or shortage subject	FER	1 Fou	FER	1 Fou	- the
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Arizona					
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Colorado					
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Nebraska					
Nevada					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
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Oregon					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
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Tennessee					
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West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
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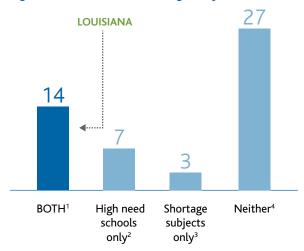
- Connecticut offers mortgage assistance and incentives to retired teachers working in shortage subject areas.
- Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 3. South Dakota offers signing bonuses and scholarships to fill shortages in high-need schools.
- Shortage subject area differential pay is limited to the Middle School Teacher Corps program.

T 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?



 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

 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.



Area 4: Goal F **Louisiana** Analysis

State Partly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana supports a performance pay initiative. The state allows local districts to adopt "an incentive compensation program providing for monetary awards based on performance." Neither the basis nor the amount of the award for effective performance is addressed.

Supporting Research Louisiana Revised Statutes 17:10.2.D(1)

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure performance pay is connected to student achievement.

Although Louisiana is commended for supporting performance pay, it should guarantee a connection to student achievement and prevent local districts from basing financial incentives on other elements that may not be indicative of performance in the classroom.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. **T** 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 FACTOREN	PERCORNANCE BOW	Performance pay permis	J une state State sponsored perfo Pay intrative of perfo	Does not support Performance	÷.
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Arkansas						_
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Colorado Connecticut						
Delaware						
District of Columbia						
Florida						
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Pennsylvania						
Rhode Island						
South Carolina						
South Dakota						
Tennessee						
Texas						
Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia Washington						
Washington West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
	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.)

- 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.



Area 4: Goal G **Louisiana** Analysis

State Partly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana 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 five and does not provide any employer contribution for teachers who choose to withdraw their account balances when leaving the system.

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. Louisiana's vesting at five years limits the options of teachers who leave the system prior to this point.

Teachers in Louisiana who choose to withdraw their contributions upon leaving only receive their own contributions with no interest. This means that those who withdraw their funds accrue fewer benefits than what they might have earned contributing to basic savings accounts. Therefore, teachers leaving the pension system would have saved only 8 percent of their salary (see Goal 4-H), which is significantly below the level conventionally recommended by retirement advisers for individuals not also contributing to Social Security. While Louisiana's contribution rate allows for flexibility in teachers' retirement savings, it also means that the state needs to educate teachers on what happens if they leave the system and encourage savings in other portable supplemental plans. Furthermore, 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.

Louisiana has some limits on 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. Louisiana's plan allows teachers to purchase time for all previous teaching experience, which is more generous than most states'. The state's plan also allows for the purchase of approved leaves of absence but only one year of leave for each five years of service in Louisiana. This may be a disadvantage to those teachers who need to take more leave for personal reasons, such as maternity or paternity.

The state is commended for offering a fully portable supplemental savings plan. Teachers can participate in the Louisiana Deferred Compensation Plan, a 457 retirement plan. However, there are no employer contributions.

Supporting Research

Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana Member Handbook, January 2011 http://trsl.org/uploads/File/Brochures/memberhandbook.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Increase the portability of its defined benefit plan.

If Louisiana maintains its defined benefit plan, it should allow teachers that leave the system to withdraw their employee contribution plus matching employer contributions and interest. The state should also remove restrictions to purchasing approved leaves of absence and decrease the vesting requirement to year three. A lack of portability is a disincentive to an increasingly mobile teaching force.

Offer an employer contribution to the supplemental retirement savings plan.

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

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

Louisiana disagreed with the conclusion that a pension option, like a defined contribution plan, should be the primary pension plan for Louisiana's K-12 teachers. It is the state's position that the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana's (TRSL) traditional defined benefit plan should remain as the retirement plan option available to Louisiana's K-12 teachers.

The state maintained that the TRSL Defined Benefit Plan for K-12 teachers in Louisiana provides teachers with many benefits, including, but not limited to: a guaranteed lifetime income to retirees and irreplaceable financial security; more effective reduction of different types of risk for employees (investment risk, longevity risk, inflation risk, contribution risk, leakage risk, disability risk, survivor risk, etc.); more income for career employees, motivating employees to continue in service; easy understandable relationship to working pay; ability to have service credit reciprocated or to purchase service credit; and opportunities for permanent benefit increases after retirement. The TRSL defined benefit plan sets forth a comprehensive retirement program that provides for normal retirement, disability retirement, survivor benefits, potential for retiree permanent benefit increases, and portability through service credit purchase options and reciprocity.

