# 2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

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# 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.

# **FUNDERS**

The primary funders for the 2011 Yearbook were:

- Bill and Melinda Gates FoundationCarnegie Corporation of New York
- Gleason Family Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- George Gund Foundation
- The National Council on Teacher Quality does not accept any direct funding from the federal government.

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Thank you to the team at CPS Gumpert for their design of the 2011 Yearbook. Thanks also to Colleen Hale and Jeff Hale at EFA Solutions for the original Yearbook design and ongoing technical support.

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.

# Iowa at a Glance

Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade:

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

Overall 2009 Yearbook Grade: D

# **Overall Progress**



# Highlights from recent progress in Iowa include:

- Alternate route admissions requirements
- State data system with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness

# How is **lowa** 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.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Elementary teachers are not adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with the Common Core Standards.
- Preparation programs are not required to address the science of reading, and candidates are not required to pass a test to ensure knowledge.
- Neither teacher preparation program nor licensure test requirements ensure that new elementary teachers are adequately prepared to teach mathematics.
- Although middle school teachers may not teach on a K-8 generalist license, they do not have to pass a content test.

The state does not offer a K-12 special education certification.

D

D

- Secondary teachers do not have to pass a content test.
- A pedagogy test is not required as a condition of licensure.
- There are no requirements to ensure that student teachers are placed with cooperating teachers who were selected based on evidence of effectiveness.
- The teacher preparation program approval process does not hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

# Area 2 Expanding the Pool of Teachers

# **Policy Strengths**

# **Policy Weaknesses**

- Admission requirements for the alternate route to certification lack flexibility for nontraditional candidates.
- Alternate route preparation is not streamlined or geared toward the immediate needs of new teachers.
- Usage and providers of the alternate route are restricted.
- The state does not offer a license with minimal requirements that would allow content experts to teach part time.
- Out-of-state teachers are not required to meet the state's testing requirements, and there are additional obstacles that do not support licensure reciprocity.

2 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011

# How is **lowa** Faring?

# Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers

#### **Policy Strengths**

The state data system has the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Objective evidence of student learning is not the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.
- Annual evaluations for all teachers are not required.
- Tenure decisions are not connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Licensure advancement and renewal are not based on teacher effectiveness.

D-

D+

D

No school-level data are reported that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

# **Area 4** Retaining Effective Teachers

# **Policy Strengths**

- All new teachers receive mentoring.
- While there is a minimum state salary, districts are given authority for how teachers are paid; however, districts are not discouraged from basing salary schedules solely on years of experience and advanced degrees.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Professional development is not aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.
- The state does not support performance pay or additional compensation for relevant prior work experience, working in high-need schools or teaching in shortage subject areas.

The pension system is well funded.

- Teachers are only offered a defined benefit plan.
- Retirement benefits are determined by a formula that is not neutral, meaning that pension wealth does not accumulate uniformly for each year a teacher works.

# **Area 5** Exiting Ineffective Teachers

# **Policy Strengths**

## **Policy Weaknesses**

- The state could do more to ensure teachers' subjectmatter knowledge before granting initial licensure.
- Multiple unsatisfactory evaluations do not make a teacher eligible for dismissal.
- Ineffective classroom performance is not grounds for dismissal, and tenured teachers who are dismissed have multiple opportunities to appeal.
- Performance is not considered in determining which teachers to lay off during reductions in force.

# Iowa Goal Summary

	Goal Breakdown	
	★ Best Practice	0
	Fully Meets	1
	Nearly Meets	1
	Partially Meets	10
	🕚 Only Meets a Small Part	4
8	O Does Not Meet	20
	Progress on Goals Since 2009	
	Area 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
	1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs	•
	1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation	٢
	1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	$\bigcirc$
	1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	٢
	1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation	
	1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation	0
	1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	0
	1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies	0
	1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation	0
	1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge	0
	1-K: Student Teaching	0
	1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	٩
5	Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers	
	2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility	0
	2-B: Alternate Route Preparation	١
	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	0
3-C: Frequency of Evaluations	0
3-D: Tenure	0
3-E: Licensure Advancement	0
3-F: Equitable Distribution	0
Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	
4-A: Induction	•
4-B: Professional Development	0
4-C: Pay Scales	•
4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience	0
4-E: Differential Pay	0
4-F: Performance Pay	$\bigcirc$
4-G: Pension Flexibility	•
4-H: Pension Sustainability	٠
4-I: Pension Neutrality	0
Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers	
5-A: Licensure Loopholes	•
5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations	
5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance	0
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.

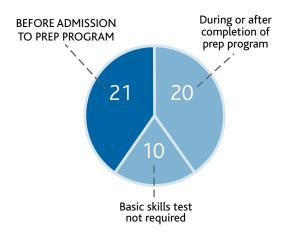


Some goals are marked with this symbol , which indicates that the bar has been raised for this goal since the 2009 *Yearbook*. With many states making considerable progress in advancing teacher effectiveness policy, NCTQ raised the standards for some goals where the bar had been quite low. As this may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

## PAGE 9

# PAGE 55

# 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.
- 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 States Meet Goal 0 11 States Nearly Meet Goal Connecticut, Georgia 1, Hawaii 1, Indiana<sup>1</sup>, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Rhode Island 1, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia 6 States Partly Meet Goal Arkansas, Illinois, IOWA1, Missouri, Nebraska, Washington States Meet a Small Part of Goal 2 Florida, Wisconsin 31 States Do Not Meet Goal 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:

> 1:6 👄 : 45 **↓**:0

# Area 1: Goal A **IOWa** Analysis

# State Partly Meets Goal 🕢 Bar Raised for this Goal 🕜 Progress Since 2009

# **ANALYSIS**

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

Also, Iowa does not allow teacher preparation programs to exempt candidates who demonstrate equivalent performance on a college entrance exam.

Supporting Research Iowa Code Title VII Chapter 256.16

# 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—Iowa 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. Iowa's policy is especially weak because the state allows individual teacher preparation programs to set their own passing scores.

# Exempt candidates with comparable SAT or ACT scores.

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

# **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

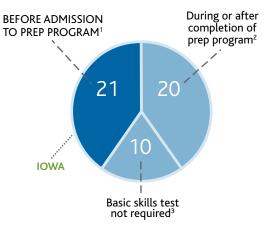
Iowa was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.

# 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

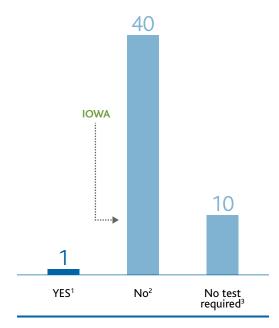
# When do states test teacher candidates' basic skills?



- 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

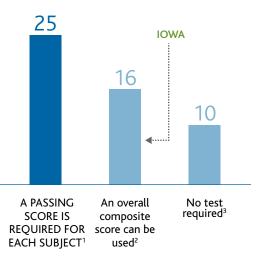
3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

# Figure 4

# \$ \$ #       # \$ \$ #       # \$ \$ #       # \$ \$ #       # \$ \$ \$ #         Alabama	Figure 4 Do states appropriately test teacher candidates' academic proficiency?	ST NORMED TO COL	Test normed only to the processing to the proces	Text normed only to tex.	No lett Required	
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# 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. California<sup>4</sup>, District of Columbia<sup>4</sup>, Hawaii<sup>4</sup>, Indiana, Iowa, Maine<sup>4</sup>, Maryland, New Hampshire<sup>4</sup>, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota<sup>5</sup>, Pennsylvania<sup>4</sup>, Rhode Island<sup>4</sup>, 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* 



States Nearly Meet Goal Indiana 1, Massachusetts, Minnesota 1, New Hampshire



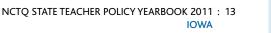
States Partly Meet Goal California, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington

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 **OWa** Analysis

# State Meets a Small Part of Goal

# Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Although Iowa 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.

Iowa 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 scores. 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.

As of September 1, 2015, elementary teacher candidates will have to complete the following content coursework:

- Nine semester hours in literacy, including content in children's literacy, and oral and written skills for the 21st century;
- Nine semester hours in social sciences, including content in history, geography, political science/ civic literacy, economics and behavioral sciences; and
- Nine semester hours in science, including content in physical science, earth/space science and life science.

Candidates must also complete a "field of specialization in a single discipline or a formal interdisciplinary program" consisting of at least 12 semester hours.

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

#### Supporting Research

Iowa Administrative Code 282-13.26(5) and 281-79.14(2) Praxis II www.ets.org

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Iowa 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 meaning-ful, Iowa should ensure that these passing scores reflect high levels of performance.

#### Provide broad liberal arts coursework relevant to the elementary classroom.

Iowa 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.

Iowa's policy requiring elementary candidates to earn a "field of specialization" is undermined because it may be met with an interdisciplinary program. Unlike an academic concentration, an interdisciplinary concentration will not necessarily enhance teachers' content knowledge or ensure that prospective teachers have taken higher-level academic coursework. Further, it does not provide an option for teacher candidates unable to fulfill student teaching or other professional requirements to still earn a degree, as an academic major does.

### Ensure arts and sciences faculty teach liberal arts coursework.

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

# **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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

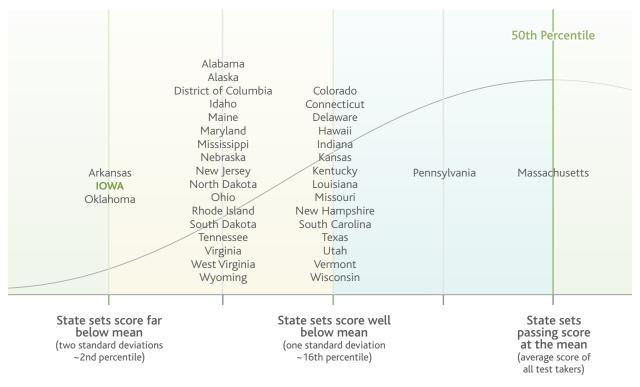


# T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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.

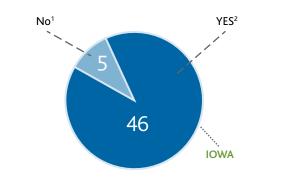
# Figure 7

# Where do states set the passing score on elementary content licensure tests<sup>1</sup>?



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

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

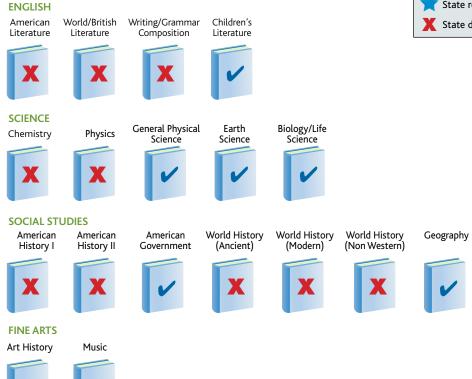


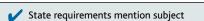
1. Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, Virginia

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

#### Figure 9

# What subjects does lowa expect elementary teachers to know?





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

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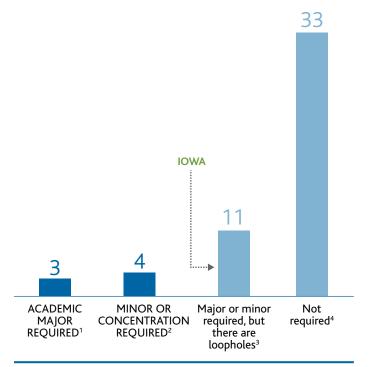
Subject mentioned

★ Subject covered in depth

18 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 IOWA

# 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 **Best Practice States** 3 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, Indiana 🕇 , Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico<sup>1</sup>, 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 **OWA** Analysis

# State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

# ANALYSIS

Iowa does not require that teacher preparation programs for elementary teacher candidates address the science of reading. The state has neither coursework requirements nor standards related to this critical area. Iowa does require that all elementary teacher candidates must take coursework in methods and materials for teaching elementary reading. However, this coursework does not explicitly require that teachers receive training in the five essential components of reading instruction.

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

Supporting Research IAC 282-13.26(4)

# RECOMMENDATION

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

Iowa should require that teacher preparation programs in the state train candidates in the five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

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

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

#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

lowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that its professional education core requires coursework or evidence of competency in "preparation in reading programs, including reading recovery, and integration of reading strategies into content area methods coursework."

