# 2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

## Massachusetts





#### Acknowledgments

#### **STATES**

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

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

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National Council on Teacher Quality

## **Executive Summary**

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

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

## Massachusetts at a Glance Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade:



Overall 2009 Yearbook Grade: D+

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

#### **Overall Progress**



#### Highlights from recent progress in Massachusetts include:

- State data system with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Performance pay
- Dismissal for classroom ineffectiveness

## How is Massachusetts Faring?

## Area 1 Delivering Well Prepared Teachers

#### **Policy Strengths**

- The state is on the right track toward ensuring that elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with the Common Core Standards.
- Teacher preparation programs are required to address the science of reading, and teacher candidates must pass a test to ensure knowledge.
- New elementary teachers have sufficient knowledge of the mathematics content taught in elementary grades.

C+

- Secondary teachers must pass a content test to teach a core subject area, although some secondary social studies teachers are not required to pass content tests for each discipline they intend to teach.
- The state does not offer a K-12 special education certification.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Teacher candidates are not required to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- Although middle school teachers may not teach on a K-8 generalist license, not all are required to pass a single-subject content test.
- A pedagogy test is not required as a condition of licensure.
- Requirements for teacher preparation do not ensure a high-quality student teaching experience.
- The teacher preparation program approval process does not hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce

## Area 2 Expanding the Pool of Teachers

#### **Policy Strengths**

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

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Alternate route preparation is not streamlined or geared toward the immediate needs of new teachers.
- The state does not offer a license with minimal requirements that would allow content experts to teach part time.
- Although out-of-state teachers are appropriately required to meet the state's testing requirements, there are additional obstacles that do not support licensure reciprocity.

## How is Massachusetts 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.
- Although tenure decisions are connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness, it is not the preponderant criterion.
- Licensure advancement and renewal are not based on teacher effectiveness.

D+

 Little 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, they 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 additional compensation for relevant prior work experience.
- Teachers are only offered a defined benefit pension plan, and pension policies are not portable, flexible or fair to all teachers.

- Teachers can receive additional compensation for working in high-need schools or shortage subject areas, and teachers in some districts can receive performance pay.
- The pension system is significantly underfunded and requires excessive contributions.
- Retirement benefits are determined by a formula that is not neutral, meaning that pension wealth does not accumulate uniformly for each year a teacher works.

## **Area 5** Exiting Ineffective Teachers

#### **Policy Strengths**

This state has taken steps to ensure that licensure test requirements are met by all teachers within one year.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- The state could do more to establish consequences for multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- Tenured teachers who are dismissed have multiple opportunities to appeal.
- Ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal.
- Performance is not considered in determining which teachers to lay off during reductions in force.

## Massachusetts Goal Summary

	Goal Breakdown	
	★ Best Practice	2
	Fully Meets	6
	Nearly Meets	5
	Partially Meets	9
	Only Meets a Small Part	5
8	O Does Not Meet	9
	Progress on Goals Since 2009	
J	Area 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
	1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs	0
	1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation	0
	1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	*
	1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	*
	1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation	
	1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation	•
	1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	•
	1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies	0
	1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation	•
	1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge	0
	1-K: Student Teaching	0
	1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	٢
	Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers	
	2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility	•
	2-B: Alternate Route Preparation	0
	2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers	
	2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses	0
	2-E: Licensure Reciprocity	0

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	
3-A: State Data Systems	•
3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness	
3-C: Frequency of Evaluations	0
3-D: Tenure	٢
3-E: Licensure Advancement	0
3-F: Equitable Distribution	٠
Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	
4-A: Induction	•
4-B: Professional Development	٠
4-C: Pay Scales	
4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience	0
4-E: Differential Pay	•
4-F: Performance Pay	•
4-G: Pension Flexibility	٢
4-H: Pension Sustainability	٩
4-I: Pension Neutrality	0
Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers	
5-A: Licensure Loopholes	•
5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations	•
5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance	
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 feedback from state officials, practitioners, policy groups and other education organizations, as well as from NCTQ's own nationally respected advisory board. These goals meet five criteria for an effective reform framework:

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

The need to ensure that all children have effective teachers has captured the attention of the public and 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.

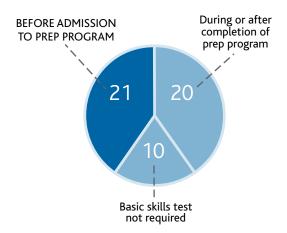


Some goals are marked with this symbol , which indicates that the bar has been raised for this goal since the 2009 *Yearbook*. With many states making considerable progress in advancing teacher effectiveness policy, NCTQ raised the standards for some goals where the bar had been quite low. As this may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



6 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 MASSACHUSETTS

## Goals

#### AREA 1: DELIVERING WELL PREPARED TEACHERS

#### 1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs

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

#### 1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

#### 1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

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

#### 1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

#### 1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

#### 1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

#### 1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

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

#### 1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies

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

#### 1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

#### 1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

#### 1-K: Student Teaching

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

#### 1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

#### AREA 2: EXPANDING THE POOL OF TEACHERS

#### 2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility

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

#### 2-B: Alternate Route Preparation

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

#### 2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

#### 2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses

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

#### 2-E: Licensure Reciprocity

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

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## Goals

#### AREA 3: IDENTIFYING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

#### 3-A: State Data Systems

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

#### 3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

#### 3-C: Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

#### 3-D: Tenure

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

#### 3-E: Licensure Advancement

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

#### 3-F: Equitable Distribution

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

#### **AREA 4: RETAINING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS**

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#### 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.

#### 8 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 MASSACHUSETTS

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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, Iowa<sup>1</sup>, 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 Massachusetts Analysis



## State Does Not Meet Goal

#### 💦 Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 🕞 Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts does not require aspiring teachers to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs, instead delaying its basic skills assessment until teacher candidates are ready to apply for licensure.

**Supporting Research** Code of Massachusetts Regulations 603 CMR 7.03

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### 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.

Teacher preparation programs that do not screen candidates end up investing considerable resources in individuals who may not be able to successfully complete the program and pass the licensing tests. Candidates needing additional support should complete remediation prior to program entry, avoiding the possibility of an unsuccessful investment of significant public tax dollars.

#### 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—Massachusetts 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.

#### Exempt candidates with comparable SAT or ACT scores.

Massachusetts 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.

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

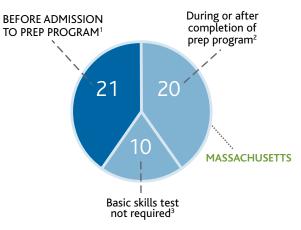
Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 3

## When do states test teacher candidates' basic skills?

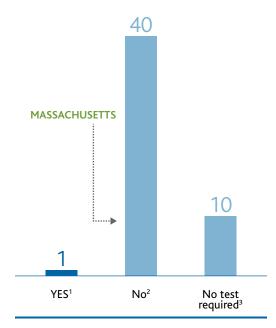


1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

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

#### Figure 2

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



1. Strong Practice: Texas

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

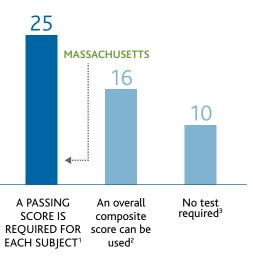
3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

#### Figure 4

Figure 4 Do states appropriately test teacher candidates' academic proficiency?	RAMED TO CC.	Test normed only to Read on the Phone Service Se	Test normed only to teach	of program Program Wired	
,	BOUND R	Test non Test non Candidate. to prep pro	Test non Candidate	No test required	
Alabama					
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia Hawaii		-			
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana					
lowa					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland					
MASSACHUSETTS					
Michigan					
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Rhode Island		_			
South Carolina	Ц				
South Dakota Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	1	20	20	10	

#### Figure 5

Do states measure performance in reading, mathematics and writing?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. 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.)

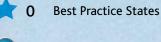
- The state should require that its approved teacher preparation programs deliver a comprehensive program of study in broad liberal arts coursework. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours to ensure appropriate depth in the core subject areas of English, science, social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



0 States Meet Goal

- States Meet Goat
- 4 States Nearly Meet Goal Indiana 1, MASSACHUSETTS, Minnesota 1, New Hampshire



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

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

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

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

**1**:3 ↔:44 ↓:4



## Area 1: Goal B Massachusetts Analysis



#### State Nearly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts has adopted the Common Core Standards, and the state is on the right track in ensuring that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with these standards.

In Massachusetts, elementary teachers are required to pass the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) general curriculum test, which does not report teacher performance in each subject area.

Massachusetts also requires elementary teacher candidates to complete at least 36 semester hours in upper-and lower-level arts and sciences coursework. According to the state, "some of this coursework might also count toward the required arts or sciences major."

Further, the MTEL content tests articulate important subject-matter requirements. English requirements include children's and young adult literature, adult literature, and classical and contemporary works. History and social science requirements include Massachusetts and U.S. history from colonial times to the present, world history with stress on Western civilization, economics and geography. Science requirements include life and physical sciences.

Although not addressed on the subject-matter test, Massachusetts also requires approved programs to include the following topics: science laboratory work, child development, visual and performing arts, physical education, and personal and family health.

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

Supporting Research Code of Massachusetts Regulations 603 CMR 7.03 and 7.06 Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure www.mtel.nesinc.com

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Massachusetts 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.