Louisiana contended that the ability to purchase service credit and reciprocal recognition of service credit is an important means of pension portability in TRSL's defined benefit plan. Louisiana, like most other states, permits teachers to purchase service credit for out-of-state teaching. Within Louisiana, TRSL's vast membership coverage and the various recognition and purchase of service credit provisions of the TRSL plan afford members the opportunity for mobility among public and private teaching positions and other public sector employment. TRSL's plan includes in its membership all public elementary and secondary teachers, higher education instructional staff and various other education-related entities. Pursuant to Louisiana law, TRSL recognizes reciprocal service credit from any other Louisiana state, municipal or parochial retirement system and each of those systems recognizes TRSL service credit. Members of Louisiana retirement systems have the option of combining all service credit or transferring service credit from one state, municipal or parochial retirement system to another.

In addition, the state noted that members of TRSL can purchase service credit canceled as a result of withdrawal of contributions, teaching service while on leave of absence without pay, teaching service in any nonpublic college or university or school in Louisiana, teaching service in any United States dependent school, substitute teaching service and military service. While on sabbatical leave, TRSL members are

considered to be on active service and receive service credit that corresponds to the time period for which they are on sabbatical leave, when full contributions are made.

Louisiana maintained that traditional defined benefit plans have a proven track record of attracting and retaining teachers and are more efficient in providing a target level of retirement income than defined contribution plans. A guaranteed lifetime income provides retirees with financial security. As has been demonstrated by recent economic downturns, individual retirement accounts have experience unprecedented declines in their value. TRSL believes that Louisiana's teachers should not become employees who must rely solely on defined contribution plans to provide their retirement.

Supporting Research

La R.S. 11:142; 11:143; 11:153; 11:728; 11:755; and La. R.S. 42:1301 et seq.

LAST WORD

Teachers not covered by Social Security do have to be particularly thoughtful regarding their retirement savings plan; that does not mean they cannot benefit from a fully portable and flexible savings plan. In fact, teachers not covered by Social Security are in even more need of a portable plan because if they move out of state or to a different profession at an early stage in their career, they are left with little savings for retirement.

Defined contribution plans can be structured to have many of the benefits of defined benefit plans, but with the added benefits of portability and flexibility to attract new individuals to the profession and to treat all teachers fairly for each year of service, not to mention less stress to states' financial health (see Goal 4-H). Plans can be structured as cash balance plans that allow the employer to maintain the investment risk and to include benefits such as disability and survivor coverage. Teachers' individual accounts can be invested in statewide, professionally managed funds to align their earnings and losses with other statewide plans, such as a defined benefit plan. Increased participation in defined contribution plans may also result in lower fees more commensurate with defined benefit plans. Teachers must receive proper education on topics such as longevity risk, tax implications and annuity options. The state may also consider enrolling its teachers in Social Security to give them full portability.

Defined benefit plans do provide retirement security to long-time teachers, but at a great cost both in terms of actual dollars spent and the commitment of those dollars to the pension system rather than other compensation strategies that may aid in recruitment and retention. The benefits are so back loaded and tied to longevity that the dollars spent on retirement are often not valued because they are not seen by potential employees. Many individuals may never enter the profession if they know they may not be able to dedicate 25 or more years within one system because they can receive more balanced compensation in a different sector. Teachers who move between states, while still dedicating their life to teaching, receive far less in retirement benefits even though they educated just as many students for just as long as teachers in a single state for their entire career. Further, our systems need to attract highly effective teachers who can produce great results, especially in high-needs schools, whether or not they are prepared to make a career-long commitment or only teach for shorter periods of time. A defined benefit pension system does not grant shorter-term teachers the same pension wealth per year of teaching as a teacher who was able to teach longer in a different assignment.

Individual retirement plans do pose greater risks to employees, but all retirement accounts pose risk somewhere. Defined benefit plans are not immune from risk, they are just better able to pass on the cost to other individuals (see Goal 4-H).

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		Defined benefit plan only Contribution successing plan with	in in	DEFINED CONTINUED BEAR	õ> /	
What type of pension	Defined benefit	1	tal pla		DEFINED CONTRIBUTION	ş
systems do states offer		làn _u	"men	lED BI	RIBL	'
teachers?	*96			JEEN		
leachers?	bene	ben tons	lan	୍ କୁ ବୁ		
	pəu	fineo tribut	brid ,	NED VEC	N O	
	Def	٢ ٢	Hybrid _{Plan}	55	10 27	
Alabama		í 🔳 í				
Alaska						
Arizona						
Arkansas						
California ²						
Colorado						
Connecticut						
Delaware						
District of Columbia						
Florida						
Georgia						
Hawaii						
Idaho						
Illinois						
Indiana ³						
lowa						_
Kansas						
Kentucky						_
LOUISIANA		_				
Maine						_
Maryland						
Massachusetts						
Michigan						
Minnesota						
Mississippi Missouri						
Montana						
Nebraska						
Nevada						
New Hampshire						
New Jersey						
New Mexico						
New York						
North Carolina						
North Dakota						
Ohio ⁴						
Oklahoma						
Oregon⁵						
Pennsylvania						
Rhode Island						
South Carolina ⁶						
South Dakota						
Tennessee						
Texas						
Utah ⁷						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington ⁸						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
	25	17	4	4	1	

T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

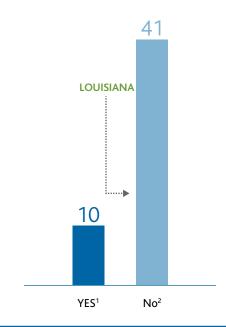
Alaska provides a fair and flexible defined contribution pension plan for all teachers. This plan is also highly portable, as teachers are entitled to 100 percent of employer contributions after five years of service. South Dakota's defined benefit plan has some creative provisions, which makes it more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

- 1. A hybrid plan has components of both a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan.
- 2. California offers a small cash balance component but ended most of the funding to this portion as of January 1, 2011.
- 3. Indiana also offers a supplemental defined contribution plan.
- 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.