Supporting Research IAC 282-13.18(4)

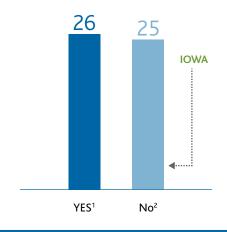


# T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

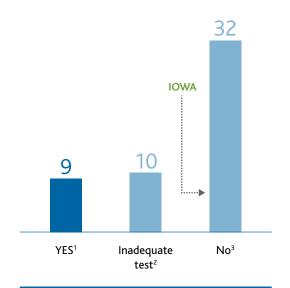
# Do states require preparation for elementary teachers in the science of reading?



- 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
- 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, Minnesota<sup>4</sup>, New Mexico<sup>5</sup>, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania<sup>5</sup>, 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	/	TESTI	
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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.

*	1	Best Practice State Massachusetts
0	0	States Meet Goal
•	1	State Nearly Meets Goal Indiana î
0	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 <sup>↑</sup> , 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

# Area 1: Goal D **IOWa** Analysis

# State Meets a Small Part of Goal

Progress Since 2009

# ANALYSIS

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

As of September 1, 2015, elementary education candidates will be required to earn at least nine semester hours in mathematics, which must include content in the following areas: numbers and operations, algebra/number patterns, geometry, measurement, and data analysis/probability. However, it does not appear that these requirements are specifically geared to meet the needs of the elementary teacher.

Iowa 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

Iowa Administrative Code 281-13.26(5) www.ets.org/praxis

"No Common Donominator: The Pror

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

# RECOMMENDATION

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

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

# Require teacher candidates to pass a rigorous mathematics assessment.

Iowa 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.

#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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

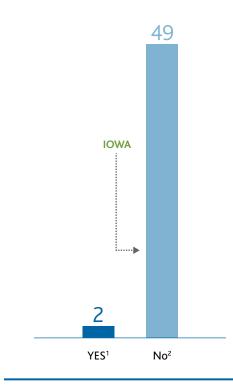


# T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

**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?

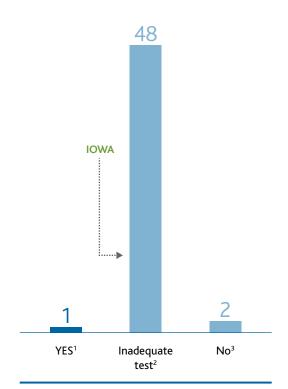


1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Massachusetts

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.)

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

# Background

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

# Figure 19

How States are Faring in Middle School **Teacher Preparation** 3 **Best Practice States** Arkansas 1, Georgia, Pennsylvania 1 7 States Meet Goal Connecticut, Florida 1, 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, Minnesota<sup>1</sup>, 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 **OWA** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal

# Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

lowa requires a middle school endorsement (grades 5-8) for all middle school teachers. Candidates must already hold a valid license with either a general elementary endorsement or one of the subject-matter secondary level endorsements. They must also complete 12 semester hours in two content core subjects, which include language arts, science, social studies and mathematics.

Middle school teachers in Iowa are not required to pass a subject-matter test to attain licensure.

Supporting Research Iowa Administrative Code 282-13.27

# RECOMMENDATION

#### Strengthen middle school teachers' subject-matter preparation.

Although Iowa is commended for not allowing middle school teachers to teach on a K-8 generalist license, it should allow middle school candidates who intend to teach a single subject to earn a major in that area. It should also consider increasing its current coursework requirement to 15 semester hours, considering that 12 semester hours is considered low for earning a minor.

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

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

# **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

lowa cited its regulation regarding minimum content requirements for teaching endorsements, which address single-subject content requirements for grades K-8 and 5-12.

Supporting Research Iowa Administrative Code 282-13.28

# **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

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Figure 21		/	/	Less than a major on m	No requirement of content
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Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
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	15	5	9	12	14

<sup>1.</sup> State does not explicitly require two minors, but it has equivalent requirements.

<sup>2.</sup> 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 **OWa** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal

# **ANALYSIS**

lowa does not require secondary teachers to pass content tests.

# RECOMMENDATION

### Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

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

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

Iowa 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.

# **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

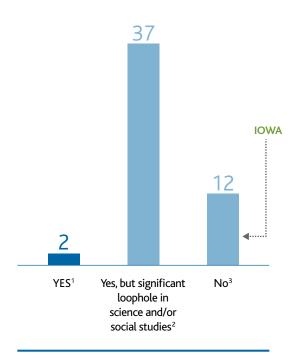
Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

# **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?



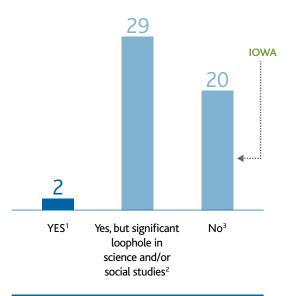
1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

- 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, Uta h, 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**

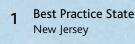
(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 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



**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

# C

**16** States Partly Meet Goal Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington

- 4 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Wisconsin
- **12** States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, California, Colorado, IOWA, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Wyoming

# Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

New Goal

## Area 1: Goal G **OWa** Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009



lowa offers a general science endorsement; candidates must complete 24 semester hours of coursework that includes biological science, chemistry and physics. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general science but rather can teach any of the topical areas. The state also offers a physical science endorsement, which requires 24 semester hours in physical sciences and includes coursework in physics, chemistry and earth science. Regrettably, secondary teachers in lowa are not required to pass a content test.

Middle school teachers in Iowa must complete a science concentration, which requires 12 semester hours of coursework that includes life science, earth science and physical science. Middle school teachers in Iowa are also not required to pass a content test.

#### **Supporting Research**

Iowa Administrative Code 282-13.27(3); 13.28(17)

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

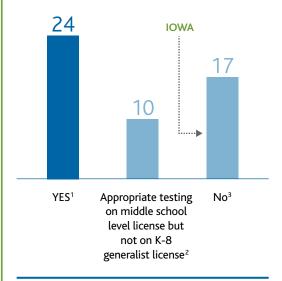
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Wyoming					
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### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 27

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



 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 1 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 **IOWA** Analysis



### State Does Not Meet Goal

#### ANALYSIS

lowa offers secondary certification in general social sciences. Candidates are required to complete a total of 51 semester hours that include nine semester hours in American and world history, nine semester hours in government, six semester hours in sociology, six semester hours in psychology (other than educational psychology), six semester hours in geography and six semester hours in economics. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general social studies but rather can teach any of the topical areas. Regrettably, secondary teachers in lowa are not required to pass a content test.

Middle school teachers in Iowa must complete a social studies concentration, which requires 12 semester hours of coursework that includes U.S. history, world history, government and geography. The state also does not require that middle school teachers pass a content test.

#### Supporting Research Iowa Administrative Code 282-13.27(3); 13.28(18)

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

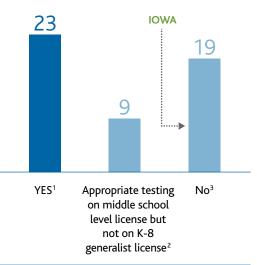
Figure 29	141	OFFERS ONLY SINGLE SUBERT SOCIAL STUDIES	Offos general social studies testing without adequate
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### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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.
- 2. All elementary special education candidates should have a broad liberal arts program of study that includes study in mathematics, science, English, social studies and fine arts and should be required to pass a subjectmatter test for licensure that is no less rigorous than what is required of general education candidates.
- 3. The state should require that teacher preparation programs graduate secondary special education teacher candidates who are highly qualified in at least two subjects. The state should also customize a "HOUSSE" route for new secondary special education teachers to help them achieve highly qualified status in all the subjects they teach.

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

#### Background

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** 



States Meet Goal

State Nearly Meets Goal Massachusetts



- 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 **OWA** Analysis

State Partly Meets Goal 🛛 🕢 Bar Raised for this Goal 🤅

**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

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

Further, Iowa 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

Iowa Administrative Code 282-14.1, -.2 and 13.28 **Praxis Test Requirements** www.ets.org

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Iowa 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, lowa 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).

#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

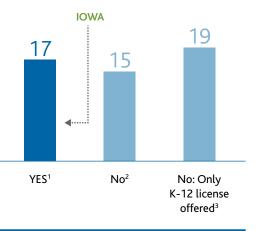
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				1

### 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, Oregon<sup>4</sup>, Pennsylvania<sup>5</sup>, 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.)

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

#### Background

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

#### Figure 34

How States are Faring in Assessing Professional Knowledge



**Best Practice States** 



0

23 States Meet Goal Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia 1, 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

- States Nearly Meet Goal 2 Maryland, Rhode Island
  - States Partly Meet Goal 3
    - Idaho, North Carolina, Utah
- States Meet a Small Part of Goal 5 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 **IOWa** Analysis



### State Does Not Meet Goal

#### ANALYSIS

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

The state requires elementary teachers to pass either a Praxis content knowledge test or one that combines content and pedagogical knowledge. Secondary teachers are not required to pass a test of pedagogy.

lowa is part of the Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) consortium and began a pilot program in Spring 2011.

Supporting Research http://www.ets.org/praxis/ia

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Require that all new teachers pass a pedagogy test.

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

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

While Iowa is commended for considering the use of a performance-based assessment, the state should proceed with caution until additional data are available on the Teacher Performance Assessment. Additional research is needed to determine how the TPA compares to other teacher tests as well as whether the test's scores are predictive of student achievement. The track record on similar assessments is mixed at best. The two states that currently require the Praxis III performance-based assessment report pass rates of about 99 percent. Given that it takes significant resources to administer a performance-based assessment, a test that nearly every teacher passes is of question-able value

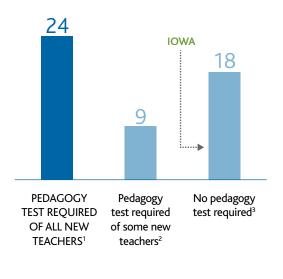
#### IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

## **★** 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, Utah<sup>4</sup>, 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

46 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011

## Area 1: Goal K **IOWA** Analysis





#### ANALYSIS

lowa requires candidates to complete at least 12 weeks of student teaching in the final year of the practitioner preparation program. The state also requires that programs offer annual workshops of at least one day in duration for prospective cooperating teachers. "The workshop shall define the objectives of the student teaching experience, review the responsibilities of the cooperating teacher, and provide the cooperating teacher other information and assistance the institution deems necessary."

Supporting Research Iowa Code 272.25

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Iowa's requirement of workshops for cooperating teachers is important but not sufficient. 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.

#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa asserted that candidates actually complete 14 continuous weeks of student teaching. The state added that programs must ensure that candidates who go abroad receive equitable experience and support.

#### LAST WORD

lowa's code reads: "The student teaching experience shall be a minimum of twelve weeks in duration during the student's final year of the practitioner preparation program."

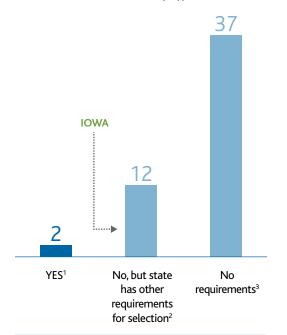
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### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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.

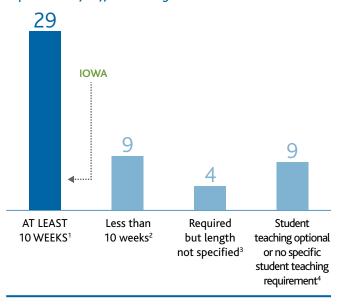
*Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?* 



- 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 Virginia<sup>5</sup>, 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.

Figure 40

#### **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.

### 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, Illinois 1, 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 **OWA** Analysis

#### State Meets a Small Part of Goal 🛛 🕢 Bar Rais

Raised for this Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

Most importantly, Iowa does not collect value-added data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.

However, lowa does rely on some objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs. The state requires that its preparation programs document the quality of their programs by collecting evaluative data from practitioners who work with the teacher candidates as well as "evidence of evaluative data collected by the unit through follow-up studies of graduates and their employers." Regrettably, lowa does not appear to apply any transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval.

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

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

Supporting Research Iowa Administrative Code 281-79.13 Title II State Reports https://title2.ed.gov

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

To ensure that programs are producing effective classroom teachers, Iowa should consider the academic achievement gains of students taught by the programs' graduates, averaged over the first three years of teaching.

#### Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance.

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

#### Ensure that criteria for program approval result in greater accountability.

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

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

To inform the public with meaningful, readily understandable indicators of how well programs are doing, Iowa should present all the data it collects on individual teacher preparation programs.

#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa asserted that it sanctions programs with conditional status when Chapter 79 standards are not met.

Figure 41				/		
Do states hold teach preparation prograi accountable?		PRE VININUM STANDARDS FOO	PARATION JISBAM NO JBMM ADJBN AND JBMM ADJBN AND JBMM	OBJECTITE PROGRAM	PREPA	RATION
	OBJECTIVE SPECIFIC DA	MINIMUM STANDARDS FI	DATA PUB AVAILABLE	OBJECTIVE SPECIFIC DA	MINIMUN STANDARL PERFORMS	DATA PUB AVAILABLE
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Alaska						
Arizona						
Arkansas						
California						
Colorado						
Connecticut						
Delaware						2
District of Columbia						
Florida						1
Georgia						
Hawaii						
Idaho						
Illinois						
Indiana IOWA						
IOWA Kansas						
Kentucky						1
Louisiana						
Maine						
Maryland						
Massachusetts						
Michigan						
Minnesota						
Mississippi						
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Montana						
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Nevada						
New Hampshire						
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North Dakota						
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Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington						
West Virginia Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
vyoning						
	25	5	14	17	2	10

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

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

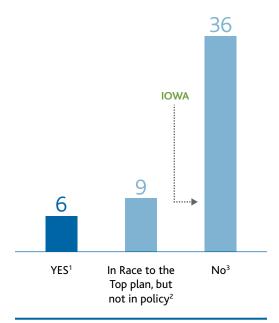


### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 42

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



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

#### Figure 43

#### Which states collect meaningful data?

AVERAGE RAW SCORES ON LICENSING TESTS Alabama, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Tennessee, West Virginia

#### SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

Alabama, Arizona, Florida, IOWA, Kentucky, Maryland<sup>1</sup>, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington<sup>1</sup>, West Virginia

EVALUATION RESULTS FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES Alabama, Arizona, Delaware<sup>1</sup>, 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, Delaware<sup>1</sup>, Missouri, New Jersey

1. For alternate route only

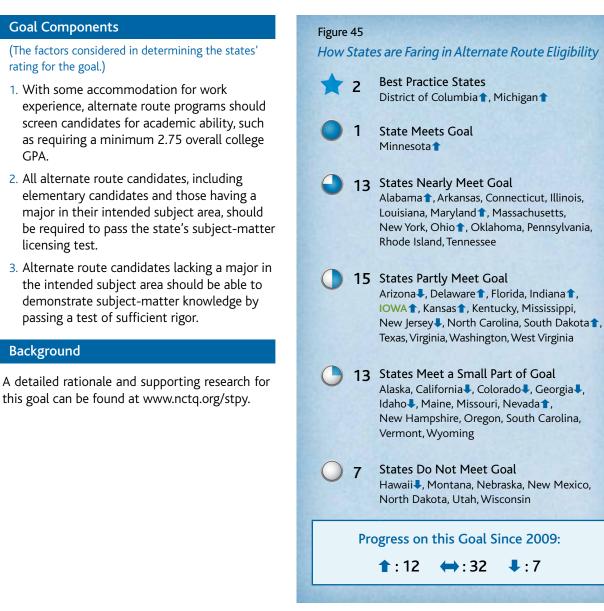
Figure 44		/	Vational accediation	While not technically require indications in the approval	While not technically in	lifed
What is the relationship	STATE HAS ITS OWN	National accreditation	Drova,	Pprol Pprol	V.re.	
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approval and national	List .	Jaco Pic	accre	t tech	tect Tect	5
accreditation?	よ と の 内	tion <sub>e</sub>	ional tuteo	lile no Ipprol	is son	
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Arizona <sup>1</sup>						
Arkansas						
California						
Colorado						
Connecticut						
Delaware						
District of Columbia						
Florida						
Georgia						
Hawaii <sup>1</sup>						
Idaho						
Illinois <sup>1</sup>						
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Maryland						
Massachusetts						
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New Jersey						
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Ohio <sup>1</sup>						
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Pennsylvania Rhodo Island						
Rhode Island South Carolina						
South Carolina South Dakota						
Tennessee						
Texas <sup>1</sup>						
Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
	23	10	4	8	6	
	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 **IOWa** Analysis

### State Partly Meets Goal

### Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

While Iowa's alternate route program does exceed the admission requirements of traditional programs, the state does not require evidence of subject-matter knowledge and shows minimal flexibility for non-traditional candidates.

Since the 2009 edition of the *Yearbook*, Iowa has increased its minimum GPA requirement for the Iowa Teacher Intern License Pathway (ITILP) from 2.5 to 2.75. Candidates with a GPA less than 2.5 must meet additional criteria.

Candidates to ITILP are not required to pass a subject-matter test prior to admission to the program. ITILP candidates must pass a basic skills test and the "Star Teacher Pre-screener" assessment. The state will accept equivalent scores on the GRE in lieu of the basic skills requirement. Neither a major nor specific coursework is required; as a result there is no need for a test-out option.

Applicants must also possess a minimum of three years' successful work experience and participate in an interview process.

#### Supporting Research Iowa Code 281-77.11(256) http://www.iowa.gov/boee/tilal.html

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

The concept behind alternate routes is that the nontraditional candidate is able to concentrate on acquiring professional knowledge and skills because he or she has strong subject-area knowledge. Teachers without sufficient subject-matter knowledge place students at risk.

#### Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

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

#### Consider flexibility in work-experience requirement.

Iowa should consider using a candidate's years of experience as a factor in the admission process rather than as a requirement. Requiring a minimum number of years of work experience may disqualify potentially talented candidates unnecessarily. Recent graduates, who may demonstrate high academic ability and strong content knowledge but lack the minimum years of experience, would be needlessly excluded from the alternate route programs under this requirement.

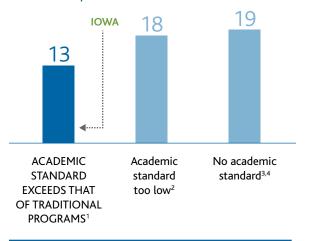
#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa referenced the Teacher Intern license in its response without elaboration.

Supporting Research Chapter 282-13.9

Figure 46	0	. /	1
Are states' alternate	ACUDEMIC STANDARD DMISSION EXCANDARD FOR ADITIONAL DICEEDE	Sh	NO MAJOR RECURED OR DE MAJOR RECURED OR DE MAJOR BE USED IN LIEU
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Jlexible in admissions?	NON C	MAI	2 4 0 2 4 0 2 4 0
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District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia			
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Idaho			
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IOWA			
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Kentucky		_	
Louisiana			
Maine			
Maryland Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota	-		
Mississippi		-	
Missouri			
Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota <sup>1</sup>			
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Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
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Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	13	24	27
	15	24	21

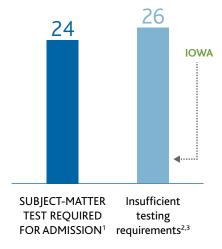
Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



- 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, Connecticut<sup>4</sup>, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois<sup>4</sup>, 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

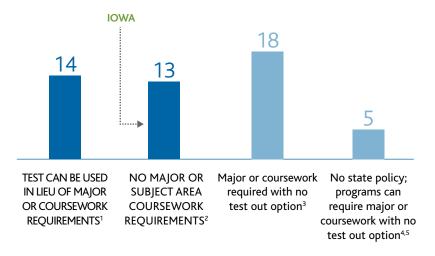
1. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

### 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, Connecticut<sup>6</sup>, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas

- 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 Connecticut States Meet Goal Arkansas, Delaware 1, Georgia, New Jersey 7 States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama, Florida, Maryland 1, Mississippi, Rhode Island<sup>1</sup>, South Carolina, Virginia 11 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska, California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada<sup>1</sup>, New Mexico, New York, Ohio 1, South Dakota, West Virginia 18 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, IOWA, Kansas<sup>1</sup>, Michigan 1, Minnesota 1, 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 Meets a Small Part of Goal

#### Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Since the 2009 edition of the *Yearbook*, Iowa has increased the number of credit hours it requires. Teachers participating in the Iowa Teacher Intern License Pathway (ITILP) must complete 24 credit hours of coursework. Eighteen credit hours must be completed prior to the first year teaching, and six credits hours are taken during the internship year. Additional coursework to secure a content endorsement may also be required. The pre-internship coursework includes foundations of education, educational psychology, working with special needs children, curriculum and content methods, assessment, and classroom management and instruction.

ITILP candidates must complete 60 hours of field experience prior to their internship year. All of this classroom contact time occurs during the fall and spring when a candidate is most typically employed in a non-education field. During the internship year the new teacher is assigned a mentor.

ITILP is a two-year program. Individuals may apply for a standard initial teaching license upon program completion.

#### Supporting Research

http://iowateacherintern.org/#internship\_experience IAC 282 Chapter 13.9(4)

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Ensure that coursework meets the immediate needs of new teachers.

While requiring some preparation prior to entering the classroom is important, lowa requires alternate route candidates to take a considerable amount of coursework before they begin teaching, much of which is more typically associated with a traditional preparation program. All coursework requirements should be manageable for career changers and other nontraditional candidates and contribute to the immediate needs of new teachers. Appropriate coursework should include gradelevel or subject-level seminars, methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction.

#### Strengthen the induction experience for new teachers.

Although lowa is commended for requiring all new teachers to work with a mentor, there are insufficient guidelines indicating that the mentoring program is structured for new teacher success. Effective induction 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.

#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 51	STREAMLINED CO	×ac	. /	/	/	
Do states' alternate rou	tes	RELEVANT COURSE WORK	REASONABLE PROGRAM LEN.	PRACTICE TEACHING	, / ,	
provide streamlined				H NH	°oe,	
preparation that meets	Ę		BLE		tans	
the immediate needs of	ALIN .	NL <sup>6</sup>	AM1		SIVE	
new teachers?	REA	[EV4	000	200	TEN	
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Alabama						
Alaska						
Arizona						
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Delaware						
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Georgia						
Hawaii						
Idaho						
Illinois						
Indiana						
IOWA						
Kansas						
Kentucky						
Louisiana						
Maine						
Maryland						
Massachusetts						
Michigan						
Minnesota						
Mississippi			_			
Missouri						
Montana						
Nebraska						
Nevada						
New Hampshire						
New Jersey New Mexico						
New York						
North Carolina						
North Dakota <sup>2</sup>						
Ohio						
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Pennsylvania						
Rhode Island						
South Carolina						
South Dakota						
Tennessee						
Texas						
Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
	13	12	29	18	13	

## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

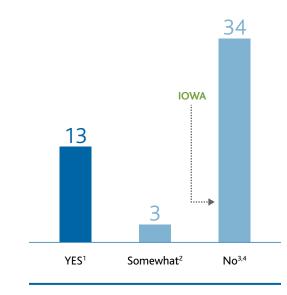
**Connecticut** ensures that its alternate route provides streamlined preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. The state requires a manageable number of credit hours, relevant coursework, a field placement and intensive mentoring. Other notable states include **Arkansas**, **Delaware**,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

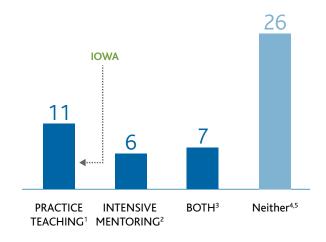
# Do states curb excessive coursework requirements?



- 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, Florida<sup>6</sup>, 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, U tah, 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.
- 3. The state should ensure that its alternate route has no requirements that would be difficult to meet for a provider that is not an institution of higher education (e.g., an approval process based on institutional accreditation).

#### Background

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

#### Figure 54

How States are Faring in Alternate Route Usage and Providers

<b>★</b> 0	Best Practice States
26	States Meet Goal Arizona A, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois A, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan A, Nevada A, New Hampshire, New York A, North Carolina, Ohio A, Pennsylvania A, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington
4	States Nearly Meet Goal Minnesota 1, New Jersey, South Dakota, Utah
7	States Partly Meet Goal Alabama 1, Indiana, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Wisconsin
4	States Meet a Small Part of Goal Idaho 1, Mississippi, South Carolina, Vermont
0 10	States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Hawaii, IOWA, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Wyoming
Pro	ogress on this Goal Since 2009:
	★:12 ↔:39 ↓:0

## Area 2: Goal C **OWa** Analysis

#### State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Iowa limits the usage and providers of its alternate route.