#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts asserted that it requires elementary and special educators to take a separately scored math subtest. Candidates for the elementary license, students with moderate disabilities license and those who teach the visually impaired must also pass a Foundations of Reading test. Scores are reported by test subarea, allowing for a more detailed review of performance. "The MTEL tests reflect the current subject-matter knowledge requirements for licensure, which in turn, reflect the state's curriculum frameworks."

Massachusetts also noted that tests are reviewed on a regular schedule by panels of the state's educators. It plans a comprehensive review of licensure standards in 2012-2013 to, among other things, ensure overall alignment with the Common Core Standards.

#### LAST WORD

The state's reading and mathematics requirements, which NCTQ finds to be among the best in the country, are analyzed in detail in Goals 1-C and 1-D, respectively.

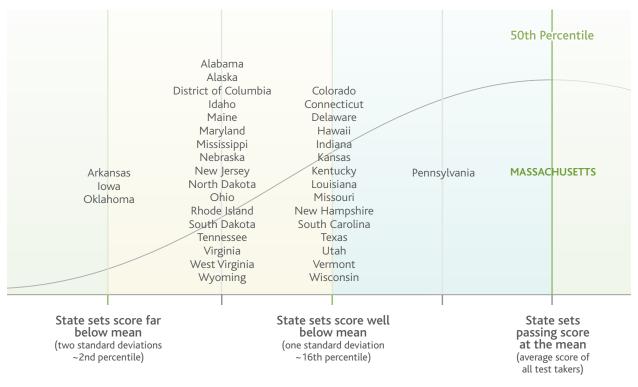


#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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.

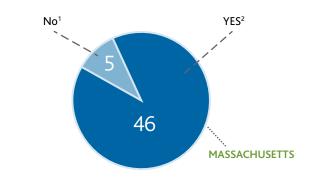
#### Figure 7

#### 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

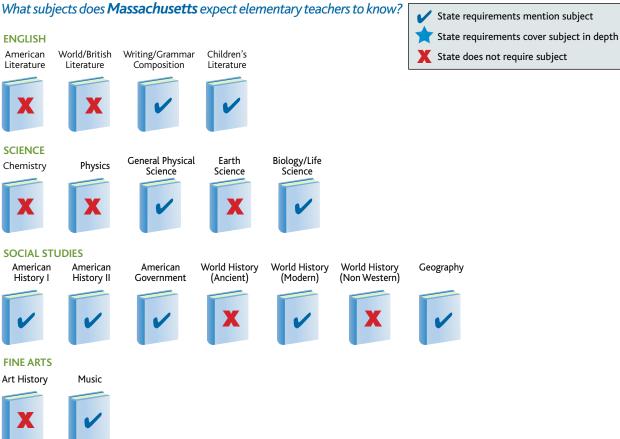


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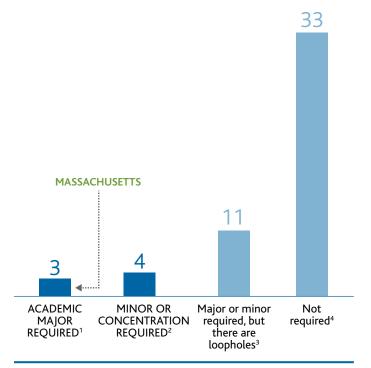
Subject mentioned

★ Subject covered in depth

18 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 MASSACHUSETTS

#### 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<sup>1</sup>, Minnesota<sup>1</sup>, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania 1, Tennessee 5 States Nearly Meet Goal California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Texas 14 States Partly Meet Goal Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana 1, 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 Massachusetts Analysis

Best Practice State

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts requires elementary teacher candidates to pass its own Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) Foundations of Reading test, which is based on the state's standards and addresses the core areas of scientifically based reading instruction. The state's focus on ensuring that teachers know the science of reading results in one of the nation's best policies regarding teacher preparation in the critical area of reading instruction.

Massachusetts also requires teacher candidates in early childhood education, those who teach students with moderate disabilities and those who teach the visually impaired to pass its reading exam.

Supporting Research 603 CMR 7.04(2)

http://www.mtel.nesinc.com/PDFs/MTELobjs\_newfld90.pdf

MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



#### 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

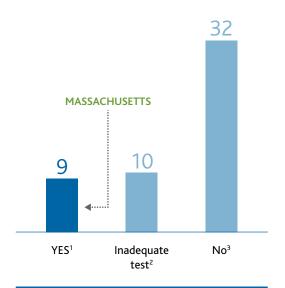
## Do states require preparation for elementary teachers in the science of reading?



- 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
- 4. 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.

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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.

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	1	State Nearly Meets Goal
0	5	States Partly Meet Goal California, Florida, Minnesota 1, New Mexico, Utah 1
	30	States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa T, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming
0	14	States Do Not Meet Goal Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, West Virginia, Wisconsin

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

Best Practice State

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts relies on both coursework and standards for its general curriculum test as the basis for articulating its requirements for the mathematics content knowledge of elementary teacher candidates.

Massachusetts specifies coursework requirements regarding the following mathematics content: numbers and operations, functions and algebra, geometry and measurement, and statistics and probability.

The state has also articulated elementary teaching standards that its new general curriculum test, with a separately scored mathematics subtest, must address; these standards also cover numbers and operations, functions and algebra, geometry and measurement, and statistics and probability. Sensibly, Massachusetts specifies that candidate learning in these topics must meet the needs of elementary teachers. The state also requires that "candidates shall demonstrate that they possess both fundamental computation skills and comprehensive, in-depth understanding of K-8 mathematics. They must demonstrate not only that they know how to do elementary mathematics, but that they understand and can explain to students, in multiple ways, why it makes sense."

#### Supporting Research

Guidelines for the Mathematical Preparation of Elementary Teachers http://www.doe.mass.edu/mtel/mathguidance.pdf#search=%22elementary%22 603 CMR 7.06

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

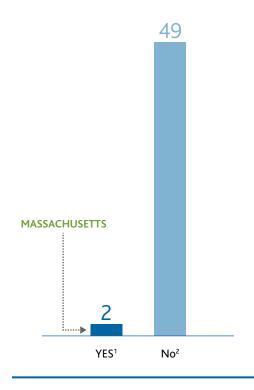


#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

**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?

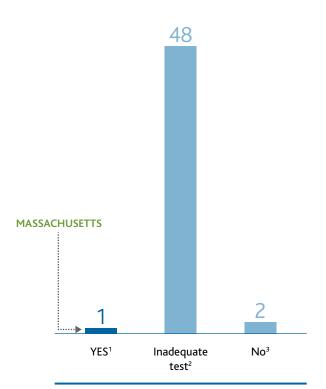


1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Massachusetts

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, U tah, 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<sup>+</sup>, 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 Massachusetts Analysis



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

#### **ANALYSIS**

Massachusetts requires a middle school certificate (grades 5-8) for all middle school teachers. Candidates must either complete a mathematics/science or English/history program of study consisting of 36 semester hours. This does not preclude the possibility of obtaining a single-subject license in any of these subjects for grades 5-8.

All new middle school teachers in Massachusetts are also required to pass a subject-matter portion of the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL). For those seeking single-subject certification, a single-subject content test is required. However, for the combination certificates, the tests combine mathematics with science and English with history. Although the state provides subscores, they are only used to provide insight into the candidate's strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, middle school teachers may answer many questions on one subject incorrectly and still pass the test.

#### Supporting Research 603 CMR 7.03, -.06 http://www.mtel.nesinc.com/MA\_testobjectives.asp

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Refine middle school subject-matter preparation policy.

Although Massachusetts is commended for not allowing middle school teachers to teach on a K-8 generalist license, it should strengthen middle school teachers' subject-matter preparation. Massachusetts should be more specific about its coursework requirements so that it is requiring the equivalent of two academic minors. Middle school candidates who intend to teach a single subject should earn a major in that area.

#### Enhance subject-matter testing requirements for middle school teacher candidates.

Massachusetts should require passing scores on its subject-matter test for all middle school teacher candidates in every core academic area they intend to teach as a condition of initial licensure.

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state questioned a theory of action with respect to educator preparation that specifies courses rather than the content to be mastered in its educator approval regulations. It, therefore, asserted that the first recommendation is not consistent with the state's theory of action, which provides clear statements and guidelines for the subject-matter knowledge needed for licensure but leaves to preparing institutions the task of translating these knowledge and skill requirements into a coherent program of preparation. Massachusetts also noted that in 2012-2013, it will comprehensively revise its licensure requirements, moving toward a performance-based system of licensure and program approval.

#### LAST WORD

NCTQ agrees that clear guidelines for the knowledge and skills that teachers must have, paired with a rigorous assessment, would be a sound framework for teacher preparation. In this particular case, the recommendation about two minors for multi-subject middle school teachers is to ensure that preparation programs have such teachers on a path to being highly qualified in every subject they are licensed to teach.

## **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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<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 Massachusetts Analysis



State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts requires that its secondary teacher candidates pass a content test to teach any core secondary subjects. Unfortunately, Massachusetts permits a significant loophole to this important policy by only requiring its social studies teachers to pass a general content test, rather than subject-matter testing for each subject area within the discipline (see Goal 1-H).

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

#### **Supporting Research**

MTEL

https://www4.doemass.org/elar/licensurehelp/FAQDisplayPageControl.ser

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. However, the state asserted that it does not offer a social studies license or endorsement.