How many years before teachers vest?

Figure 110

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



1. Strong Practice: Alaska, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington

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

Figure 111

1. For teachers who join the system on or after January 1, 2012.

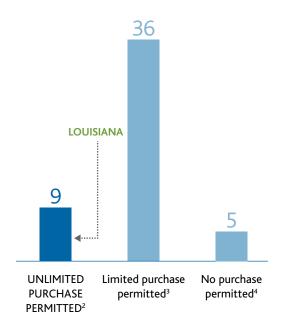
- Florida's defined benefit plan does not vest until year eight; teachers vest in the state's defined contribution plan after one year.
- 3. For teachers who join the system on or after July 1, 2012.
- 4. Ohio's defined benefit plan does not vest until year five; teachers vest in the state's defined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

	3 YEARS OR LESS	4 to 5 years	6 to 9 years	10 years
Alabama				
Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut				
Delaware ¹				
District of Columbia				
Florida ²				
Georgia				
Hawaii ³				
Idaho				
Illinois				
Indiana				
lowa ³				
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 ⁴				
Oklahoma				
Oregon⁵				
Pennsylvania				
Rhode Island				
South Carolina ⁶				
South Dakota				
Tennessee				
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington ⁷				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
	3	29	3	16
	5	29	5	10

Figure 112		Only their own	£ /	Their own contribution	THER OWN CONTRIBUTION AND FULL INCEREST AND FULL EMPLOYTRBUTION PLUS INTEREST
What funds do states p	permit		Their own contribution Plus interest	tion	rest RIBUT
teachers to withdraw j	5		ontr	tribu	
their defined benefit p	lans the	5	cont	Con eme	
<i>if they leave after</i>	Less than their Contribution	leir o	Their own con,	t the	
five years? ¹	ess t _i Ttrib	ly ti	heir Is int	Theij art o	E ANOS
jive years.	× 8 /	ð		ં વે છે	, O.Z
Alabama					
Alaska ²					
Arizona		Ц	_		
Arkansas					
California ³ Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana					
lowa ⁴					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
LOUISIANA					
Maine					
Maryland					
Massachusetts					
Michigan ⁵					
Minnesota			_		
Mississippi					
Missouri Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada ⁶					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio ⁷					
Oklahoma					
Oregon ⁸					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina ⁹					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah ¹⁰					
Vermont					
Virginia Washington ¹¹					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	4	5	34	6	1
	-		7		•

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

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

Figure 114

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



 Purchasing time does not apply to defined contribution plans. In states that offer multiple plans or a hybrid plan, the graph refers to the state's defined benefit plan or the defined benefit component of its hybrid plan. Alaska only offers a defined contribution plan and is not included.

- 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.



Area 4: Goal H **Louisiana** Analysis

State Meets a Small Part of Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

As of June 30, 2010, the most recent date for which an actuarial valuation is available, Louisiana's pension system for teachers is 54.4 percent funded and has amortization periods of less than 30 years for each of its different accounts. This means that if the plan earns its assumed rate of return and maintains current contribution rates, it would take the state less than 30 years to pay off various portions of its unfunded liabilities. While its amortization period meets requirements, Louisiana's funding level is too low. The state's system is not financially sustainable according to actuarial benchmarks.

In addition, Louisiana commits excessive resources toward its teachers' retirement system. The current employer contribution rate of 23.7 percent is too high. The 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 various specified time periods. While this rate allows the state to pay off liabilities within the required 30-year period, it does so at great cost, precluding Louisiana from spending those funds on other more immediate means to retain talented teachers. The mandatory employee contribution rate of 8 percent is reasonable.

Supporting Research

Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report 2010 http://trsl.org/uploads/File/My_TRSL/CAFR10.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, Louisiana should consider ways to improve its funding level without raising the contributions of school districts and teachers. In fact, the state should work to decrease employer contributions. 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.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana disagreed with NCTQ's conclusion "that the state's system is not financially sustainable according to actuarial benchmarks." Since the late 1980s, Louisiana has taken important steps in the payment of the unfunded accrued liability (UAL) of the system—steps that will result in an increase in its funding status. In 1987, Louisiana, through a constitutional amendment, addressed the payment of Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL's) UAL resulting from the granting of benefits and increases in benefits without funding in previous years. Louisiana has also enacted a constitutional amendment providing that no new benefit provision can be created if such provision has an actuarial cost, unless a funding source sufficient to pay all actuarial costs within 10 years is identified.