Iowa's alternate route can only be used for certification in secondary (7-12) teaching endorsement areas.

lowa currently only certifies colleges and universities to offer alternate route programs. Coursework requirements are set out only in credit hours, effectively precluding non-higher education providers.

Supporting Research

Iowa Administrative Code 282-13.9.1

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Broaden alternate route usage.

Iowa should reconsider grade-level restrictions on its alternate route. Alternate routes should not be programs of last resort for hard-to-staff subjects, grade levels or geographic areas but rather a way to expand the teacher pipeline throughout the state. The state should allow the development of a route that provides a true alternative path to certification and eliminate requirements that alternate route teachers can only be hired if traditionally certified teachers cannot be found.

#### Encourage diversity of alternate route providers.

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

#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

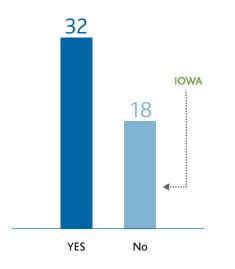
Figure 55		
Are states' alternate	0.0	DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS
routes free from	20	Con Parts
limitations?	55	SF P
unneacions:	190	
		LER'S
	- 55	10
Alabama <sup>1</sup>		
Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas California		
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District of Columbia		
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Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
IOWA		
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		
Maine		
Maryland		
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Rhode Island		
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South Dakota		
Tennessee		
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Vermont		
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Wisconsin		
Wyoming		

### 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

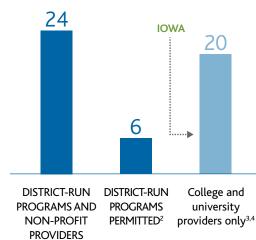
Can alternate route teachers teach any subject or grade anywhere in the state?



#### Figure 55 and 56

- 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?



1. 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, Vermont<sup>5</sup>, West Virginia
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho<sup>6</sup>, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi<sup>6</sup>, Missouri<sup>6</sup>, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey<sup>7</sup>, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina<sup>6</sup>, South Dakota, Utah<sup>6</sup>, 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.

PERMITTED<sup>1</sup>

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

Figure 58		Ung .	lous
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Mississippi			
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Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota <sup>1</sup>			
Ohio			
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Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
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Vermont			
Virginia			
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West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	7	25	18
			10

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Figure 58

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

Figure 58

Figure 59		6	~ I	/	æ /	/	Practice Teaching	ð /	/	
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Wyoming					12	29		32	29	
	13	24	27	13			24			

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IOWA

## Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

## Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

### Figure 60

How States are Faring in Part Time Teaching Licenses **Best Practice State** 1 Arkansas 2 States Meet Goal Florida, Georgia 5 States Nearly Meet Goal Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah States Partly Meet Goal California, Louisiana, Ohio, Oklahoma States Meet a Small Part of Goal 6 Colorado, Kansas, Mississippi, Montana, New York, Washington 33 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, IOWA, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: New Goal

## Area 2: Goal D **IOWa** Analysis

## State Does Not Meet Goal Regeneration Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

#### Supporting Research http://www.iowa.gov/boee/require.html

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of NCTQ's analysis and noted, without elaboration, that a Professional Career Authorization is pending.



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		
IOWA		
	2	
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana	1	
Maine		
Maryland		
Massachusetts		
Michigan		
Minnesota		
Mississippi	2	
Missouri		
Montana		
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		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington	2	
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	16	35
	10	55

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

### Background

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

### Figure 62



### State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

Regrettably, out-of-state teachers lacking three years of experience must show completion of mandated tests from the state in which the applicant is currently licensed; however, they are then only eligible for the state's initial license.

Teachers with valid out-of-state certificates may be eligible for Iowa's professional certificate. Applicants must have three years of experience and meet the state's recency requirement of 160 days of teaching during the last five years. Transcripts are also required for all applicants. Because the state requires completion of an approved teacher preparation program, it appears to analyze transcripts to determine whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route and whether additional coursework will be required. States that reach a determination about an applicant's licensure status on the basis of the course titles listed on the applicant's transcript may end up mistakenly equating the amount of required coursework with the teacher's qualifications.

Iowa 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

Out-of-State Application for Licensure Checklist www.iowa.gov/boee/forms/outstate.pdf

### RECOMMENDATION

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

lowa requires subject-matter testing only for elementary teachers. The state should adopt subjectmatter testing requirements whereby all teachers, without exception, must pass licensing tests within a year of hire. Iowa should then require out-of-state teachers to meet its standards.

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

The state should reconsider its recency requirement regarding experience, as it may deter talented teachers from applying for certification. In addition, 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 Iowa.

## 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.

#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa asserted that it supports unconditional licensure, and that three years of experience are required to advance to the next level. Further, the state added that it issues exchange licenses based on the completion of teacher preparation programs.

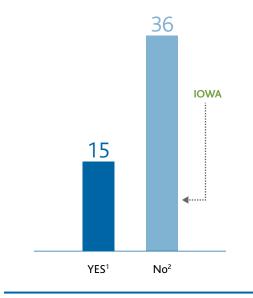
What do states require of teachers transferring

# 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 York<sup>3</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania<sup>3</sup>, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington<sup>3</sup>, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana<sup>4</sup>, Nebraska<sup>4</sup>, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Exception for teachers with National Board Certification.
- 4. No subject-matter testing for any teacher certification.

### Figure 64

1. For traditionally prepared teachers only.

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

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Wisconsin				
Wyoming	1			
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Figure 65			4.5
Do states treat out-of-stat	STATE REATS TEACHERS	State Specifies different returnments for different oute leachers for different	Jate has policies with the for alternate route create obstacles of the alternate route feachers
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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 Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, a. A unique statewide student identifier Hawaii, Idahot, Illinoist, Indianat, IOWAt, number that connects student data across Kansas<sup>1</sup>, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland<sup>1</sup>, key databases across years; Massachusetts 1, Minnesota 1, Mississippi, b. A unique teacher identifier system that Missouri, Nebraska<sup>1</sup>, New Hampshire<sup>1</sup>, 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, Arizona<sup>1</sup>, 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 Dakota<sup>1</sup>, 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 **OWa** Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

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

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

Supporting Research

Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org

### RECOMMENDATION

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

Iowa has not yet established a definition of teacher of record, which is essential in order to use the student-data link for the purpose of providing value-added evidence of teacher effectiveness. To ensure that data provided through the state data system are actionable and reliable, Iowa should articulate a definition of teacher of record and require its consistent use throughout the state.

### IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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Figure 67	UNIQUESTUDENTIDEN	H THER	. /
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South Carolina South Dakota			
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Utah	-		
Vermont			
Virginia			
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



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### Area 3: Goal B **OWa** Analysis

### State Meets a Small Part of Goal

Raised for this Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

According to state policy, local districts are responsible for the development of teacher evaluations, although the state provides some guidance. The state requires that district teacher evaluations take into consideration classroom observation as well as a review of teachers' individual career development plans to determine whether teachers are meeting the state's teaching standards. Student achievement goals are tracked on teacher evaluations, but there is no indication that student achievement is the most important factor. Further, there is no guarantee that objective measures of student achievement will be used as part of teacher evaluations.

Supporting Research Iowa Code 284.4; 284.6; 284.8

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Although Iowa requires some evidence of student achievement, it is not clear whether the state requires objective evidence of student achievement for all teacher evaluations.

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

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

Although Iowa commendably requires classroom observations as part of teacher evaluations, the state should articulate guidelines that focus classroom observations on the quality of instruction, as measured by student time on task, student grasp or mastery of the lesson objective and efficient use of class time.

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

To ensure that the evaluation instrument accurately differentiates among levels of teacher performance, lowa 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.

#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa asserted that it requires a common evaluation form for new teachers and requires Iowa Teacher Standards for all evaluations.

Figure 69	REQURES THAT STUDENT ACHELENENTNAT STUDENT THE PREPONDENT	Teacher eraulations are be Significantly informations are be	Teacher evaluations Boundh Teacher evaluations Boundh student learning e videos	_ /	
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classroom effectiveness	1020	tions -	ent/g	ment	
as part of teacher	S THA VDER VDER	Valuai V info	Valua ective	s thieve	
evaluations?	EVER. EVEN.	her e Ganti t ach	her e te obj	ent ac quire,	
	ACH HE PH	Teac Signif	Teac incluc tudem	Stud Dot re	
Alabama		· ~ ·	י אי <i>ו</i>		
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia <sup>1</sup>					
Florida					
Georgia Hawaii					
Idaho					
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Indiana					
IOWA					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland					
Massachusetts					
Michigan					
Minnesota Mississippi					
Missouri					
Montana				-	
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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					
	12	5	7	27	
	12	5		21	

### 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

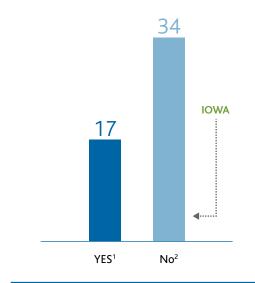
■ Artifacts of student work connected to specific student learning standards that are randomly selected for review by the principal or senior faculty, scored using rubrics and descriptors

• 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?



- 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		State designed teacher	.s. /	District designed Argen	ji /	
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Arizona						
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California						
Colorado						
Connecticut						
Delaware						
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Maryland			1			
Massachusetts						
Michigan		2				
Minnesota						
Mississippi						
Missouri						
Montana						
Nebraska			1			
Nevada						
New Hampshire						
New Jersey						
New Mexico						
New York						
North Carolina						
North Dakota						
Ohio						
Oklahoma						
Oregon						
Pennsylvania						
Rhode Island		2				
South Carolina		2				
South Dakota						
Tennessee		2				
Texas		2				
Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
	9	10	24	5	3	

1. State approval required.

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

### **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

### Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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

### Figure 74 How States are Faring in Frequency of Evaluations **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, Indiana<sup>1</sup>, Minnesota<sup>1</sup>, New York, North Carolina<sup>1</sup>, Ohio<sup>1</sup>, Pennsylvania, Utah<sup>1</sup>, Wyoming 9 States Partly Meet Goal Connecticut, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana 1, Maryland, Michigan<sup>1</sup>, 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: •:37 1:13 ↓:1

### Area 3: Goal C **OWa** Analysis

### State Does Not Meet Goal

### ANALYSIS

Regrettably, Iowa does not ensure that all teachers are evaluated annually.

Nonprobationary teachers must be evaluated at least once every three years. The state does not address the number of times new teachers must be evaluated.

Supporting Research Iowa Statute 284.3 and 284.8

### RECOMMENDATION

### Require annual formal evaluations for all teachers.

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

### Base evaluations on multiple observations.

To guarantee that annual evaluations are based on an adequate collection of information, Iowa 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. Iowa 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.

### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



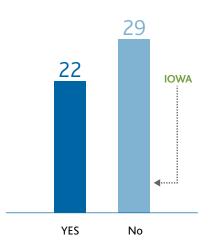
	OF A	A A A A
Alabama		
Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware <sup>1</sup>		
District of Columbia <sup>2</sup>		
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
IOWA		
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		
Maine		
Maryland		
Massachusetts		
Michigan		
Minnesota		
Mississippi		
Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
Nevada		
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico		
New York		
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio		
Oklahoma		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
		42
	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

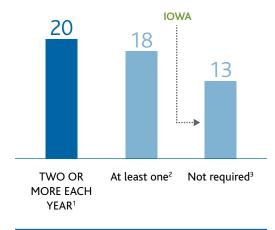
# Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



#### Figures 75 and 76

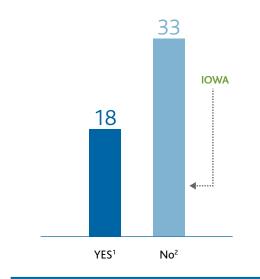
- Although highly effective teachers are only required to receive a summative evaluation once every two years, the student improvement component is evaluated annually.
- 2. All District of Columbia Public Schools teachers are evaluated at least annually.