#### LAST WORD

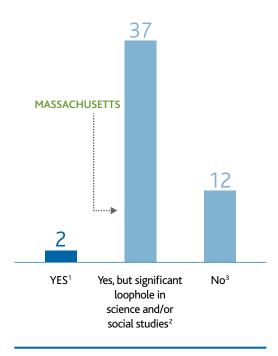
For the purpose of this goal, the generic term "social studies endorsement" is used to describe the state's secondary history and political science/political philosophy certificates, which require tests that combine subject areas within social studies and do not report subscores (see Goal 1-H).

## **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?



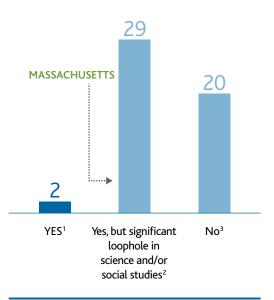
1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

- 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.)
- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Wyoming

#### Figure 24

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





#### 1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

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

## Goal G – Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

## Figure 25 How States are Faring in Preparation to Teach Science **Best Practice State** 1 New Jersey States Meet Goal Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Virginia 11 States Nearly Meet Goal Arkansas, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, MASSACHUSETTS, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia 16 States Partly Meet Goal Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Wisconsin 12 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, California, Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

New Goal

## Area 1: Goal G Massachusetts Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009



#### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts does not offer certification in general science for secondary teachers. Teachers must be certified in a specific discipline within the subject area of science.

Middle school science teachers in Massachusetts may earn certification in middle grades general science. Candidates seeking this certification must pass the MTEL "General Science" exam. However, they may also complete a mathematics/science program of study consisting of 36 semester hours. These candidates are required to pass the MTEL "Middle School Mathematics/Science" test, in which science comprises 50 percent of the exam.

#### **Supporting Research**

603 CMR 7.03 (2)(a); 603 CMR 7.06 (11) Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure www.mtel.nesinc.com

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Massachusetts's math/science test that combines these two subject areas—without reporting separate scores for each discipline—does not ensure that middle school science teachers possess adequate knowledge of science, as it may be possible to answer many science questions incorrectly and still pass the test.

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

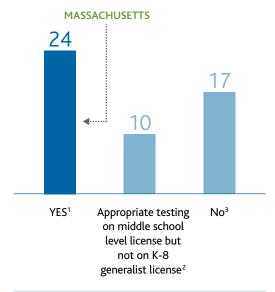
Figure 26		State offers and Science	State Orferson State Offerson ADE OLARE NULL SING	Ĕ / ¤	
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Delaware					
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#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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 Massachusetts Analysis



#### State Partly Meets Goal

#### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts does not offer secondary certification in general social studies. However, the state's secondary history certificate requires that candidates pass the MTEL history assessment, which combines history, geography, government and economics. The political science/political philosophy certificate requires that candidates pass the corresponding MTEL test, which combines political philosophy, U.S. government and civics, comparative government and international relations, history, and geography and economics. Neither test reports separate scores for each individual area.

Middle school social studies teachers may be certified at the middle grades level in the same two areas mentioned above for secondary grades, with the same testing requirements, or they may choose the middle school humanities certification. Its corresponding MTEL test combines literature, language and reading with history, geography, government and economics. Separate scores for each area are not reported.

#### Supporting Research

603 CMR 7.06 Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure www.mtel.nesinc.com

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Massachusetts's required assessments combine subject areas and do not report separate scores for each subject area. Therefore, candidates could answer many history questions, for example, incorrectly, yet still be licensed to teach history to high school students.

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

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. However, the state asserted that it does not offer a social studies license or endorsement.

#### LAST WORD

Although the state does not specifically offer a general social studies endorsement, candidates seeking the secondary history and political science/political philosophy certificates are only required to pass tests that combine subject areas within social studies and do not report subscores. Therefore, Massachusetts cannot guarantee content knowledge in each area.

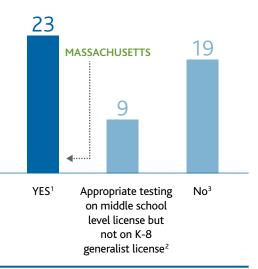
Figure 29	Å	OFFERS ONLY SINGLE SUBJECT SOCIAL STUDIES	Offers general social studies testing without a dequate
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South Carolina			
South Dakota			
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Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
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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.

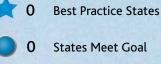
The components for this goal have changed since 2009. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

#### 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

15 States Partly Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey 1, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania<sup>1</sup>, Rhode Island, Texas<sup>1</sup>, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin

- State Meets a Small Part of Goal Kansas
- 34 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

1:3 ↔ : 48 **!**:0

## Area 1: Goal I Massachusetts Analysis



ਨ Bar Raised for this Goal ( 🕀

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

Massachusetts also appropriately requires its elementary special education teacher candidates to meet the same subject-matter requirements as other elementary education teacher candidates. As described in Goal 1-B, the state's policies for preparing elementary teachers in subject matter are excellent. Further, teacher candidates for elementary special education are required to pass the state's Foundations of Reading test and its General Curriculum test, which includes relevant topics in English, mathematics, history and social science, and science and technology/engineering.

Regrettably, Massachusetts 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

Code of Massachusetts Regulations 603 CMR 7.06 (25)

#### RECOMMENDATION

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, Massachusetts 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).

MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

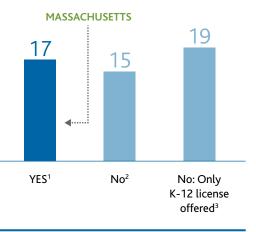
Figure 32		itic /	/
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MASSACHUSETTS			
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Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania <sup>1</sup>			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
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Utah			
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Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	16	16	19

#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 33

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



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, 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.)

 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 , Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia

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

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

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

**1**:1 ↔:49 ↓:1



## Area 1: Goal J Massachusetts Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal

#### ANALYSIS

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

Massachusetts is accelerating its participation in the Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) by including all of the state's institutions of higher learning in the pilot program next year, with the expectation that it will allow or require the use of TPA in licensure as early as 2012.

#### Supporting Research

http://www.doe.mass.edu/mtel/testrequire.html http://aacte.org/index.php?/Programs/

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts 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 questionable value.

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

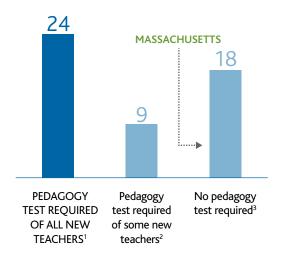
Massachusetts asserted that it requires all teachers in training to complete a Preservice Performance Assessment, administered by the preparing institution under guidelines established by the state. Massachusetts added that it is participating in the TPA pilot at five state institutions and is holding off a decision on broader-scale piloting until it can analyze the results of the trial. The state is very interested in developing performance-based approaches to licensure and is also developing performance-based assessments for prospective principal and superintendent licenses.

## **★** 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

## Area 1: Goal K Massachusetts Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009



Massachusetts requires elementary candidates to complete 300 hours of a practicum or practicum equivalent. Middle school and secondary candidates must complete 150 hours.

The state defines a practicum as "a field-based experience within an approved program in the role and at the level of the license sought, during which a candidate's performance is supervised jointly by the sponsoring organization and the supervising practitioner and evaluated in a Performance Assessment for Initial License."

Massachusetts does not articulate any requirements for cooperating teachers.

Supporting Research Education Laws and Regulations 603 CMR 7.02, -04(4)

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is currently revising its Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval. These revised regulations will go to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in January 2012. Massachusetts expects that there will be a comprehensive overhaul of the program approval section of the regulations.

#### Supporting Research 603 CMR 7.00

http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/phase2-applications/massachusetts.pdf

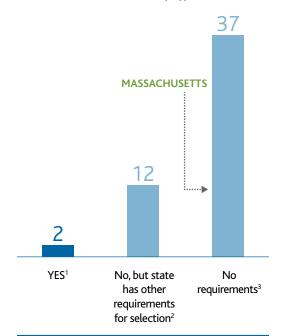
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### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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?* 

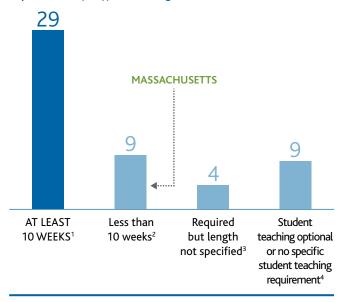


1. Strong Practice: Florida, Tennessee

- 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.

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Background

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

#### Figure 40 How States are Faring in Teacher Preparation **Program Accountability Best Practice State** Florida State Meets Goal Louisiana States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama, Colorado 1, Georgia 1, Tennessee, Texas States Partly Meet Goal 6 Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina 16 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Illinois<sup>1</sup>, Iowa, Maryland, MASSACHUSETTS, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia 22 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arkansas . California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas I, 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 Massachusetts Analysis

🔵 State Meets a Small Part of Goal 🛛 🕢 Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 🤃

(=) Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

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

However, the state does rely on some objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs. Programs are required to annually submit the following: standards and requirements for program admission, admission to the practicum or practicum equivalent, and exit from each program; the number and total list of program completers for each program, number and total list of program completers taking Massachusetts educator licensure tests, and the explanation for any difference between these numbers; and the number and total list of program completers who sought and, of those, who obtained a teaching position within the first year after program completion.

Regrettably, Massachusetts does not appear to apply any transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval. It gathers programs' annual summary licensure test pass rates (80 percent of program completers must pass their licensure exams), but the 80 percent pass-rate standard, while common among many states, sets the bar quite low and is not a meaningful measure of program performance.