The Louisiana legislature in 2009 enacted a law (ACT 497) that, after applying certain credits, reamortizes the system's debt and provides for payments toward all unfunded accrued liability that are more manageable than those set forth in prior schedules. Another important measure is a provision that dedicates the first \$200 million in excess investment returns to the payment of this debt.

In 2010, the Louisiana legislature enacted additional laws that will have the effect of increasing TRSL's actuarial soundness. Act 992 of the 2010 legislative session increased the retirement eligibility age for all new hires on or after January 1, 2011, to age 60 and established a final average compensation calculation of five years rather than three years. Act 921 of the 2010 legislative session restricted TRSL's retirees' ability to return to work without a benefit suspension. The actuarial note for Act 921 reports that the measure will result in a net annual savings of \$108 million. A third measure amended Louisiana's constitution to require that any retirement benefit provision having an actuarial cost must be passed by two-thirds of the members of the legislature.

In 2011, the Louisiana legislature passed measures related to the payment of surplus state funds toward TRSL's UAL. These measures include a provision that will provide for the mandatory payment in FY 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 of a minimum of 5 percent of any state funds designated annually as nonrecurring (surplus funds) toward TRSL's UAL. Thereafter, a minimum of 10 percent of surplus funds are required to be applied to the UAL.

Louisiana asserted that TRSL's funding structure is actuarially based and the system is financially sustainable. Annually, the TRSL actuary determines the annual funding requirement needed to meet current and future benefit obligations. Actuarial contributions are based on normal cost and amortization of the unfunded accrued liability existing since the system's inception. TRSL's normal cost in fiscal year 2011-2012 is 5.97 percent. All actuarial calculations and the annual actuarial valuation are prepared in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and practices and conform to Governmental Accounting Standards Board requirements.

Supporting Research

La R.S. 11:42; 11:102; 11:102.1; and TRSL Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. www.legis.state.la.us

LAST WORD

NCTQ maintains that a system that is only 54.4 percent funded is not financially sustainable and does not meet recommended benchmarks. The state's response shows that even with over two decades of "important steps," it is burdensome to pay off a liability once it has accrued. Recent legislation has taken concrete steps to raise the retirement age and reduce the benefits to current and new members, but these steps should have been take much earlier, and they still do not alter the basis of the system.

Individual taxpayers and current teachers through rate increases are paying the bills of teacher pension systems that were not prepared for financial downturns. In Louisiana, and in other states, teachers' current mandatory contribution rate is greater than the annual cost to provide benefits promised to them (normal cost). In fact, the state's response notes that the current normal cost is 5.97 percent, over 2 percent below teachers' current contributions, and is less than 20 percent of the total percentage (31.7) contributed to the system this year. The systems that are in place to provide benefits are leveraging their mandatory membership and mandatory contribution rates to pay for previous underfunding. Current teachers have higher contribution rates and lower benefits than previous generations. This may be a responsible measure on the part of the pension system to create a more financially sustainable plan, but it is also unfair to current teachers whom the system is supposed to be representing. While it is arguable whether this is detrimental to retention of current teachers, this situation will certainly not help to attract new teachers.

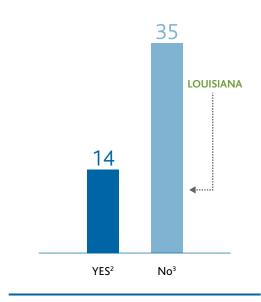
Do state pension systems meet standard benchmarks for fil

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<i>Do state pension</i>	ENT	FAR
ystems meet standard	ERC	XIUMUN 30 YEA
enchmarks for	157 80 PER	
inancial health?	50	NA NA
inancial nealth?		22
	42 /	< \{
Alabama		
Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
lowa		
Kansas		
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LOUISIANA		
Maine		
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New York		
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio		
Oklahoma		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah ³		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	16	26

T 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.

- 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

1. Alaska has only a defined contribution pension system.

Figure 119

How well funded are state pension systems?

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

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.

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

Employer contribution rate

Social Security (+6.2%)	0% 	5% 	10% 	15% 	20% 	25% 	30% 	35%
Alabama	10							
Alaska	12.6							
Arizona	10.1							
Arkansas	14							
California	10.3							
Colorado	14.8							
Connecticut	19.2							
Delaware	9.3							
District of Columbia	0							
Florida	3.8							
Georgia ²	10.3							
Hawaii ³	15							
Idaho	10.4							
Illinois ³	12.7							
Indiana	7.5							
lowa	8.1							
Kansas	9.4							
Kentucky	17.8							
LOUISIANA	23.7				-			
Maine	17.3					_		
Maryland	15.5				_			
Massachusetts ³	22.6							
Michigan ⁴	N/A							
Minnesota ³	6.2							
Mississippi	12							
Missouri	14.5			_				
Montana	10		_	_				
Nebraska	8.9							
Nevada	11.9		_					
New Hampshire	10.7							
New Jersey ⁵	N/A							
New Mexico	9.9							
New York	11.1							
North Carolina	13.1							
North Dakota	8.8							
Ohio	14							
Oklahoma	14.5							
Oregon	13.9							
Pennsylvania ³	5.6							
Rhode Island ⁶	22.3							
South Carolina	9.2							
South Dakota	6							
Tennessee	6.4							
Texas ⁷	6.6							
Utah	10							
Vermont	7.4							
Virginia	8.8							
Washington	9.2							
West Virginia	29.2							
Wisconsin	4.8							
Wyoming	7.1							
, ,								