Figure 77 *Do states require classroom observations?* 



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska<sup>4</sup>, Arkansas, Colorado<sup>4</sup>, Delaware, Florida<sup>4</sup>, Georgia, Kentucky<sup>4</sup>, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri<sup>4</sup>, Nevada<sup>4</sup>, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon<sup>4</sup>, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia<sup>4</sup>
- 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 Illinois<sup>1</sup>, Indiana<sup>1</sup>, New York<sup>1</sup> States Meet a Small Part of Goal 9 Connecticut, Idaho<sup>1</sup>, 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<sup>1</sup>, 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 **IOWA** Analysis

### State Does Not Meet Goal

### Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

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

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

#### Supporting Research

Iowa Code 284.7 and 279.19 Requirements for Licenses http://www.iowa.gov/boee/require.html

### 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.

lowa 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.

lowa 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.

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

#### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for 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							
IOWA							
Kansas							
Kentucky							
Louisiana							
Maine							
Maryland							
Massachusetts							
Michigan							
Minnesota							
Mississippi							
Missouri							
Montana							
Nebraska							
Nevada							
New Hampshire							
New Jersey							
New Mexico							
New York							
North Carolina							
North Dakota							
Ohio							
Oklahoma Orogon				1			
Oregon Pennsylvania							
Rhode Island							2
South Carolina							
South Dakota							
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.

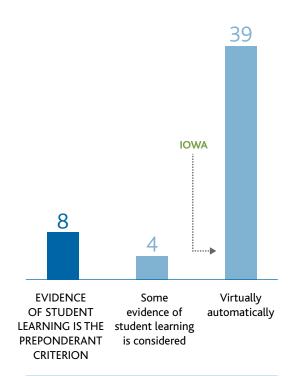
2. Teachers who receive two years of ineffective evaluations are dismissed.

#### 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 **IOWA** $\square$ $\square$ Kansas Kentucky $\square$ Louisiana Maine $\square$ Maryland Massachusetts $\square$ Π Michigan Minnesota Mississippi $\square$ Missouri Montana $\square$ Nebraska Nevada $\square$ New Hampshire New Jersey $\square$ New Mexico New York $\square$ North Carolina North Dakota Ohio $\square$ $\square$ Oklahoma 2 Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina $\square$ South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming $\square$

### 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.

8

4

39

### **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.



### State Does Not Meet Goal 🛛 💦 Bar Raised for this Goal 🏾 🕞 Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

In Iowa, to advance from an Initial license to a Standard license, teachers must complete a state-approved mentoring and induction program and meet state standards as determined by a comprehensive evaluation and two years' successful teaching experience. They must also meet a recency requirement, meaning that teachers who have fewer than 160 days of experience during the five-year period preceding the date of application must complete recent credit in professional education or endorsement areas.

The state also offers a Master Educator's license for teachers who meet a set of criteria including five years of experience and a master's degree. Iowa does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Teachers must renew their licenses every five years by completing six semester hours at an accredited institution of higher learning.

#### **Supporting Research**

Iowa Administrative Code 282-13.7(272) http://www.iowa.gov/boee/renewal.html#a

### RECOMMENDATION

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

Iowa should require evidence of teacher effectiveness to be a factor in determining whether teachers can renew their licenses or advance to a higher-level license.

### Discontinue licensure requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

While targeted requirements may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Iowa's general, nonspecific coursework requirements for license renewal merely call for teachers to complete a certain amount of seat time. These requirements do not correlate with teacher effectiveness.

### End requirement tying teacher advancement to master's degrees.

Iowa should remove its mandate that teachers obtain a master's degree for license advancement. Research is conclusive and emphatic that master's degrees do not have any significant correlation to classroom performance. Rather, advancement should be based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

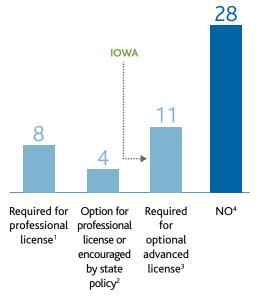
Figure 84	OBJECTIVE ENDENCE OF EFECTIVENCESS GREQUINED	/	Consideration Biren to teacher performance birtren to teacher not tied to classroom effectione is	£22
Do states require teachers	E E E	Some objective evidence of effectiveness is considered	eache ance, tive,	Performance not considered
-		ence (	n to ti Torm	sidere
to show evidence of	IDEN IS RI	evid	Bive, trpe, trpe,	tcon
effectiveness before	YESS	<sup>e</sup> ctive ss is c	ation Tce by class	е <sup>ио</sup>
conferring professional		e obji Nene	nside, orma, ed to	man
licensure?	OB/ EFEC	Som	Co. Derfi	Perfo
Alabama				
Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas				
California			-	
Colorado				
Connecticut				
Delaware				
District of Columbia				
Florida				
Georgia				
Hawaii				
Idaho				
Illinois <sup>1</sup>				
Indiana				
IOWA				
Kansas				
Kentucky				
Louisiana				
Maine				
Maryland <sup>2</sup>				
Massachusetts				
Michigan				
Minnesota				
Mississippi				
Missouri				
Montana				
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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				
Wyoming				
wyoning	3	3	11	

### 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?

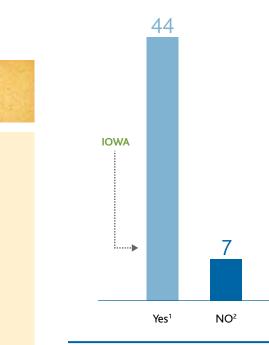


- Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New York and Oregon all require a master's degree or coursework equivalent to a master's degree
- 2. Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, U tah,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

#### Figure 84

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

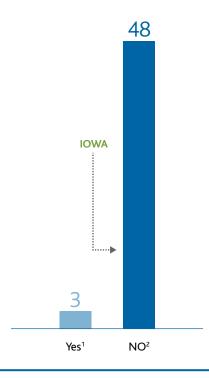
Do states require teachers to take additional, nonspecific coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



- 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.

<ul> <li>rating for the goal.)</li> <li>The state should make the following data publicly available:</li> <li>1. An "Academic Quality" index for each school that includes factors research has found to be associated with teacher effectiveness, such as: <ul> <li>a. percentage of new teachers;</li> <li>b. percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once;</li> <li>c. percentage of teachers on emergency credentials;</li> <li>d. average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions; and</li> <li>e. teachers' average ACT or SAT scores;</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area;</li> <li>3. The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school;</li> <li>4. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by</li> </ul>	Goal Components	Figure 88
<ul> <li>An "Academic Quality" index for each school that includes factors research has found to be associated with teacher effectiveness, such as: <ul> <li>a. percentage of new teachers;</li> <li>b. percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once;</li> <li>c. percentage of teachers on emergency credentials;</li> <li>d. average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions; and</li> <li>e. teachers' average ACT or SAT scores;</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school;</li> <li>4. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by</li> </ul>		How States are Faring on Equitable Distribution
<ul> <li>1. An "Academic Quality" index for each school that includes factors research has found to be associated with teacher effectiveness, such as: <ul> <li>a. percentage of new teachers;</li> <li>b. percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once;</li> <li>c. percentage of teachers on emergency credentials;</li> <li>d. average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions; and</li> <li>e. teachers' average ACT or SAT scores;</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area;</li> <li>3. The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school;</li> <li>4. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by</li> </ul>		★ 0 Best Practice States
<ul> <li>b. percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once;</li> <li>c. percentage of teachers on emergency credentials;</li> <li>d. average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions; and</li> <li>e. teachers' average ACT or SAT scores;</li> <li>2. The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area;</li> <li>3. The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school;</li> <li>4. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by</li> <li>4. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by</li> <li>5. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by</li> <li>6. States Partity Preet Coal Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho 1, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania 1, Vermont 1, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin</li> <li>9 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Arizona, Illinois, IOWA, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma Wirginia, Weisning</li> </ul>	that includes factors research has found to be	
<ul> <li>credentials;</li> <li>d. average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions; and</li> <li>e. teachers' average ACT or SAT scores;</li> <li>2. The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area;</li> <li>3. The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school;</li> <li>4. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by</li> <li>9 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Arizona, Illinois, IOWA, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma Westorian</li> </ul>	b. percentage of teachers failing basic skills	
<ul> <li>d. average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions; and</li> <li>e. teachers' average ACT or SAT scores;</li> <li>2. The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area;</li> <li>3. The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school;</li> <li>4. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>e. teachers average ACT or SAT scores;</li> <li>2. The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area;</li> <li>3. The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school;</li> <li>4. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by</li> <li>9 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Arizona, Illinois, IOWA, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma Warming</li> </ul>	<b>č</b>	Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho 🕇 , Indiana, Kansas,
<ul> <li>reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school;</li> <li>4. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by</li> <li>9 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Arizona, Illinois, IOWA, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma Wearning</li> </ul>	2. The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area;	Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania 1, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah 1, Vermont 1, Virginia, Washington,
4. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma	reported for the previous three years,	
that teachers leave.	previous three years, disaggregated by individual school, by district and by reasons	
Background Progress on this Goal Since 2009:	Background	Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

### State Does Not Meet 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. Iowa does not report school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

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

Iowa does report on the percentage of highly qualified teachers, but these data are reported only statewide, not at the district or school level. Iowa reports on the average years of teacher experience by district. The state is commended for reporting on disparities between percentage of highly qualified teachers by poverty level and minority population. Iowa's Equity Plan, published in December 2006, reported on teacher retention rate for the previous three years, but these data have not been updated.

#### Supporting Research

State Report Card for No Child Left Behind http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=652&Itemid=1317 Iowa Equity Plan http://www2.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/hqtplans/iaep.doc Annual Condition of Education Report

http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com\_docman&task=cat\_view&gid=646&Itemid=1563

### 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. Iowa 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.

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

### Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

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

#### Ensure that data are current.

It is important to keep data updated and current in order to provide the public with an accurate picture of teacher distribution across schools in districts. Iowa should update the data it reports on highly qualified teachers.

### Report data at the school level.

Iowa should ensure that it is reporting all currently collected data at the school-level, rather than aggregated by district.

### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 89	AN NDEX FOR EACH SCHOOL THAT NICEX FOR EACH SCHOOL TACKER D. WIT ACTOR	PERCENTAGE OF TEAC	PERCENTAGE OF NEL	's l	/	/	4.
Do states publicly	4 SCA		ERS IS '	Stoff	ANNUAL TURNOUS	ATE	1 84 77
report school-level	EAC 2 AC			HGL,	S	EFIC.	
data about teachers?	L LO	FOR AL				SENT	
	A LE NOE		Id CF	E HO		RAB	
	ACHE SSOC	ERCEN TERCEN	RCEN	ERCEN	MULT	ACHE	
Alabamaa			/ &	PERCENTAGE OF HIGH.	/ रे /	TEACHERABSENTERIC	
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							
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EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

### **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers**

### Goal A – Induction

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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

### Figure 90



### Area 4: Goal A **IOWa** Analysis

### State Nearly Meets Goal

### Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

Iowa requires that all new teachers receive mentoring through the Iowa Mentoring and Induction Program. The state mandates that every beginning teacher in the first or second year of the profession participate in a two-year induction program. Beginning teachers are assigned a mentor to "observe, critique, and provide support and advice on effective teaching practices." The state allocates \$1,300 for each beginning teacher. \$1,000 is paid to the mentor and the remainder pays for related program costs.

Mentors must have at least four years of teaching experience and "demonstrated skills in classroom training and coaching." Mentors receive at least 30 hours of training during the initial year and this includes specialized training on district expectations. There should be a minimum of 15-20 interactions between mentors and new teachers.

#### **Supporting Research**

Iowa Technical Assistance for Mentoring and Induction Program http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com\_docman&task=doc\_download&gid=6410 Mentoring and Induction for Beginning Educators http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=1674&Itemid=2479

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Expand guidelines to include other key areas.

While still leaving district flexibility, Iowa should articulate minimum guidelines for a high-quality induction experience. The state should require that mentors be trained in a content area or grade level similar to that of the new teacher, and the state should mandate a method of performance evaluation. It should also offer specifics on release time or reducing teacher responsibilities.