The state also requires all programs to publish the following pass-rate data for each cohort of program completers: reading subtest, writing subtest, communication and literacy skills test, each subject matter knowledge test, all subject matter tests, and all tests of subject matter knowledge and communication and literacy skills.

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

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

According to Massachusetts's winning Race to the Top application, it plans to link preparation programs to outcome measures and effectiveness of graduates in promoting student achievement, and will use these data to improve and/or close ineffective programs. The state will also develop a Web-based reporting system that will make key indicators and outcome data such as retention rates and impact on student achievement publicly available. However, how or if the state plans to include alternate route programs is not specified, and there is no evidence to date of specific policy to support these plans.

Supporting Research Code of Massachusetts Regulations 603 CMR 7.03 (2)(a), (3)(a) Title II State Reports https://title2.ed.gov Race to the Top Application http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/phase2-applications/massachusetts.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

To ensure that programs are producing effective classroom teachers, Massachusetts should consider academic achievement gains of students taught by the programs' graduates, averaged over the first three years of teaching. Although Massachusetts has commendably outlined its intentions in its RttT application, to ensure that preparation programs are held accountable, it is urged to codify these requirements and specify that they apply to alternate route programs as well as to traditional teacher preparation programs.

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

Although Massachusetts 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 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, Massachusetts should present all the data it collects on individual teacher preparation programs. NCTQ acknowledges that the state has articulated a plan to post an annual report card for the public as part of its RttT application. However, to date, this plan has not been enacted or codified in state policy.

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is currently revising its regulations for educator licensure and preparation program approval. Massachusetts expects a comprehensive overhaul of the program approval section. Specifically, these new requirements will allow for the creation of a web-based accountability system with annual reports cards on each organization that prepares educators. Changes to the regulations will be required of all preparation programs, both traditional and alternate routes.

#### Supporting Research 603 CMR 7.00

http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/phase2-applications/massachusetts.pdf

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

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

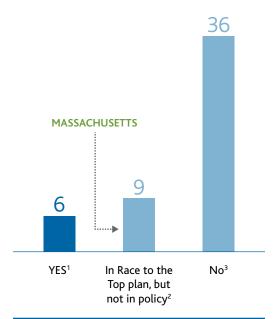


#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

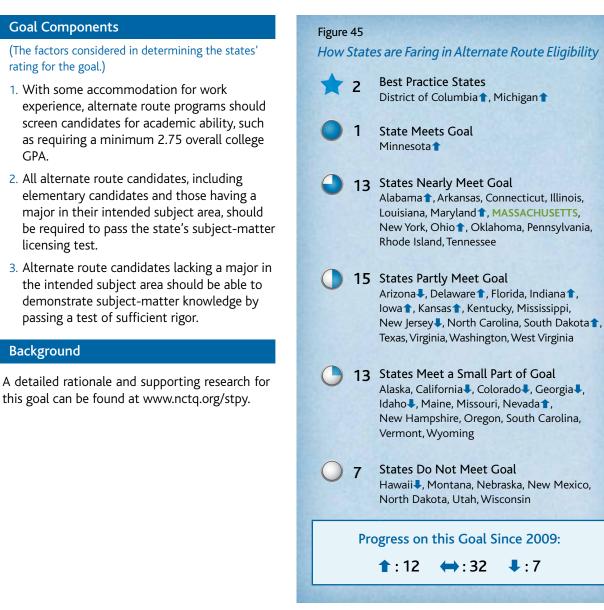
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1. According to information posted on NCATE's website.

## 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 **Massachusetts** Analysis

## State Nearly Meets Goal

#### Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

Massachusetts classifies the Route Three District-Based Initial Licensing Program and the Route Four Performance Review Program as alternate routes to certification. The Route Four option is a performance review designed to allow non-certified teachers to gain their license. As such, Route Four is not included in this analysis.

The Route Three District-Based Initial Licensing Program requires all applicants to hold a Massachusetts Preliminary License for admission. To obtain a preliminary license, applicants must have a bachelor's degree, but they are not required to demonstrate evidence of past academic performance, such as a minimum GPA. Candidates must pass a basic skills test and a subject-matter test. For candidates seeking admission in early childhood or elementary education and for teachers of students with disabilities, additional coursework is required.

Except in the case of elementary and early childhood education, neither a major nor specific coursework is required; as a result there is no need for a test-out option.

Supporting Research Massachusetts State Regulations 603 CMR 7.00

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Screen all candidates for academic ability.

Massachusetts should require that candidates to its alternate routes provide some evidence of good academic performance. The standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of 2.75 or higher. Alternatively, the state could require one of the standardized tests of academic proficiency commonly used in higher education for graduate admissions, such as the GRE.

#### Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

While Massachusetts is commended for requiring all applicants to demonstrate content knowledge on a subject-matter test, the state's requirement that alternate route candidates pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffectual. Basic skills tests measure minimum competency—essentially those skills that a person should have acquired in middle school—and are inappropriate for candidates who have already earned a bachelor's degree. The state should eliminate the basic skills test requirement or, at a minimum, accept the equivalent in SAT, ACT or GRE scores.

#### Offer flexibility in fulfilling coursework requirements.

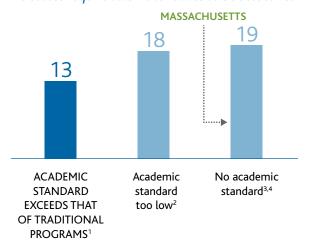
While the state is recognized for its attempt to include pedagogical coursework that may increase effectiveness prior to entering the classroom for early childhood, elementary and special education teachers, Massachusetts should allow candidates who already have the requisite knowledge and skills to demonstrate such by passing a rigorous test.

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

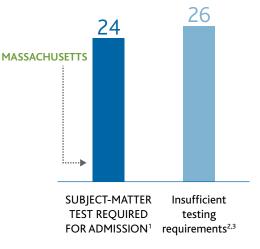
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- Strong Practice: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee
- Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, 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.

# 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

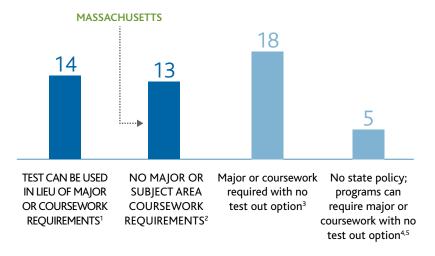
1. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

#### 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

- 2. Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Virginia, Washington
- Alaska, Delaware, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Wisconsin
- 5. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 6. Test out option available to candidates in shortage areas only.

## Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

## Goal B – Alternate Route Preparation

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

#### Figure 50 How States are Faring in Alternate Route Preparation **Best Practice State** 1 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, 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

## Area 2: Goal B Massachusetts Analysis

#### State Partly Meets Goal

#### Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Although Massachusetts does offer some key components of a quality alternate route program, it could do more to meet the immediate needs of new teachers.

There are no coursework or clock hour limitations on alternate route programs in Massachusetts. All classes must be directly linked to state standards and include classroom management and observations of other teachers. Elementary candidates must also complete coursework in mathematics, English and reading instruction.

Candidates complete a pre-practicum experience prior to entering the classroom. There is no required number of hours, although the state recommends a minimum of 25 hours. Candidates are required to complete a 150-hour minimum practicum and are provided a mentor throughout the school year. Release time is provided for the new teacher during the first five months of employment.

Candidates can receive full certification after three years.

Supporting Research 603 CMR 7.09

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Establish coursework guidelines for all alternate route preparation programs.

Massachusetts is commended for the nature of its coursework requirements, but the state does not ensure that alternate route candidates receive streamlined preparation. The state should articulate guidelines regarding the amount of coursework required of candidates. Too many courses can be counterproductive to a teacher's success. The state should ensure that a new teacher's workload is limited to one course at a time while teaching. Requirements should be manageable and contribute to the immediate needs of new teachers.

#### Ensure program completion in less than two years.

Massachusetts should consider shortening the length of time it takes an alternate route teacher to earn standard certification. The route should allow candidates to earn full certification no later than the end of the second year of teaching.

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

While Massachusetts is commended for requiring all new teachers to work with a mentor and for providing release time to new teachers, there are insufficient guidelines indicating that the induction program is structured for new teacher success.

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts asserted that there are no limitations on when a teacher can earn licensure through an alternative route. The state also pointed to its standards for induction programs for teachers.

#### **State Response Citation**

http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr7.html?section=12

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West Virginia					

## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

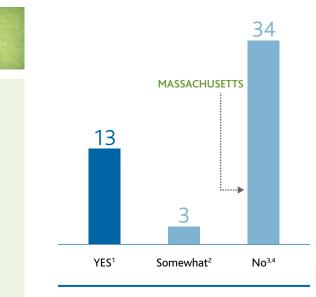
**Connecticut** ensures that its alternate route provides streamlined preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. The state requires a manageable number of credit hours, relevant coursework, a field placement and intensive mentoring. Other notable states include **Arkansas**, **Delaware**,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

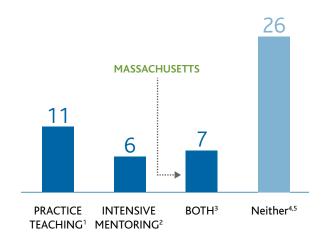
# Do states curb excessive coursework requirements?