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

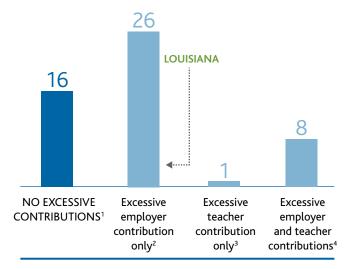
Analysts generally agree that workers in their 20's with no previous retirement savings should save, in addition to Social Security contributions, about 10-15 percent of their gross income in order to be able to live during retirement on 80 percent of the salary they were earning when they retired. While 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

- 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.
- 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.

Do states require excessive contributions to their pension systems?



1. Strong Practice: Alaska, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey⁵, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming

- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
- 3. Michigan⁶
- 4. Arizona, Hawaii, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island
- 5. While not excessive, the employer and state contribution are quite low. The most recent total employer contribution was only 5.4 percent of the actuarially-determined annual required contribution.
- 6. Employer contribution rates to Michigan's new system have not vet been reported.

Figure 123

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

Figure 123

How much do state pension systems require teachers to contribute?

Teacher contribution rate Social Security (+6.2%) 0% 10% 15% 20% 5% Alabama¹ 7.3 Alaska 8 Arizona 11.4 Arkansas 6 California 8 Colorado 8 Connecticut 7.3 Delaware¹ 3 District of Columbia 8 Florida 3 Georgia 5.5 Hawaii¹ 6 Idaho 6.2 Illinois 9.4 Indiana 3 lowa 5.4 Kansas 6 Kentucky 10.9 LOUISIANA 8 Maine 7.7 Maryland 7 Massachusetts 11 Michigan² 11.4 Minnesota¹ 6 Mississippi 9 Missouri 14.5 Montana 7.2 Nebraska³ 8.8 Nevada⁴ 11.9 New Hampshire 7 New Jersey¹ 6.5 New Mexico 11.2 New York 3.5 North Carolina 6 North Dakota¹ 7.8 Ohio 10 Oklahoma 7 Oregon 6 Pennsylvania⁵ 7.5 Rhode Island 9.5 South Carolina 6.5 South Dakota 6 Tennessee 5 Texas 6.4 Utah⁶ 0 Vermont 5 Virginia

5

6

4.8

6.2

Washington⁷

West Virginia

Wisconsin

Wyoming

Area 4: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal I – Pension Neutrality

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

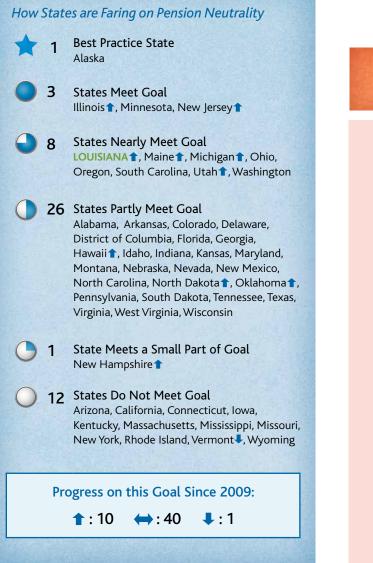
Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



State Nearly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana's pension system is based on a benefit formula that is not fully 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.

Louisiana's pension plan is commended for utilizing a constant benefit multiplier of 2.5 percent. In addition, the state is commended for basing retirement eligibility on age, regardless of years of service. However, vested teachers may retire at age 60 without a reduction in benefits allowing teachers to be paid full benefits by the state well before Social Security's retirement age. This provision, along with the state's early retirement based on years of service, may encourage effective teachers to retire early, 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

Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana Member Handbook, January 2011 http://trsl.org/uploads/File/Brochures/memberhandbook.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

Louisiana allows teachers to retire before conventional retirement age. 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). 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.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana noted that NCTQ concludes that Louisiana's pension system is based on a benefit formula that is not neutral and that NCTQ finds that 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. The state reiterated that members of Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) hired on or after January 1, 2011 must reach age 60 to qualify for regular retirement benefit. For members prior to January 1, 2011, to be eligible for regular retirement, a TRSL member must achieve 30 years of service, 25 years of service at age 55 or five years of service at age 60. The retirement benefit for all regular retirees is determined using the following formula: years of service x 2.5 percent x final average compensation. This allows for a uniform determination of benefits, whether an employee begins employment in the teaching profession at age 25 or 35, thus treating all members equally regarding the benefit amount to be received based on years of service. The TRSL plan provides an incentive to career educators and increases longevity in the profession, while, with a five-year vesting, permitting all vested members to retire at age 60. TRSL's current regular retirees retired on average at 57.85 years of age. In addition, TRSL has a Deferred Retirement Option Plan, which results in many members working past retirement eligibility. Louisiana encouraged NCTQ to review other factors that may affect retirement decisions such as spousal retirement and health status, as well as the effect of retirement eligibility age increase on entry into the teaching profession.