#### Ensure that mentoring is of sufficient duration and frequency.

lowa requires just 30 contact hours between new teachers and their mentors over the course of the school year. The state should consider whether time requirement ensures that new teachers receive adequate support, especially in the first critical weeks of school.

### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

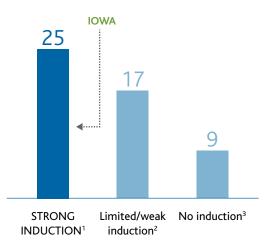
Figure 91 Do states have policies that articulate the elements of effective induction?	MENTORING FOR ALL NEW	MENTORING OF SUFFICE	TENTORNE PROVING	OF THE SCHOOL YEAR CARERUL SELECTION	MENTORS MUST OF	DE RAINED MENTORSPROGRAM	MENTOR IS COMM.	USE OF A VARETY OF EFFECTIVE
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### 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, U tah, 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 **OWa** Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

Iowa does not have state-level policy that connects professional development to teachers' evaluations.

### RECOMMENDATION

### **Require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance.**

In order to increase their effectiveness in the classroom, teachers need to receive feedback on strengths and areas that need improvement identified in their evaluations. As such, Iowa should require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their classroom performance.

### Ensure that professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.

Professional development that is not informed by evaluation results may be of little value to teachers' professional growth and aim of increasing their effectiveness in the classroom. Iowa should ensure that districts utilize teacher evaluation results in determining professional development needs and activities.

IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS lowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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

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12

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Utah Vermont

Virginia

Washington

West Virginia

Wisconsin

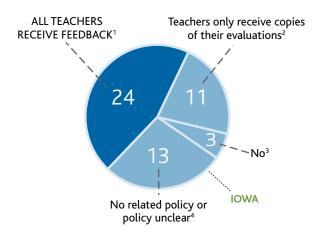
Wyoming

### **★** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 94

#### Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?

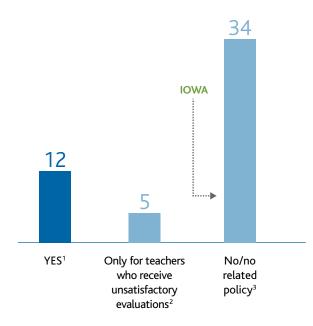


- Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- Alaska, Arizona,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



24

# Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



- Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wyoming
- 2. Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Texas
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi<sup>4</sup>, 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
- 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 Florida<sup>1</sup>. Indiana<sup>1</sup> 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 4:0

### Area 4: Goal C **OWa** Analysis

### State Partly Meets Goal (=) P

### Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

Iowa gives local districts the authority for pay scales, eliminating barriers such as state salary schedules and other regulations that control how districts pay teachers. The state mandates a minimum salary but allows districts to determine the remainder of the schedule.

Supporting Research Iowa Code 294A.5

### RECOMMENDATION

### Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.

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

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

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

### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa 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.

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

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

NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 : 109

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

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

## **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 **OWA** Analysis

### State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

lowa 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, Iowa 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.

### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

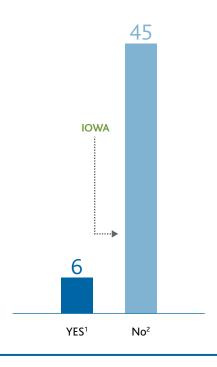
Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

### 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 **OWa** Analysis

### State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

lowa no longer supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects.

lowa does not support differential pay for those teaching in high-needs schools, even though the state does not have regulatory language that would directly block districts from providing differential pay.

### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 103 Do states provide		HIGH NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE	. /
incentives to teach in				AREAS	
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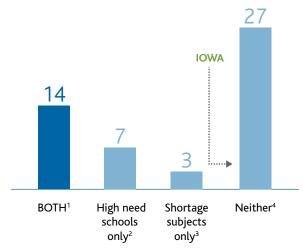
- Connecticut offers mortgage assistance and incentives to retired teachers working in shortage subject areas.
- Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 3. 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

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

# **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers**

## Goal F – Performance Pay

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



# Area 4: Goal F **IOWA** Analysis

### State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

lowa does not support performance pay. The state no longer has any policies in place that offer teachers additional compensation based on evidence of effectiveness.

### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

lowa acknowledged that it does not support performance pay. However, the state's Blueprint for Reform, released in October 2011, details how the state can responsibly embrace this change.

Supporting Research One Unshakable Vision: World-Class Schools for Iowa http://governor.iowa.gov/files/Education%20Blueprint.pdf **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.

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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 **OWA** Analysis

### State Partly Meets Goal (=) Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

Iowa 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 four and limits any employer contribution for teachers who choose to withdraw their account balances when leaving the system. However, the state is commended for offering full flexibility for purchasing time.

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

Vesting in a defined benefit plan guarantees a teacher's eligibility to receive lifetime monthly benefit payments at retirement age. Nonvested teachers do not have a right to later retirement benefits; they may only withdraw the portion of their funds allowed by the plan. Iowa's current vesting at four years of service is earlier than most states' but still limits the options of teachers who leave the system prior to this point. Effective July 1, 2012, vesting increases to seven years.

lowa does at least offer some portability to vested teachers leaving the system, which is rare among defined benefit plans. Nonvested teachers who choose to withdraw their contributions upon leaving only receive their own contributions plus interest. This means that those who withdraw their funds accrue no benefits beyond what they might have earned had they simply put their contributions in basic savings accounts. Once vested, teachers who withdraw their contributions also receive an employer match of one-thirtieth of their years of service plus interest (e.g., teachers with 10 years of experience would receive a 33 percent employer match). While it would be preferable for the state to offer a 100 percent match and allow employer contributions to teachers with less than four years of experience, Iowa is commended for offering at least some match. However, teachers who leave with no match or a small match and 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.

Iowa is commended for offering full flexibility for teachers 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. Iowa's plan allows teachers to purchase an unlimited amount of previous teaching experience, approved leaves of absence and an additional five years of "air time" for any reason. In addition, teachers receive free credit for any leaves approved under the Family Medical Leave Act. These provisions are very advantageous for teachers who move to Iowa with teaching experience and those who need to take personal leaves, such as maternity or paternity leave.

#### Supporting Research

Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System Member Handbook http://www.ipers.org/publications/members/pdf/memberhandbook.pdf Summary of 2010-2012 IPERS changes http://www.ipers.org/publications/misc/pdf/other/brochure2010\_2012lawchangesspreads.pdf

### RECOMMENDATION

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

Iowa 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 Iowa participate in Social Security, they are required to contribute to two defined benefit-style plans.

### Increase the portability of its defined benefit plan.

If Iowa maintains its defined benefit plan, it should allow all teachers that leave the system to withdraw a portion of employer contributions and increase that portion to 100 percent for vested teachers. The state should also decrease the vesting requirement to year three. A lack of portability is a disincentive to an increasingly mobile teaching force.

### Offer a fully portable supplemental retirement savings plan.

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

### IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Iowa noted that there is portability among all public schools in Iowa, including with community colleges, universities and other public employers, and that schools may participate in the state's deferred compensation program or offer their own 403(b) savings plans. The state reiterated that teachers may purchase credit for previous service by rolling money into the IPERS system from another system. Iowa also questioned the statistics supporting the claim that teachers are moving to other states for educational employment opportunities.

### LAST WORD

Being able to continue membership within the state of Iowa is valuable, but despite the variety of employers within the state, it still does not aid educators who move out of the state. The option for schools to participate in other deferred compensation plans does not guarantee that they will and that all teachers will have access to a supplemental portable savings program.

As to the inquiry about teacher mobility between states, it is estimated that approximately one-sixth of teachers move between states during their professional careers. This percentage does not include teachers that may leave the profession when they move to other states, perhaps because of defined benefit plans' limited mobility.

### **Supporting Research**

Distributions of Benefits in Teacher Retirement Systems and their Implications for Mobility, Costrell and Podgursky, 2010 http://web.missouri.edu/~podgurskym/articles/files/EDFP\_a\_00015.pdf 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 society plan wish	ined	CHOICE OF DEFINED BEAN	õ. /
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Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California <sup>2</sup>					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
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Indiana <sup>3</sup>					
IOWA					
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South Carolina <sup>6</sup> South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah <sup>7</sup>					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington <sup>8</sup>					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	25	17	4	4	1

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

### How many years before teachers vest?

10

years

4 to 5

years

3 YEARS

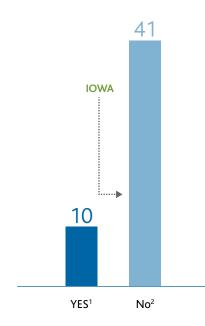
OR LESS

6 to 9

years

#### Figure 110

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



- 1. Strong Practice: Alaska, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington
- Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado<sup>3</sup>, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii<sup>3</sup>, 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.

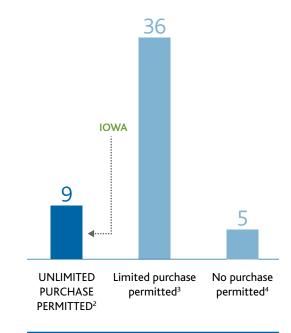
- 1. For teachers who join the system on or after January 1, 2012.
- Florida's defined benefit plan does not vest until year eight; teachers vest in the state's defined contribution plan after one year.
- 3. For teachers who join the system on or after July 1, 2012.
- 4. Ohio's defined benefit plan does 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.
- 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.

AlabamaAlaskaArizonaArkansasCaliforniaColoradoConnecticutDelaware1District of ColumbiaFlorida2GeorgiaHawaii3IdahoIllinoisIndianaIOWA3KansasKentuckyLouisianaMarylandMassachusettsMichiganMinnesotaMissouriMontanaMontana				
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Colorado Connecticut Delaware <sup>1</sup> District of Columbia Florida <sup>2</sup> Georgia Hawaii <sup>3</sup> Idaho Illinois Illinois Indiana IOWA <sup>3</sup> Kansas Kentucky Louisiana IOWA <sup>3</sup> Kansas Kentucky Maine Maine Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri				
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Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington <sup>7</sup>				
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Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
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California <sup>3</sup>						
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Oregon <sup>8</sup>						
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Rhode Island						
South Carolina <sup>9</sup>						
South Dakota						
Tennessee						
Texas						
Utah <sup>10</sup>						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington <sup>11</sup>						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming	4	5	34	6	1	

- States' withdrawal policies may vary depending on a teacher's years of service. Year five is used as a common point of comparision.
- As of July 1, 2006, Alaska only offers a defined contribution plan to new members, which allows teachers leaving the system after five years to withdraw 100 percent of the employer contribution.
- 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?<sup>1</sup>



- Purchasing time does not apply to defined contribution plans. In states that offer multiple plans or a hybrid plan, the graph refers to the state's defined benefit plan or the defined benefit component of its hybrid plan. Alaska only offers a defined contribution plan and is not included.
- Strong Practice: California, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah
- 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?<sup>1</sup>



- 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, U tah, 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 **IOWA** Analysis

### State Partly Meets Goal

### Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

As of June 30, 2010, the most recent date for which an actuarial valuation is available, Iowa's pension system for teachers is 80.8 percent funded and has a 34-year amortization period. This means that if the plan earns its assumed rate of return and maintains current contribution rates, it would take the state 34 years to pay off its unfunded liabilities. While its funding ratio meets the recommended minimum standard, the amortization period is just above the recommended 30-year period. The state's system is not financially sustainable according to actuarial benchmarks.

In addition, lowa commits excessive resources toward its teachers' retirement system. The current employer contribution rate of 8.07 percent is slightly excessive, considering that districts must also contribute 6.2 percent to Social Security. The mandatory employee contribution rate to the defined benefit plan of 5.38 percent is reasonable. Legislation only recently allowed the pension system to raise contribution rates to meet actuarial recommendations; however, rates can only increase by a total of 1 percent for employee and employer contributions combined (higher than the previous restriction of 0.5 percent total a year).

#### **Supporting Research**

Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System Actuarial Valuation Report as of June 30, 2010 http://www.ipers.org/publications/misc/pdf/financial/valuation.pdf Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System Contribution Rates http://www.ipers.org/contributionrates.html

### RECOMMENDATION

### Ensure that the pension system is financially sustainable.

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

### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa acknowledged the factual accuracy of statements related to funding ratio, years to amortize, and amount paid in contributions. However, the state indicated it could not say the same as to whether the contribution rate is too high given the value of the guaranteed lifetime benefit that is earned. Also, Iowa disagreed that the system is not sustainable.