- 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

*	0	Best Practice States					
•	26	States Meet Goal Arizona T, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut T, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois T, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, MASSACHUSETTS, Michigan T, Nevada T, New Hampshire, New York T, North Carolina, Ohio T, Pennsylvania T, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington T					
•	4	States Nearly Meet Goal Minnesota 🕇 , New Jersey, South Dakota, Utah					
•	7	States Partly Meet Goal Alabama ↑, Indiana, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Wisconsin					
0	4	States Meet a Small Part of Goal daho 🕇 , 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:					
		1:12 ↔:39 ↓:0					

## Area 2: Goal C Massachusetts Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

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

Coursework requirements are outlined in clock hours, and Massachusetts's alternate route programs are offered by a variety of sponsoring organizations, including higher education institutions, school districts, educational collaboratives, private training providers and professional associations that are state approved.

The state is commended for structuring its programs to allow a diversity of providers. A good diversity of providers helps all programs, both university- and non-university-based, to improve.

Supporting Research 603 CMR 700 http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr7.html?section=05 http://www.doe.mass.edu/edprep/district.html

MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

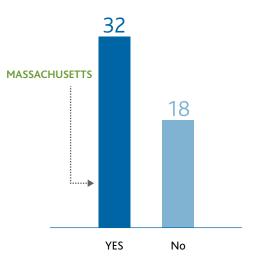
Figure 55		DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS
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Vermont		
Virginia		
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Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	32	29

## 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?



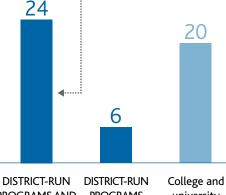
#### Figure 55 and 56

 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.

#### Figure 57 Do states permit providers other than colleges or universities?

#### MASSACHUSETTS



PROGRAMS AND PROGRAMS NON-PROFIT PERMITTED<sup>2</sup> PROVIDERS PERMITTED<sup>1</sup>

AMS university TED<sup>2</sup> providers only<sup>3,4</sup> Figure 58

l

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

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Wyoming			
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Figure 58

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

Figure 59				/	* /	1	PRACTICE TEACHING	ð /	/	
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Vermont										
Virginia										
Washington										
West Virginia										
Wisconsin										
Wyoming										
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NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 : 69

MASSACHUSETTS

## 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 Image: Colspan="2">A set Practice State Arkansas Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2" Image: Colspan="2">A set Practice State Arkansas Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2" Image: Colspan="2">Colspan="2" Colspan="2" <th colspan=

6 States Meet a Small Part of Goal 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 **Massachusetts** Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Massachusetts 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.

MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

# 1.56

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		
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Kansas	2	
Kentucky	1	
Louisiana 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

### 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.)

- 1. The state should offer a standard license to fully certified teachers moving from other states, without relying on transcript analysis or recency requirements as a means of judging eligibility. The state can and should require evidence of good standing in previous employment.
- 2. The state should uphold its standards for all teachers by insisting that certified teachers coming from other states meet the incoming state's testing requirements.
- 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



### Area 2: Goal E Massachusetts Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

Commendably, Massachusetts requires that all teachers meet its own passing scores on licensing tests; out-of-state teachers are allowed one year to meet its testing requirements. This is particularly sound policy in light of Massachusetts's high standards when it comes to passing scores on subject-matter tests (see Goal 1-B).

However, other aspects of the state's policy create obstacles for teachers from other states seeking licensure in Massachusetts. Teachers with valid out-of-state certificates may be eligible for Massachusetts's Temporary license, or the state's Initial license. Applicants must meet the state's recency requirement of three years of experience within the last seven years and have completed an approved educator preparation program from another state.

Further, Massachusetts routinely reviews the college transcripts of licensed out-of-state teachers. Transcript analysis is an exercise that often leads to the requirement of additional coursework. 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.

Massachusetts 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 Code of Massachusetts Regulations 603 CMR 7.05 Out-of-State Applicants www.doe.mass.edu/edprep/nasdtec.html

### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Although it is not ideal to allow teachers who have not passed subject-matter tests to teach, allowing out-of-state teachers one year to meet the requirement while on a temporary certificate is reasonable; however, the state should offer standard licenses to certified out-of-state teachers, rather than restricting them to initial licenses, once they have met the testing requirements.

### 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.

### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

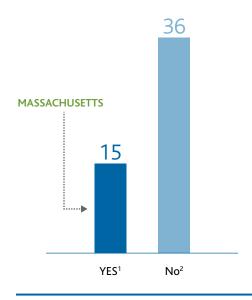
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Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by only requiring certified teachers from other states to meet each state's own testing requirements and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine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

**T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

### 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.

Figure 64	UCENSE RECIPROCITY WITT	E /	/	
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	9	41	12	

Figure 65			9. S
Do states treat out-of-stat	STATE REATS TEACHERS	State Specifies different requirements for different Oute leachers of alternate	Determine Policies with the for alternate route teachers
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## **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

## Goal A – State Data Systems

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

#### **Goal Components** Figure 66 (The factors considered in determining the states' How States are Faring in the Development of rating for the goal.) Data Systems 1. The state should establish a longitudinal **Best Practice States** data system with at least the following key components: 35 States Meet Goal a. A unique statewide student identifier Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idahot, Illinoist, Indianat, Iowat, number that connects student data across 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>, can match individual teacher records with New Mexico, New York 1, North Carolina, individual student records; and North Dakota1, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, c. An assessment system that can match Tennessee, Utah, Washington 1, West Virginia, individual student test records from year to Wisconsin<sup>1</sup>, 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 Massachusetts Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

Massachusetts 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."

Massachusetts 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, Massachusetts should articulate a definition of teacher of record and require its consistent use throughout the state.

### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts pointed out that it has clear procedures for roster verification for its statewide assessment system contained in the Principal's Handbook for MCAS administration, available on the Department of Education website.

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Maryland	-		
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New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
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### **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.

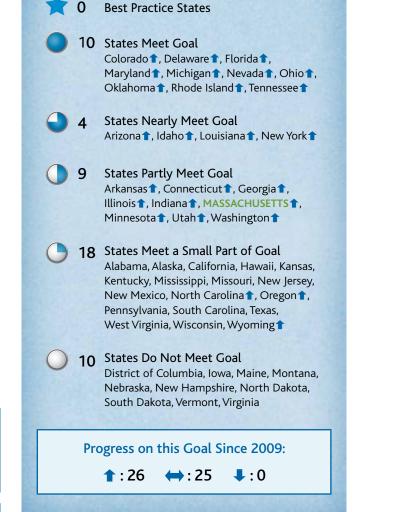
The components for this goal have changed since 2009. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

### 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



### Area 3: Goal B Massachusetts Analysis

State Partly Meets Goal

Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

Under the state's newly adopted regulations, "multiple measures of student learning, growth and achievement" must be one category of evidence in teacher evaluations. Massachusetts defines these measures as student progress on classroom assessments that are aligned with the state's Curriculum Frameworks; student progress on learning goals; statewide growth measures, including the MCAS Student Growth Percentile and the Massachusetts English Proficiency Assessment (MEPS); and district-determined measures of student learning across grade or subject. The evaluation rating must be based on multiple measures; MCAS growth scores cannot be the sole basis for the rating.

Classroom observations are required. Further, Massachusetts now also articulates the following multiple rating categories that are to be used for each performance standard: exemplary, proficient, needs improvement and unsatisfactory. To be rated proficient overall, teachers must at least be rated proficient on the "Curriculum, Planning and Assessment" and "Teaching All Students" standards.

Further, Massachusetts's winning bid for Race to the Top funds includes a significant focus on teacher evaluation. However, the state's proposal fails to articulate the extent to which student achievement will count in teacher evaluations.

**Supporting Research** 603 CMR 35.00

### RECOMMENDATION

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

Although Massachusetts's new evaluation system is a step in the right direction, it falls short by failing to require that evidence of student learning be the most significant criterion. The state 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. This can be accomplished by requiring objective evidence to count for at least half of the evaluation score or through other scoring mechanisms, such as a matrix, that ensure that nothing affects the overall score more. Whether state or locally developed, a teacher should not be able to receive a satisfactory rating if found ineffective in the classroom.

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

Although Massachusetts commendably requires classroom observations, the state should articulate guidelines that ensure that the observations focus on effectiveness of instruction. The primary component of a classroom observation should be the quality of instruction, as measured by student time on task, student grasp or mastery of the lesson objective and efficient use of class time.

### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts asserted that under its newly adopted evaluation regulations, a separate judgment must be made on the educator's impact on student learning, growth and achievement. "Impact on student performance is also prioritized in the standards of practice referenced above and in required goal setting, which must include, at a minimum, separate goals for the improvement of standards-based practice and student learning."

The state added that it sets forth the purposes of evaluation under statute and regulation as: (a) to promote student learning, growth, and achievement by providing educators with feedback for improvement, enhanced opportunities for professional growth, and clear structures of accountability, and (b) to provide a record of facts and assessments for personnel decisions.

Supporting Research 603 CMR 35.00 http://www.doe.mass.edu/edeval/

### LAST WORD

Unfortunately, the state's guidelines do not describe how the separate judgment for student learning relates to the rest of the evaluation. It may well be Massachusetts's intent for student learning to be a significant component of teacher evaluation, but this is not clearly set out in the state's requirements.