Supporting Research

La. R.S. 11:761; 11:768; and TRSL Actuarial Valuation (as of June 30, 2010)

LAST WORD

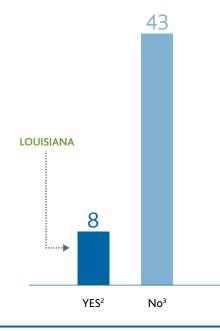
The analysis states that Louisiana's pension system is based on a benefit formula that is not neutral because wealth does not accrue uniformly until teachers reach conventional retirement age, such as that associated with Social Security. The state's retirement age of 60 is well before the normal retirement age of Social Security and creates a large, uneven spike in wealth when teachers reach age 60. The state also has early retirement based on years of service, which creates additional spikes in pension wealth.

The analysis covers newly hired teachers, as their plans reflect the state's current policy. Teachers hired prior to January 1, 2011, do not have a neutral formula and have even more spikes in pension wealth.

Benefits are determined uniformly, regardless of the age a person entered teaching in Louisiana. However, with eligibility for regular or early retirement set on years of service, total wealth of benefits is not accrued evenly. The person that entered teaching earlier in life will reach retirement eligibility based on years of service earlier than someone who started later in life. Their pensions each month would be the same, but the person who started earlier would receive the benefit, on average, for a longer period of time and therefore have received a higher amount of total benefits, or total pension wealth.

As for the state's DROP program, it is only a temporary fix to the structural problem of allowing early retirement without reduced benefits. This is discussed further in the rationale for this goal.

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

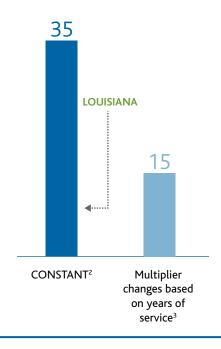


- 1. This only refers to determining retirement eligibility, not retirement benefits.
- Strong Practice: Alaska, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey
- 3. Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, 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

- 1. All calculations are based on a teacher who starts teaching at age 22, earns a starting salary of \$35,000 that increases 3 percent per year, and retires at the age s/he is first eligible for unreduced benefits. The calculations use states' current benefit formulas and do not include cost of living increases. The final average salary was calculated as the average of the highest three years of salary, even though a few states may vary from that standard. Age 65 was used as a point of comparision because it is the miminum eligibility for unreduced Social Security benefits.
- 2. Does not apply to Alaska's defined contribution plan.
- 3. Minnesota provides unreduced retirement benefits at the age of full Social Security benefits or age 66, whichever comes first.
- California's formula has many options for retirement. A teacher with 40 years of experience at age 62 would reach Califorina's maximum allowable multiplier of 2.4 percent.
- 5. Age 60 is the earlier teachers hired on or after July 1, 2012 may retire. Teachers hired prior to this point may retire at age 55.
- Massachusetts's formula has many options for retirement. A teacher with 35 years of experience at age 57 would reach Massachusetts's maximum allowable benefit of 80 percent.
- Total amount in banefits per teacher from the binefits paid retirement until age 65 me of Figure 126 Éarliest retirement age t 22 may How much do states teaching at age 2 pay for each teacher that retires with unreduced benefits at an early age?1 Alaska² \$0 Illinois 67 \$0 Maine 65 Minnesota³ \$0 66 New Hampshire \$0 65 New Jersey \$0 65 Washington \$0 65 Tennessee \$238,654 52 Michigan \$289,187 60 California⁴ \$310,028 62 Indiana 55 \$317,728 Hawaii⁵ \$337,385 60 Kansas 60 \$337,385 Oregon \$361,536 58 North Dakota \$385,583 60 Oklahoma \$385,583 60 Maryland \$413,808 56 Wisconsin 57 \$416,007 Rhode Island \$430,013 59 New York \$440,819 57 Texas \$443,421 60 South Dakota 55 \$447,707 Virginia 56 \$468,982 LOUISIANA \$481,979 60 Florida \$485,257 55 Vermont \$486,832 56 Montana 47 \$518,228 Connecticut \$520,009 57 Utah 57 \$520,009 Iowa \$551,428 55 Idaho \$551,743 56 North Carolina \$568,555 52 South Carolina 50 \$577,142 Nebraska \$577,687 55 West Virginia 55 \$577,687 Delaware \$577,927 52 District of Columbia \$585,737 52 Massachusetts⁶ 57 \$594.296 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 50 \$681,789 Ohio \$687,265 52 New Mexico \$734,124 52 Nevada 52 \$780,983 Missouri \$789,343 51 Kentucky 49 \$791,679

Figure 127

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



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

T 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.