### LAST WORD

NCTQ maintains that the employer contribution is slightly excessive and may grow to be even more burdensome for district budgets as rates increase to lower the system's amortization period. The amortization period is too long according the GASB standards, which suggest a 30-year amortization period.

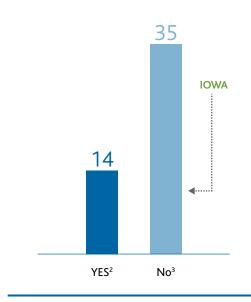
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Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina South Dakota		-
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Texas		
Utah <sup>3</sup>		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	16	26

### 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?<sup>1</sup>



- 1. Cannot be determined for Michigan or Utah, which recently opened new systems.
- 2. Strong Practice: Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Indiana<sup>4</sup>, 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.

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

Figure 119

How well funded are state pension systems?

	Funding Level
Alaska <sup>1</sup>	N/A
District of Columbia	118.3%
	116%
Washington	103.2%
New York	99.8%
Wisconsin	
South Dakota	96.3%
Delaware	96%
North Carolina	95.9%
Indiana <sup>2</sup>	94.7%
Tennessee	90.6%
Wyoming	87.5%
Georgia	87.2%
Florida	86.6%
Utah	85.7%
Oregon	83.2%
Texas	82.9%
Nebraska	82.4%
IOWA	80.8%
Virginia	80.2%
Arizona	79%
Idaho	78.9%
Michigan	78.9%
Minnesota	78.5%
California	78%
Missouri	77.7%
Pennsylvania	75.1%
Alabama	74.7%
Arkansas	73.8%
Nevada	71.2%
North Dakota	69.8%
South Carolina	
	67.8%
Vermont	66.5%
Maine	65.9%
New Mexico	65.7%
Maryland	65.4%
Montana	65.4%
Colorado	64.8%
Mississippi	64.2%
Massachusetts	63%
Connecticut	61.4%
Hawaii	61.4%
Kentucky	61%
Ohio	59.1%
New Hampshire	58.5%
New Jersey	57.6%
Oklahoma	56.7%
Kansas	56%
Louisiana	54.4%
Illinois	48.4%
1111015	
Rhode Island	48.4%

# What are the current employer<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>	10.3							
Hawaii <sup>3</sup>	15							
Idaho	10.4							
Illinois <sup>3</sup>	12.7							
Indiana	7.5							
IOWA	8.1							
Kansas	9.4							
Kentucky	17.8							
Louisiana	23.7							
Maine	17.3							
Maryland	15.5				-			
Massachusetts <sup>3</sup>	22.6							
Michigan <sup>4</sup>	N/A					•		
Minnesota <sup>3</sup>	6.2							
Mississippi	12		_					
Missouri	14.5							
Montana	10							
Nebraska	8.9							
Nevada	11.9							
New Hampshire	10.7							
New Jersey <sup>5</sup> New Mexico	N/A		_	_				
New York	9.9							
North Carolina	11.1							
North Dakota	13.1							
	8.8							
Ohio	14				_			
Oklahoma	14.5			_				
Oregon	13.9		_					
Pennsylvania <sup>3</sup>	5.6		_					
Rhode Island <sup>6</sup>	22.3			_				
South Carolina	9.2							
South Dakota	6							
Tennessee	6.4							
Texas <sup>7</sup>	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

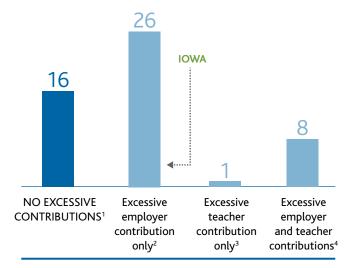
Analysts generally agree that workers in their 20's with no previous retirement savings should save, in addition to Social Security contributions, about 10-15 percent of their gross income in order to be able to live during retirement on 80 percent of the salary they were earning when they retired. While 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.
- 4. Michigan opened a new system in July 2010 and employer contributions are not yet reported.
- 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?



 Strong Practice: Alaska, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey<sup>5</sup>, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming

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

#### Figure 123

- 1. The contribution rate is set to increase in future years.
- 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.
- 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% Alabama<sup>1</sup> 7.3 Alaska 8 Arizona 11.4 Arkansas 6 California 8 Colorado 8 Connecticut 7.3 Delaware<sup>1</sup> 3 District of Columbia 8 Florida 3 Georgia 5.5 Hawaii<sup>1</sup> 6 Idaho 6.2 Illinois 9.4 Indiana 3 **IOWA** 5.4 Kansas 6 Kentucky 10.9 Louisiana 8 Maine 7.7 Maryland 7 Massachusetts 11 Michigan<sup>2</sup> 11.4 Minnesota<sup>1</sup> 6 Mississippi 9 Missouri 14.5 Montana 7.2 Nebraska<sup>3</sup> 8.8 Nevada<sup>4</sup> 11.9 New Hampshire 7 New Jersey 6.5 New Mexico 11.2 New York 3.5 North Carolina 6 North Dakota<sup>1</sup> 7.8 Ohio 10 Oklahoma 7 Oregon 6 Pennsylvania<sup>5</sup> 7.5 Rhode Island 9.5 South Carolina 6.5 South Dakota 6 Tennessee 5 Texas 6.4 Utah<sup>6</sup> 0 Vermont 5 Virginia 5 Washington<sup>7</sup> 4.8 West Virginia 6 Wisconsin 6.2 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 Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

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

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

Iowa's pension plan does not utilize a constant benefit multiplier. Instead, the state has a multiplier of 2 percent for the first 30 years of service and then the multiplier decreases to 1 percent for each additional year until a teacher reaches the maximum benefit of 65 percent at 35 years of service.

In addition, teachers may retire before standard retirement age based on years of service without a reduction in benefits. Teachers may retire when they qualify for the "Rule of 88," meaning their age plus years of service equal 88, and teachers with 20 years of experience may retire at age 62. While all other vested teachers may not retire until age 65. Therefore, teachers who begin their careers at age 22 can qualify for the "Rule of 88" with 33 years of service by age 55, entitling them to 10 additional years of unreduced retirement benefits beyond what other teachers would receive who may not retire until age 65. These provisions 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**

Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System Member Handbook http://www.ipers.org/publications/members/pdf/memberhandbook.pdf Summary of 2010-2012 IPERS changes http://www.ipers.org/publications/misc/pdf/other/brochure2010\_2012lawchangesspreads.pdf

### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

End retirement eligibility based on years of service.

Iowa should change its practice of allowing teachers whose age and years of service equal 88 to retire at any age and teachers with 20 years of service to retire at age 62, both with full benefits. If retirement at an earlier age is offered to some teachers, benefits should be reduced accordingly to compensate for the longer duration they will be awarded.

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

Iowa allows all teachers to retire before conventional retirement age, some as young as 55. 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).

### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa reiterated that IPERS formula awards a 2 percent multiplier for years one through 30, and stated that the average service years at retirement are 22 years. The state contended that this meets the criteria of uniformly increasing pension wealth with each additional year of work. It also stated that teaching a total of 35 years earns a benefit of 65 percent of salary, and that the plan sponsor has stated that the retirement system should assist in retention of the labor force.

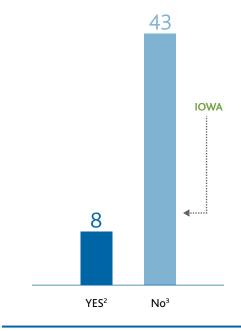
Iowa added that the early retirement factor will be increased to encourage teachers to stay until age 65 or meet another normal retirement rule.

### LAST WORD

lowa's retirement system does not meet the criteria of uniformly increasing pension wealth with each additional year of work, both because of its changing multiplier and its myriad points of retirement qualification. The fact that the multiplier is constant at the average number of service years at retirement does not change the fact that the multiplier decreases for teachers that stay past 30 years. This change makes their wealth accrual each year beyond 30 less than what they accrued previously. In addition, pension wealth spikes unevenly at the years teachers qualify for retirement. Iowa defines normal retirement age with unreduced benefits in three ways: any age once one qualifies for the "Rule of 88"; age 62 for those with 20 or more years of service; and age 65 for all other teachers.

To the point about early retirement, lowa is increasing its early retirement reduction. However, teachers that retire at "normal retirement age" as defined above, are not subject to benefit reductions even if they are below the age of 65.

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



- 1. This only refers to determining retirement eligibility, not retirement benefits.
- 2. 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

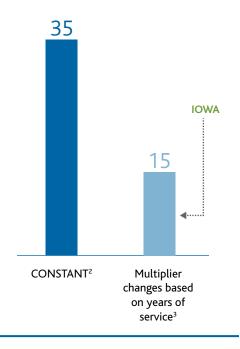
#### Figure 126

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

Figure 126	fits Paic The of	that the
How much do states	Total amount in benefits pai per teacher from the benefits pai retriement until age 65 fine of	Earliest retirement a a teacher who started teaching at age started receive unreduced benefits
pay for each teacher	Total amount in benefit per teacher from in benefit retirement until age 65 m	men star 22,1 d be
that retires with	unt, fron ntii	etire Who duce
unreduced benefits at	ent L	iest cher ng a
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Total er teg irem	Earl a tea achi eive
an early age?1	de /	° 42 92
Alaska <sup>2</sup>		
Illinois	\$0	67
Maine	\$0	65
Minnesota <sup>3</sup>	\$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	\$317,728	55
Hawaii⁵	\$337,385	60
Kansas	\$337,385	60
Oregon	\$361,536	58
North Dakota	\$385,583	60
Oklahoma	\$385,583	60
Maryland	\$413,808	56
Wisconsin	\$416,007	57
Rhode Island	\$430,013	59
New York	\$440,819	57
Texas	\$443,421	60
South Dakota	\$447,707	55
Virginia	\$468,982	56
Louisiana	\$481,979	60
Florida	\$485,257	55
Vermont	\$486,832	56
Montana	\$518,228	47
Connecticut	\$520,009	57
Utah	\$520,009	57
IOWA	\$551,428	55
Idaho	\$551,743	56
North Carolina	\$568,555	52
South Carolina	\$577,142	50
Nebraska	\$577,687	55
West Virginia	\$577,687	55
Delaware	\$577,927	55
District of Columbia	\$585,737	52
Massachusetts <sup>6</sup>	\$594,296	57
Georgia	\$624,786	52
Mississippi	\$624,786 \$624,786	52
Alabama	\$625,747	47
Colorado	\$650,011	
Pennsylvania	\$650,011	57
•		57
Wyoming	\$655,506	54
Arizona	\$664,340	55
Arkansas	\$681,789	50
Ohio Navi Mavias	\$687,265	52
New Mexico	\$734,124	52
Nevada	\$780,983	52
Missouri	\$789,343	51
Kentucky	\$791,679	49

f f hat

What kind of multiplier do states use to calculate retirement benefits?<sup>1</sup>



- 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.

### Double-Dipping: Cure the Disease, Not the Symptom

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

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

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

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

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

# **Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers**

# Goal A – Licensure Loopholes

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### State Partly Meets Goal

### Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

Iowa allows a one-year, nonrenewable teaching license to new teachers who have not met state requirements if a school needs to fill positions under "unique needs circumstances." This license is also available for teachers who hold out-of-state certification but "have not completed all Iowa requirements for a teaching endorsement."

The state has adopted subject-matter testing requirements only for elementary teachers.

### **Supporting Research**

Praxis II Testing for New Teachers in Iowa http://www.iowa.gov/educate/ IAC 282--14.115(272) Iowa Requirements for Licensure http://www.boee.iowa.gov/require.html Iowa Administrative Bulletin (2008) http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/ACODOCS/DOCS/10-22-2008.Bulletin.pdf

### RECOMMENDATION

### Award standard licenses to teachers only after they have passed all required subject-matter licensing tests.

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. Licensing tests are an important minimum benchmark in the profession, and states that allow teachers to postpone passing these tests are abandoning one of the basic responsibilities of licensure. As such, Iowa's current policy should require all teachers—not just elementary teacher candidates—to pass subject-matter tests prior to entering the classroom. The state's current policy, though it only allows one-year, nonrenewable licenses for teachers who have not met state requirements, still puts students at risk.