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### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 70

Using state data in teacher evaluations

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

Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Michigan, Nevada

States with Data System Capacity but No Student Achievement Requirements

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

#### Figure 69

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

# *Sources of objective evidence of student learning*

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

- Standardized test scores
- Periodic diagnostic assessments
- Benchmark assessments that show student growth

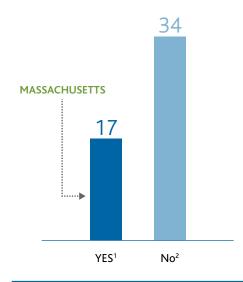
■ Artifacts of student work connected to specific student learning standards that are randomly selected for review by the principal or senior faculty, scored using rubrics and descriptors

Examples of typical assignments, assessed for their quality and rigor

■ Periodic checks on progress with the curriculum coupled with evidence of student mastery of the curriculum from quizzes, tests and exams

#### Figure 72

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



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

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Ohio						
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Rhode Island		2				
South Carolina		2				
South Dakota						
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Utah						
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West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
	9	10	24	5	3	
	2	10	<b>L</b> -T	2	5	

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

**Goal Components** 

rating for the goal.)

Background

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

#### Figure 74 (The factors considered in determining the states' How States are Faring in Frequency of Evaluations 0 **Best Practice States** 1. The state should require that all teachers receive a formal evaluation rating each year. 9 States Meet Goal 2. While all teachers should have multiple Alabama<sup>1</sup>, Idaho, Nevada, New Jersey, observations that contribute to their formal North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island 1, evaluation rating, the state should ensure Tennessee 1, Washington that new teachers are observed and receive feedback early in the school year. 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 A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy. States Partly Meet Goal 9 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: 1:13 ⇔:37 ↓:1

### Area 3: Goal C Massachusetts Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

Veteran teachers who receive a rating of "exemplary" or "proficient" coupled with a moderate or high impact on student learning must only be evaluated once every two years. All other teachers, including probationary teachers, must be evaluated annually.

Further, the state's policy does not include any guidelines on when evaluations for new teachers should occur.

Supporting Research 603 CMR 35.00

### RECOMMENDATION

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

All teachers in Massachusetts should be evaluated annually, even those who score "proficient" or above with at least a moderate impact on student learning on the state's summative evaluation. 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, Massachusetts 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. Massachusetts 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.

### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts asserted that under its newly adopted evaluation regulations, every teacher receives an evaluation every year, consistent with Race to the Top requirements. The state pointed out that "Exemplary" and "Proficient" teachers with moderate or high student growth receive a formative evaluation mid-cycle in their two-year evaluation plan, but that formative evaluation is designed to ensure that practice and impact remain at the appropriate levels. If an educator receives a formative evaluation that differs from the prior summative rating, the evaluator may place the educator on a different plan, appropriate to the new rating.

Massachusetts also contended that its new regulations set a higher bar for professional teacher status, or tenure. Professional teacher status may be granted only to educators rated proficient or exemplary on each performance standard. Further, all educator evaluations require multiple classroom observations, including unannounced observation. The five-step evaluation cycle required in the regulations engages

all educators in early conferencing and goal setting with their evaluators, as well as a mid-cycle review to ensure that all educators—including novice teachers, in particular—receive early and regular feedback on their performance.

Supporting Research http://www.doe.mass.edu/edeval/

### LAST WORD

According to the state's new evaluation regulations, the mid-cycle formative evaluation is used to arrive at a rating on progress toward attaining the goals set forth in the education plans or performance on performance standards, or both. None of these articulated options ensures that student growth data will be required during that interim year.

Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



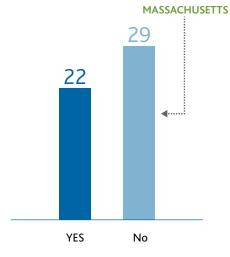
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West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			

### 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

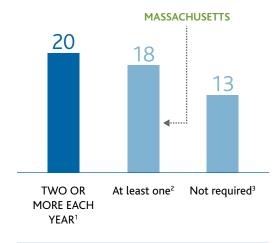
# Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



#### Figures 75 and 76

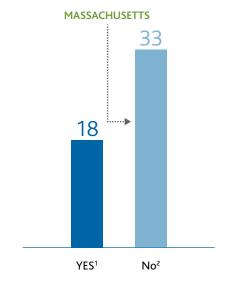
- Although highly effective teachers are only required to receive a summative evaluation once every two years, the student improvement component is evaluated annually.
- 2. All District of Columbia Public Schools teachers are evaluated at least annually.

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
- 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<sup>1</sup>, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire 1, North Carolina, Ohio 31 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine 1, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:15 + : 36 1:0

### Area 3: Goal D Massachusetts Analysis

State Meets a Small Part of Goal 🛛 🕢 Bar Raised

Raised for this Goal OP Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts could do more to connect tenure decisions to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

The state articulates a three-year probationary period, after which a teacher is eligible for nonprobationary status. Teachers must achieve ratings of proficient or exemplary on each Performance Standard and on the overall evaluation. A principal considering an employment decision leading to professional teacher status for any educator who does not meet these criteria must confer with the superintendent. The principal's decision is subject to review and approval by the superintendent.

Because Massachusetts's teacher evaluation ratings are not centered primarily on evidence of student learning (see Goal 3-B), basing tenure decisions on these evaluation ratings is a step in the right direction toward ensuring that classroom effectiveness is considered, but it does not ensure it is the preponderant criterion.

#### Supporting Research

Massachusetts General Law Title XII, Ch. 71, Sec. 41, 35.08(6)

### RECOMMENDATION

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

Massachusetts 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.

### Require a longer probationary period.

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

### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts 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							
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Maryland							
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New Hampshire							
New Jersey							
New Mexico							
New York							
North Carolina							
North Dakota							
Ohio							
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Pennsylvania							
Rhode Island							2
South Carolina							
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Utah							
Vermont							
Virginia							
Washington							
West Virginia							
Wisconsin							
Wyoming							
	1	1	5	32	4	5	3

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

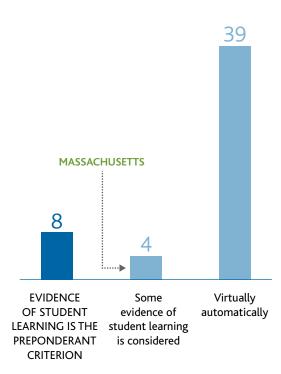
2. Teachers who receive two years of ineffective evaluations are dismissed.

#### EVIDENCE OF STUDENT LEARNING IS THE PREPONDERANT CRITERION Figure 81 Jome evidence of student learning is considered How are tenure Virtually automatically decisions made? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California $\square$ Colorado Connecticut $\square$ Delaware District of Columbia $\square$ Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana lowa $\square$ Kansas Kentucky Louisiana $\square$ Maine $\square$ Maryland MASSACHUSETTS $\square$ Π Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana $\square$ Nebraska Nevada $\square$ New Hampshire New Jersey $\square$ New Mexico New York $\square$ North Carolina North Dakota Ohio $\square$ $\square$ 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.

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# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

## Goal E – Licensure Advancement

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

### Background

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



# Area 3: Goal E Massachusetts Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

ਨ Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 🧲

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

In Massachusetts, to advance from an Initial certification to a Professional certification, teachers are required to complete a one-year induction program with a mentor, have three years' teaching experience and fulfill 50 hours of a mentored experience beyond the induction year. They are also required to complete one of the following: an approved district-based program for the Professional license; a master's degree; programs leading to eligibility for master teacher status, such as those sponsored by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; or a department-sponsored assessment program, if available.

Massachusetts does not include effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Massachusetts teachers must renew their professional licenses every five years by earning 150 professional development points through a combination of graduate credit and approved professional development.

Supporting Research 603 CMR 7.04(2)(c) http://www.doe.mass.edu/recert/

### RECOMMENDATION

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

Massachusetts 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, Massachusetts'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.

While an option (not a requirement) for advancement, Massachusetts should not emphasize obtaining a master's degree as a means of license advancement for teachers. 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.

### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it plans to comprehensively overhaul its licensure requirements beginning in 2012-2013 to ensure a tiered performancebased licensure system that incorporates appropriate measures of effectiveness.

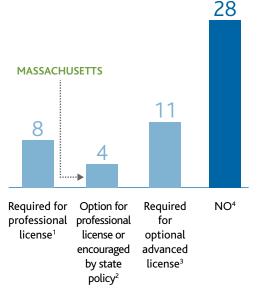
Figure 84	OBJECTIVE EVDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS IS REQUIRED		Consideration Biven to teacher not tred to class commander the commander to das commander to teacher	fess
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Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

### Figure 85

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



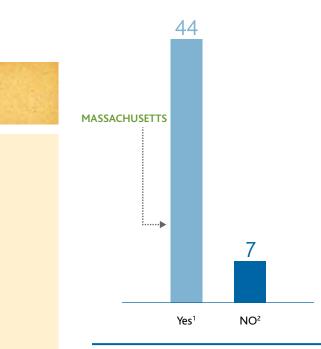
- Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New York and Oregon all require a master's degree or coursework equivalent to a master's degree
- 2. Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, U tah, 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.
- 2. Maryland uses some objective evidence through their evaluation system for renewal, but advancement to professional license is still based on earning an advanced degree.

#### NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 : 97 MASSACHUSETTS

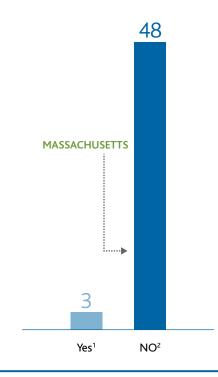
Do states require teachers to take additional, nonspecific coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



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

### Figure 87

Do states award lifetime professional licenses?



1. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

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

# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

## Goal F – Equitable Distribution

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

Goal Components	Figure 88
(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)	How States are Faring on Equitable Distribution
The state should make the following data publicly available:	★ 0 Best Practice States
1. An "Academic Quality" index for each school that includes factors research has found to be associated with teacher effectiveness, such as:	<ul> <li>O States Meet Goal</li> <li>O States Nearly Meet Goal</li> </ul>
a. percentage of new teachers;	6 States Partly Meet Goal
<ul> <li>b. percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once;</li> </ul>	Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina
<ul> <li>c. percentage of teachers on emergency credentials;</li> </ul>	<b>36</b> States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado,
d. average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions; and	Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho 🕇 , Indiana, Kansas,
e. teachers' average ACT or SAT scores;	Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, MASSACHUSETTS, Minnesota, Mississippi,
<ol> <li>The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area;</li> </ol>	Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania <sup>1</sup> , South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah <sup>1</sup> , Vermont <sup>1</sup> , Virginia, Washington,
<ol> <li>The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school;</li> </ol>	West Virginia, Wisconsin
4. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school, by district and by reasons that teachers leave.	<b>9</b> States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Wyoming
Background	Progress on this Goal Since 2009:
	★:4 ⇔:47 ↓:0

### State Meets a Small Part of Goal 🛛 🤶 Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

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

Massachusetts does report on the percentage of highly qualified teachers. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. Massachusetts Highly Qualified Teacher Plan, published in 2006, compares the percentage of highly qualified teachers in high- and low-poverty schools, and these data have been updated through the 2008-2009 school year.

#### Supporting Research

Massachusetts Teacher Data 2009-2010 Report by School http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/teacher.aspx Massachusetts State Highly Qualified Teachers Plan http://www.doe.mass.edu/nclb/hq/statehqplan.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

### Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

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

### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts noted that it is preparing a comprehensive status-of-teaching report that will include data on equitable distribution as they become available.

Figure 89	AN MOEX TIAT MOEXFOREACLS ASOCATED DESEACLSCHOOL TEACHER CUMEX DUTS ACTOROOL	/	PERCENTACE OF NEW.	ŝ /	1	/	
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Nebraska							
Nevada							
New Hampshire							
New Jersey							
New Mexico							
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	0	10	10	- 1	0	5	

### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

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

## Goal A – Induction

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

### **Goal Components**

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

- 1. The state should ensure that new teachers receive mentoring of sufficient frequency and duration, especially in the first critical weeks of school.
- Mentors should be carefully selected based on evidence of their own classroom effectiveness and subject-matter expertise. Mentors should be trained, and their performance as mentors should be evaluated.
- 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 Massachusetts Analysis



State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts requires that all new teachers receive mentoring. School districts are mandated to assign mentors for a period of one year within the first two weeks of school. District administration selects the mentors, who are required to successfully participate in mentor training, and the pairing process takes place at the building level. Although it is not mandatory that subject matter and grade level match the new teacher, whenever possible, content, grade and location are given priority, with subject matter receiving foremost priority.

Districts are also required to provide release time for both mentors and beginning teachers to "engage in regular classroom observations and other mentoring activities." Mentor compensation is not required, but it is recommended in some form, such as tuition waivers, release time for professional development or a reduced teaching schedule.

### Supporting Research

Guidelines for Induction Programs http://www.doe.mass.edu/educators/mentor/induct.pdf 603 CMR 7.12

MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 91 Do states have policies	MENTORING FOR ALL	MENTORING SUFER-	RATION	CARENI, SELECTION,	MENTORS MUST .	MENTORSPROCHMMED	MENTOR IS COMM.	VSE OF A VARETY OF EFFECTIVE
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Missouri								
Montana								
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Nevada								
New Hampshire New Jersey								
New Mexico								
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North Carolina								
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West Virginia Wisconsin								
Wyoming								
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	50	10	5	17	20	12	21	17

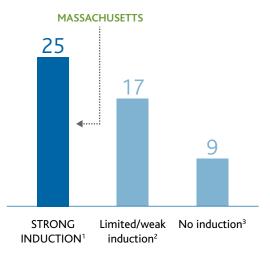
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### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

**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

# 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 Massachusetts Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal

## Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts specifies that its new evaluation cycle must include goal setting and development for teachers, who will all receive "Educator Plans." Such plans are designed to "provide educators with feed-back for improvement, professional growth, and leadership; and to ensure educator effectiveness." Teachers are to be placed on "Educator Plans" based on the evaluation rating and impact on student learning. However, the state does not specify that professional development activities must be aligned with findings from teacher evaluations.

Supporting Research 603 CMR 35.06

#### RECOMMENDATION

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. Massachusetts should ensure that districts utilize teacher evaluation results in determining professional development needs and activities.

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts was helpful in providing facts that enhanced this analysis. The state added that Educator Plans must specify the actions that must be taken to attain specified goals, including but not limited to professional development, self-study and coursework. Plans must be drawn up in accordance with district and school goals. They will result in a much more customized approach to professional development that is aligned to the findings of educator evaluations.

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

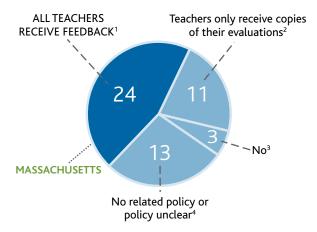
ALL TEACHERS RECEIVE FEEDBAG Alabama П Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia  $\square$ Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland MASSACHUSETTS Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota  $\square$ Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas 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?

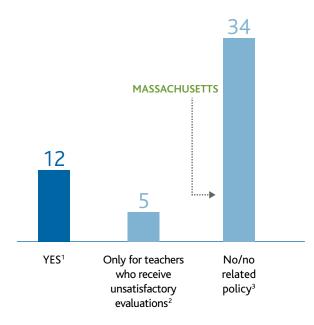


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska,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

12

24

# Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wyoming
- 2. Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Texas
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, 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
- 4. Mississippi requires professional development based on evaluation results only for teachers in need of improvement in school identified as at-risk.

# 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 •:0

# Area 4: Goal C Massachusetts Analysis

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

#### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts General Laws (MGL): Chapter 71, Section 40

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

While still leaving districts the flexibility to establish their own pay scale, Massachusetts 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, Massachusetts should articulate policies that discourage districts from determining the highest steps on the pay scale solely by seniority. Furthermore, considering that the minimum salary requirement is based on the 1987 school year, it is questionable that it serves any purpose at all.

### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 98		Sets minimum Salary	DISTRICTS SET SALARY
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play in deciding teacher	E e	7 Sa	ET S
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pay rates?	Sch	linir	L L
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	Sets minimum salary schedule	e'	2 C
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Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado <sup>1</sup>			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
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Idaho			
Illinois			
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New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
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Rhode Island <sup>2</sup>			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
wyonning			
	16	8	27

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

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

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Figure 99	Decourses ADVANCED PERCORMANCE ADVANCED DECREECAN ADVANCED DECREECAN	,	Requires compensation for advanced degrees
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District of Columbia			
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Hawaii Idaho			
Illinois			
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South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee		2	
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	3	32	16
	5	52	10

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.

#### 114 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 MASSACHUSETTS

# 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 Massachusetts Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts 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, Massachusetts 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.

### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

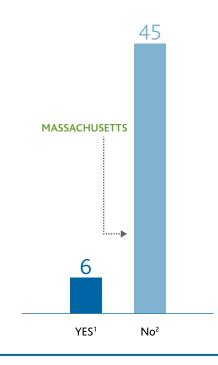
Massachusetts commented that teacher salaries are set at the district level. Massachusetts is the state lead for a teacher incentive grant from USED that is looking at new ways to recruit, deploy, retain and reward effective teachers in its two largest districts, Springfield and Boston. The state continues to take an aggressive stance in reviewing its human capital policies and strategies consistent with state law and local control and the collective bargaining rights it safeguards.

## 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

# 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 🕇, 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 Massachusetts Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects or working at a school classified as high-needs. Through the use of its Improving Educator Quality grant funds, the state encourages local districts to offer monetary incentives such as scholarships, signing bonuses and differential pay for teachers in high-needs schools or who teach in core educator-shortage areas, such as mathematics, science, special education, foreign languages and English language learners education.

#### **Supporting Research**

Improving Educator Quality http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/grants/grants10/rfp/140.html

MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 103 Do states provide		HIGH NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT AREAS	
incentives to teach in				AREAS	
high-need schools	7	hess	7	ness	
or shortage subject	ENT	'Bive	ENT	'Bive	1.100
areas?	r FER	In Fo	Y FEE	In Fo	this c
aleas:	DIFFERENTIAL	Loan Forgiveness	DIFFERENTIAL PAY	Loan Forgiveness	Nosupport
Alabama					
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
Connecticut <sup>1</sup>					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana					
lowa					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland <sup>2</sup>					
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 <sup>3</sup>					
Tennessee			_		
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia			4		
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	21	7	17	11	17

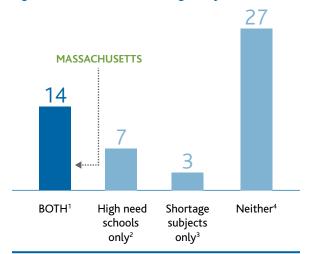
- Connecticut offers mortgage assistance and incentives to retired teachers working in shortage subject areas.
- Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 3. 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

# 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 Massachusetts Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts does not currently support performance pay statewide. However, the state received a Teacher Incentive Fund grant in 2010 to implement a pilot program to "attract, support, evaluate, reward and retain effective teachers in 22 low-performing 'turnaround schools' in Boston and Springfield." Performance-pay compensation is based on teacher evaluations under a new evaluation system that uses three rating categories, with student growth being a significant factor.