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.

Goal A – Licensure Loopholes

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

Goal Components

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

- Under no circumstances should a state award a standard license to a teacher who has not passed all required subject-matter licensing tests.
- 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.



Area 5: Goal A **Louisiana** Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana allows teachers who have not met licensure requirements to teach for up to three years on a Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) certificate. Eligible candidates include teachers who have failed a Praxis exam required for licensure and potential alternative certification candidates who fail either a basic skills or a content test. Individuals with a bachelor's degree who are hired late can also teach with a one-year temporary authorization. This authorization may be renewed twice, provided the teacher meets certain guidelines, which, depending on the applicant's category, include taking the Praxis exam at least twice a year and/or completing six credit hours toward certification.

The state also offers a one-year Temporary Employment Permit (TEP), which allows individuals who have not passed required state tests to teach if their aggregate score on all of their exams is equal to or higher than the total required on all the tests. This permit may be renewed for up to three years if the candidate demonstrates that the test was retaken during the past year.

Supporting Research

Types of Teaching Authorizations and Certification https://www.teachlouisiana.net/pdf/licensurestructure.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

All students are entitled to teachers who know the subject matter they are teaching. Permitting individuals who have not yet passed state licensing tests to teach neglects the needs of students, instead extending personal consideration to adults who may not be able to meet minimal state standards. Louisiana should ensure that all teachers have passed their licensing tests—an important minimum benchmark for entering the profession—prior to entering the classroom. As described in several other goals, the state's cut scores on at least some tests are already set at a point that makes assurance of content knowledge questionable; granting a conditional license to individuals unable to meet these low bars puts adult interest before student need.

Limit exceptions to one year.

There might be limited and exceptional circumstances under which conditional or emergency licenses need to be granted. In these instances, it is reasonable for a state to give teachers up to one year to pass required licensure tests. However, Louisiana's current policy puts students at risk by allowing teachers who have not passed required subject-matter tests to teach for up to three years on either a TAT or TEP certificate.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

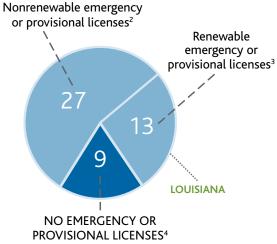
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T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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.

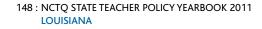
- Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota⁵, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyorning
- Arizona, 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.

- 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.
- 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.

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	Figure 132			
(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)	How States are Faring on Consequences for Unsatisfactory Evaluations			
 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 Best Practice States Illinois¹, Oklahoma 11 States Meet Goal 			
2. The state should require that all teachers who receive two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations or two unsatisfactory evaluations	Alaska, Arkansas ¹ , Colorado ¹ , Delaware ¹ , Florida, Indiana ¹ , LOUISIANA, New Mexico, New York ¹ , Rhode Island ¹ , Washington			
within five years be formally eligible for dismissal, whether or not they have tenure. Background	6 States Nearly Meet Goal Georgia, Hawaii, Michigan 1, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas			
A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.	13 States Partly Meet Goal California, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts ¹ , Minnesota ¹ , Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada ¹ , Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee ¹ , Utah, West Virginia			
	5 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Idaho 1, Ohio 1, Virginia, Wyoming 1			
	↓ 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:			
	115 ↔:35 ↓:1			



Area 5: Goal B Louisiana Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Louisiana requires that teachers who fail to meet "standards of effectiveness" as defined by the state's evaluation plan be placed on an "intensive assistance program" not to exceed two years. If, at the conclusion of the program, the teacher does not successfully complete the program or is still deemed to be ineffective based on a formal evaluation, the school district is allowed to "initiate termination proceedings."

Unfortunately, Louisiana's effort to make unsatisfactory evaluations grounds for initiating termination proceedings does not carry over to the state's dismissal policy (see Goal 5-C).

Supporting Research Louisiana Revised Code 17:3902 Act No. 54

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



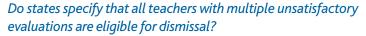
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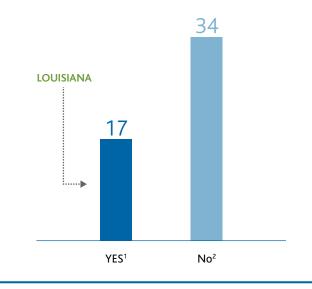
- Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- While results of evaluations may be used in dismissal decisions, there are no specific criteria for a teacher's eligibility for dismissal.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



T 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.