### **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa asserted that its code does not currently allow for a one-year, nonrenewable teaching license.

### LAST WORD

Iowa's Administrative Code still has policy that a "nonrenwable Class A license valid for one year" is available. This license is less problematic than emergency licenses in other states, since Iowa articulates a strict time limit and ensures that it is nonrenewable. The larger concern in this goal lies in the fact that Iowa does not require subject-matter testing for all teachers, only for elementary teachers.

	Figure 131				
	How long can new teachers				
	practice without passi		,	,	
		ng	. /		
	licensing tests?	RRA	T	ars.	
<b>EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE</b>		DEFE	1	25	
Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, and New Jersey require		NO DEFERRAL	Up to 7 year	Up to 2 years	
all new teachers to pass all required subject-matter	Alabama				
ests as a condition of initial licensure.	Alaska				
	Arizona				
- 400	Arkansas				
Figure 130	California				
Do states still award emergency licenses? <sup>1</sup>	Colorado				
	Connecticut				
Nonrenewable emergency	Delaware				
or provisional licenses <sup>2</sup>	District of Columbia				
amargancy or	Florida				
provisional licenses <sup>3</sup>	Georgia				
	Hawaii				
27	Idaho				
	Illinois				
131	Indiana				
	IOWA <sup>1</sup>				
9	Kansas				
	Kentucky				
	Louisiana				
I	Maine				
NO EMERGENCY OR	Maryland				
PROVISIONAL LICENSES <sup>4</sup>	Massachusetts Michigan				
	Minnesota				
. Not applicable to Montana and Nebraska, which do not require subject	Mississippi				
matter testing.	Missouri				
2. Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District	Montana <sup>2</sup>				
of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina,	Nebraska <sup>3</sup>				
North Dakota <sup>5</sup> , Ohio <sup>5</sup> , Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming	Nevada				
	New Hampshire				
. Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin	New Jersey				
Strong Practice: Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey,	New Mexico				
New Mexico, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia	New York				
License is renewable, but only if licensure tests are passed.	North Carolina				
	North Dakota				
	Ohio				
	Oklahoma				
	Oregon				
	Pennsylvania				
	Rhode Island				
	South Carolina				
	South Dakota				
	Tennessee				
	Texas				
igure 131	Utah⁴				
I. Iowa only requires subject-matter testing for elementary teachers.	Vermont				
2. Montana does not require subject-matter testing.	Virginia				
3. Nebraska does not require subject-matter testing.	Washington				
J. INCOLUSING UUCS HULLEQUITE SUDJECT-HIGHER LESHING.					

West Virginia

Wisconsin

Wyoming<sup>5</sup>

- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connect of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kar Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, N North Dakota<sup>5</sup>, Ohio<sup>5</sup>, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rh Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Mi Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tenness
- 4. Strong Practice: Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, New Mexico, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia
- 5. License is renewable, but only if licensure tes

#### Figure 131

IOWA

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

Jyears or more (or unspecified)

18

8

9

 $\square$ 

14

# **Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers**

# Goal B – Unsatisfactory Evaluations

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

Goal Components	Figure 132
(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)	How States are Faring on Consequences for Unsatisfactory Evaluations
<ol> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>2 Best Practice States Illinois<sup>1</sup>, Oklahoma</li> <li>11 States Meet Goal</li> </ul>
2. The state should require that all teachers who receive two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations or two unsatisfactory evaluations	Alaska, Arkansas , Colorado , Delaware , Florida, Indiana , Louisiana, New Mexico, New York , Rhode Island , Washington
within five years be formally eligible for dismissal, whether or not they have tenure. Background	G States Nearly Meet Goal Georgia, Hawaii, Michigan ↑, 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
	<b>5</b> 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:
	<b>1</b> :15 ↔:35 ↓:1

# Area 5: Goal B **OWa** Analysis

# State Partly Meets Goal

# Progress Since 2009

# **ANALYSIS**

Iowa requires that all teachers who receive an unsatisfactory evaluation participate in an intensive assistance program. The state does not address whether a particular number of unsatisfactory evaluations would make teachers eligible for dismissal.

Supporting Research lowa Code 284.8 (2)

# RECOMMENDATION

## Make eligibility for dismissal a consequence of unsatisfactory evaluations.

Teachers who receive two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations or have two unsatisfactory evaluations within five years should be formally eligible for dismissal, regardless of whether they have tenure. Iowa should adopt a policy that ensures that teachers who receive such unsatisfactory evaluations are eligible for dismissal.

IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

		EUCIRLE FOR DISMISSAL AFTER	- 1	1
Figure 133	MAPROVENENT PLANAFTER	AFTE SY		No articulated consequences
What are the	V AF	ठें हैं		lience
consequences for	PLA	e suite	भू	lbes <sub>1</sub>
teachers who receive	VSA)	VSA VSA	Inen,	A co
	DVEN LE UI	LE FC	msec	ulate
unsatisfactory	NO NIL		her G	artic
evaluations?	72	42.2	Other consequences	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
Alabama				
Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut				
Delaware				
District of Columbia				
Florida				
Georgia				
Hawaii				
Idaho			1	
Illinois				
Indiana				
IOWA				
Kansas				
Kentucky				
Louisiana				
Maine				
Maryland				
Massachusetts			2	
Michigan				
Minnesota				
Mississippi				3
Missouri				
Montana				
Nebraska				
Nevada			4	
New Hampshire				
New Jersey				
New Mexico				
New York				
North Carolina		5		
North Dakota				
Ohio			6	
Oklahoma				
Oregon				
Pennsylvania				
Rhode Island				
South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee				
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
	27	17	8	17

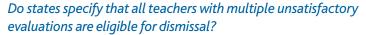
- Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- While results of evaluations may be used in dismissal decisions, there are no specific criteria for a teacher's eligibility for dismissal.
- 3. Improvement plans are only used for teachers in identified "Schools At Risk." Those same teachers are also eligible for dismissal for multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- 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.

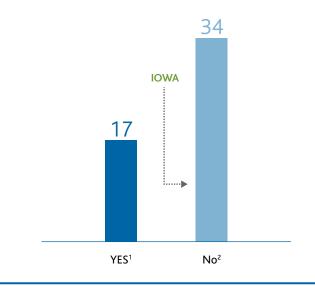


# T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

**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.

#### Figure 134





- 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, Idaho<sup>3</sup>, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada<sup>4</sup>, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, U tah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- 4. A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal.

# **Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers**

# Goal C – Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

#### **Goal Components** 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 Florida<sup>1</sup>, Indiana<sup>1</sup> 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 Colorado<sup>1</sup>, Illinois<sup>1</sup>, Michigan<sup>1</sup>, New York<sup>1</sup>, 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 Arizona<sup>1</sup>, Delaware<sup>1</sup>, Hawaii<sup>1</sup>, 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 **OWa** Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

# ANALYSIS

In lowa, tenured teachers who are terminated may appeal multiple times. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher may—within five days—request a hearing, which must occur within 20 days following receipt of the request. A decision must be rendered within five days. The aggrieved teacher may then file an additional appeal—within 10 days—with an adjudicator, who must schedule a hearing within 40 days and offer a decision within 15 days. A third appeal may also be filed with the district court.

Iowa does not explicitly make teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal, nor does the state distinguish the due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance from those facing other charges commonly associated with license revocation, such as a felony and/or morality violations. The process is the same regardless of the grounds for cancellation, which the state articulates vaguely as "just cause."

Supporting Research

Iowa Code 279.15; 279. 16; 279.17; 279.18

## RECOMMENDATION

Specify that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

lowa should explicitly make teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal so that districts do not feel they lack the legal basis for terminating consistently poor performers.

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

Nonprobationary teachers who are dismissed for any grounds, including ineffectiveness, are entitled to due process. However, cases that drag on for years drain resources from school districts and create a disincentive for districts to attempt to terminate poor performers. Therefore, the state must ensure that the opportunity to appeal occurs only once, as it is in the best interest of both the teacher and the district that a conclusion be reached within a reasonable time frame.

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

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

## **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa acknowledged that teacher ineffectiveness is not explicitly a statutory ground for termination or nonrenewal of contract. The state added that if the Board of Educational Examiners suspends a license for incompetency, the educator is unemployable. If a teacher is not recommended for the next license step because he or she does not meet competency standards, the teacher is also unemployable.

Supporting Research 284.3(a)(a-f); 282-25.3(8)

# LAST WORD

The point is not whether a teacher with a suspended license is employable, but that there should be a clear distinction between ground for dismissal and grounds for license suspension or revocation. A district should have the legal standing to dismiss a teacher for unacceptable levels of classroom performance, even if this may not warrant loss of license. The state should consider adopting clear policy that makes ineffective classroom performance grounds for dismissal, as Oklahoma, Florida, and Indiana have done.

## Figure 136

Do states articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal?

	VES TH DISMISS	PES TH	No	
41.1				
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Colorado				
Connecticut Delaware				
District of Columbia Florida				
Georgia Hawaii				
Idaho				
Illinois Indiana				
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Tennessee				
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Vermont				
Virginia			3	
Washington				
West Virginia			3	
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. Ayoning	0	10	20	
	9	13	38	

#### 150 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 IOWA

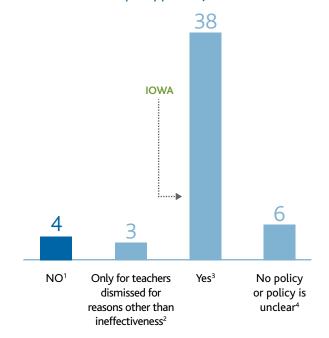
# T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

**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, Illinois<sup>5</sup>, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississispi, 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, Nevada<sup>6</sup>, 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).



# **Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers**

# Goal D – Reductions in Force

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

# **Goal Components**

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

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

# Background

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

# Figure 138



# Area 5: Goal D **IOWA** Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

# **ANALYSIS**

lowa does not address the factors used to determine which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force.

# RECOMMENDATION

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

Iowa can still leave districts flexibility in determining layoff policies, but it should do so within a framework that ensures that classroom performance is considered.

Ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off. Unlike some states, Iowa does not require that districts consider seniority; however, the state should do more to prevent districts from making decisions solely on this basis.

## **IOWA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Iowa recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state noted that Iowa code makes staff reduction a mandatory subject of collective bargaining.

Supporting Research Iowa Code SS 20.9 http://www.legis.state.ia.us/IACODE/2001/20/9.html

# LAST WORD

Allowing districts to disregard performance in determining who will be laid off puts adult interests before students' needs. It is still possible to allow room for local flexibility and collective bargaining while also establishing clear state-level guidelines that indicate that performance be considered and seniority is not the sole factor in determining who is laid off during reductions in force.



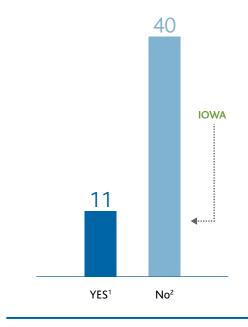
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Do states prevent	43/	
districts from basing	W	
layoffs solely on "last		50
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	BE (	SE SE
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Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
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Delaware		
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Florida		
Georgia		
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Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
IOWA		
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		
Maine		
Maryland		
Massachusetts		
Michigan		
Minnesota		
Mississippi		
Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
Nevada		
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico		
New York		
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio		
Oklahoma		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	11	17

# 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?

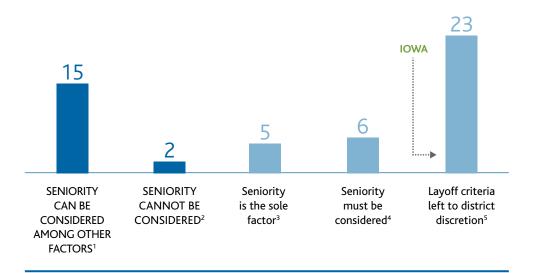


1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah

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, Ohio<sup>3</sup>, 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, Missouri<sup>6</sup>, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio<sup>6</sup>, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas
- 2. Strong Practice: Idaho, Utah
- 3. Hawaii, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin<sup>7</sup>
- 4. California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon
- Alabama, Alaska<sup>6</sup>, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia<sup>6</sup>, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts<sup>6</sup>, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska<sup>6</sup>, 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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