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

Goal C – Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

Goal Components Figure 135 (The factors considered in determining the states' How States are Faring in Dismissal for Poor rating for the goal.) Performance 1. The state should articulate that teachers **Best Practice State** may be dismissed for ineffective classroom Oklahoma performance. 2. A teacher who is terminated for poor 2 States Meet Goal performance should have an opportunity to Florida¹, Indiana¹ appeal. In the interest of both the teacher and the school district, the state should States Nearly Meet Goal 6 ensure that this appeal occurs within a Colorado¹, Illinois¹, Michigan¹, New York¹, Rhode Island 1. Tennessee 1 reasonable time frame. 3. There should be a clear distinction between States Partly Meet Goal 8 the process and accompanying due process Arizona¹, Delaware¹, Hawaii¹, rights for teachers dismissed for classroom Massachusetts 1, Nevada 1, Ohio 1, Wisconsin, Wyoming ineffectiveness and the process and accompanying due process rights for teachers States Meet a Small Part of Goal dismissed or facing license revocation for felony LOUISIANA, New Hampshire, Virginia, or morality violations or dereliction of duties. West Virginia 30 States Do Not Meet Goal Background Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, A detailed rationale and supporting research for Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy. Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:16 ↔:35 4:0

Area 5: Goal C Louisiana Analysis

State Meets a Small Part of Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

In Louisiana, tenured teachers who are terminated have one opportunity to appeal. After the board notifies the teacher of dismissal, the teacher has up to one year to file an appeal with a court of competent jurisdiction.

Louisiana does not explicitly make teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal, nor does the state distinguish the due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance from those facing other charges commonly associated with license revocation, such as a felony and/or morality violations. The process is the same regardless of the grounds for cancellation, which include "willful neglect of duty, or incompetency, dishonesty, or immorality, or of being a member of or contributing to any group, organization, movement or corporation that is by law or injunction prohibited from operating in the state of Louisiana."

Supporting Research Louisiana Revised Statutes 17:443

RECOMMENDATION

Specify that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

Euphemistic terms such as "incompetency" are ambiguous at best and may be interpreted as concerning dereliction of duty rather than ineffectiveness. Louisiana should explicitly make teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal so that districts do not feel they lack the legal basis for terminating consistently poor performers. Without this specification, Louisiana's efforts to improve its evaluation framework (see Goal 3-B) may be undermined.

Ensure that teachers terminated for poor performance have the opportunity to appeal within a reasonable time frame.

While the state is commended for allowing only one appeal, Louisiana should consider establishing parameters for this appeal. It is in the best interest of both the teacher and the district that a conclusion be reached within a reasonable time frame. Cases that drag on drain resources from school districts and create a disincentive for districts to attempt to terminate poor performers.

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

While nonprobationary teachers should have due process for any termination, it is important to differentiate between loss of employment for and issues with far-reaching consequences that could permanently impact a teacher's right to practice. Louisiana should ensure that appeals related to classroom effectiveness are only decided by those with educational expertise.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 136

Do states articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal?

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154 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 LOUISIANA

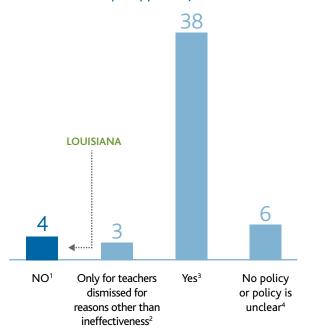
T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

POLICY

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



Goal D – Reductions in Force

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



Area 5: Goal D Louisiana Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

In Louisiana, several factors must be used to determine which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force. The state requires "certification, if applicable; seniority in the system; tenure of employees; and academic preparation, if applicable, within the employee's field" to be considered.

Supporting Research Louisiana Revised Statute 17:81.4 (D)

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off.

Unlike most states, Louisiana requires districts to use multiple factors in determining which teachers are laid off and does not make seniority the sole factor. However, the criteria currently in use are problematic in that they are poor proxies for what matters most: a teacher's effectiveness. If the state wants to continue to use certification, seniority, tenure and academic preparation, it should do so while also ensuring that teacher effectiveness is given due weight.

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

Louisiana should give districts the flexibility to determine their own layoff policies, but it should do so within a framework that ensures that classroom performance is considered.

LOUISIANA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Louisiana recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



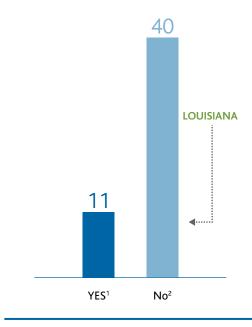
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Wyoming		
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T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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?

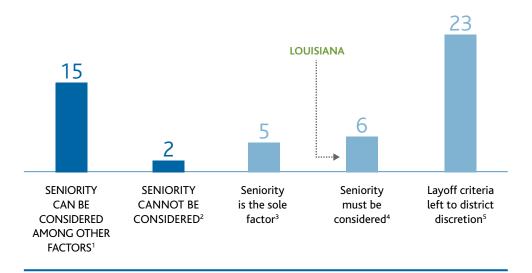


1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah

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.





- 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
- 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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