#### Supporting Research

Massachusetts Teacher Fund Incentive Award http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=5755 Awards - Teacher Incentive Funds Massachusetts http://www2.ed.gov/programs/teacherincentive/awards.html#31

### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis. The state added that there is nothing in state law or regulations precluding districts from negotiating performance base pay scales. New evaluation regulations require that educators whose summative performance rating is exemplary and whose impact on student learning is rated moderate or high shall be recognized and rewarded.

**T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 106 Do states support performance pay?	PERFORMANCE FACTORE	PERORNANCE BAN	LL TEACHERS	State-ponsored perfor	offered in select	
	PERFORMAN INTO SALARY ALL TEACHER	PERFORMANC AVAILABLE TO	Performance pay Permin	State-Sponsc Bay initiatives	Does not support	
Alabama						
Alaska						_
Arizona						
Arkansas						_ 1
California						
Colorado						- 1
Connecticut						
Delaware						- 1
District of Columbia Florida						
Georgia						
Hawaii						
Idaho						
Illinois						
Indiana						
lowa						_
Kansas						
Kentucky						
Louisiana						
Maine						
Maryland						
MASSACHUSETTS						
Michigan						
Minnesota						
Mississippi						
Missouri						_
Montana						
Nebraska <sup>1</sup>						_ 1
Nevada				Ц		
New Hampshire						- 1
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						
wyonning		4				
	3	4	12	5	27	

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

# Goal G – Pension Flexibility

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

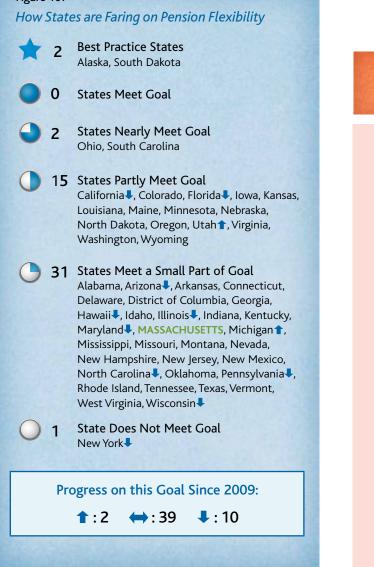
## **Goal Components**

(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.



State Meets a Small Part of Goal 🛛 ( 🕂 ) Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

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. Massachusetts's vesting at 10 years of service is very late and limits the options of teachers who leave the system prior to this point.

Many teachers in Massachusetts will leave the system before they reach 10 years of service. Non-vested teachers who choose to withdraw their contributions upon leaving only receive their own employee contributions plus three percent interest. Vested teachers only receive their own employee contributions plus the full amount of interest credited to their accounts. This means that those who withdraw their funds accrue no benefits beyond what they might have earned contributing to basic savings accounts. Therefore, teachers leaving the pension system would have saved only 11 percent of their salary plus interest (see Goal 4-H), which is below the level conventionally recommended by retirement advisers for individuals not also contributing to Social Security. While Massachusetts's mandatory contribution rate allows for flexibility in teachers' retirement savings, it also means that the state needs to educate teachers on what happens if they leave the system and encourage savings in other portable supplemental plans. Further, teachers who remain in the field of education but enter another pension plan (such as in another state) will find it difficult to purchase the time equivalent to their prior employment in the new system because they are not entitled to any employer contribution.

Massachusetts limits teachers' flexibility to purchase years of service. The ability to purchase time is important because defined benefit plans' retirement eligibility and benefit payments are often tied to the number of years a teacher has worked. Massachusetts's plan allows teachers with one year of service credit to purchase time for previous teaching experience, up to 10 years. While better than not allowing any purchase at all, this provision disadvantages teachers who move to Massachusetts with more teaching experience. The state's plan also allows for the purchase of one month per approved leave of absence. This is a disadvantage for teachers who may need to take longer approved leaves of absence, such as for maternity and paternity leave.

#### Supporting Research

Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System http://www.mass.gov/mtrs/2members/2members.htm

## RECOMMENDATION

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

Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts do not participate in Social Security, they have no fully portable retirement benefits that would move with them in the event they leave the system.

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

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

## Offer a fully portable supplemental retirement savings plan.

If Massachusetts 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.

### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Figure 109		Defined benefit plan only Contribution successing with	n n	CHOICE OF DEFINED BEAN	õ. / .
What type of pension	Defined benefit	Alu ti	tal pla	Arr.	DEFINED CONTRIBUTION
systems do states offer		lan <sub>v</sub>	men	ED BI	RIBU LIN
teachers?	efit .	efit p		DEFIN	INO LINO
leachers?	ben	t ben tions	Dlan	C E	
	finea	efine Itribu	brid	<sup>F</sup> OIG	4NO
	ρ	48	Hybrid plan	54	O d
Alabama					
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California <sup>2</sup>		_			
Colorado					
Connecticut Delaware	-				
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana <sup>3</sup>					
lowa					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland					
MASSACHUSETTS					
Michigan					
Minnesota					
Mississippi Missouri					
Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada					
New Hampshire	-				
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio <sup>4</sup>					
Oklahoma					
Oregon⁵					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island					
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

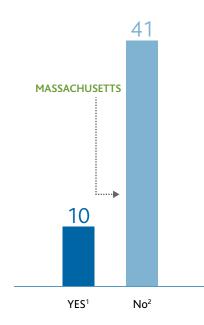
Alaska provides a fair and flexible defined contribution pension plan for all teachers. This plan is also highly portable, as teachers are entitled to 100 percent of employer contributions after five years of service. South Dakota's defined benefit plan has some creative provisions, which makes it more 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.
- 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?

#### Figure 110

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



- 1. Strong Practice: Alaska, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington
- 2. Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, 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, Newada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyorning
- 3. Although not fully portable, the state's defined benefit plan has some notable portability provisions.

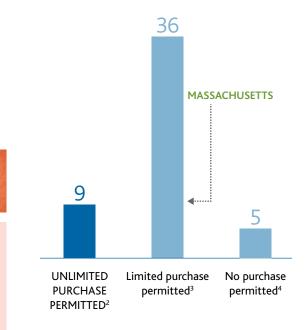
- 1. For teachers who join the system on or after January 1, 2012.
- Florida's defined benefit plan does not vest until year eight; teachers vest in the state's defined contribution plan after one year.
- 3. For teachers who join the system on or after July 1, 2012.
- 4. Ohio's defined benefit plan does not vest until year five; teachers vest in the state's defined contribution plan after one year.
- 5. 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.

	3 YEARS OR LESS	4 to 5 years	6 to 9 years	10 years	
Alabama					
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware <sup>1</sup>					
District of Columbia					
Florida <sup>2</sup>					
Georgia					
Hawaii³					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana					
lowa <sup>3</sup>					
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					
Ohio⁴					
Oklahoma					
Oregon⁵					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina <sup>6</sup>					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington <sup>7</sup>					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	3	29	3	16	
	5	25	5	10	

Figure 112		Only their own c	£ /	Their own contribution	Prover 1 and There of the and There of the out of the off off of the off off of the off off off off off off off off off of	
What funds do states p	permit		<sup>Their</sup> own contribution plus interest	tion	rest RIBUT	-
teachers to withdraw j			omtr ibut	tribu		
their defined benefit p	lans je	- UN	onti	con, con		N.
if they leave after	an ti tion	it o	Wh Cost	own		ERE
	is th tribu	V the	eir o inte	heir t of tribi		
five years? <sup>1</sup>	Con, Le	Ĩ <sup>w</sup> o	Their own con	Con 1	A C D	
Alabama						
Alaska²						
Arizona						
Arkansas						
California <sup>3</sup>						
Colorado						
Connecticut						
Delaware						
District of Columbia						
Florida						
Georgia						
Hawaii						
Idaho						
Illinois						
Indiana						
lowa <sup>4</sup>						
Kansas						
Kentucky						
Louisiana						
Maine						
Maryland						
MASSACHUSETTS						
Michigan⁵						
Minnesota						
Mississippi						
Missouri						
Montana						
Nebraska						
Nevada <sup>6</sup>						
New Hampshire						
New Jersey						
New Mexico						
New York						
North Carolina						
North Dakota						
Ohio <sup>7</sup>						
Oklahoma						
Oregon <sup>8</sup>						
Pennsylvania						
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.

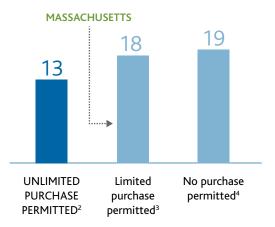
Do states permit teachers to purchase time for previous teaching experience?<sup>1</sup>



- 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
- 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

# 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 **Massachusetts** Analysis

## State Meets a Small Part of Goal 🛛 🐶 Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

As of January 1, 2010, the most recent date for which an actuarial valuation is available, Massachusetts's pension system for teachers is 63 percent funded and has an amortization period of 29 years. This means that if the plan earns its assumed rate of return and maintains current contribution rates, it would take the state 29 years to pay off its unfunded liabilities. While its amortization period meets regulatory benchmarks, Massachusetts's funding level is too low. The state's system is not financially sustainable according to actuarial benchmarks.

In addition, Massachusetts commits excessive resources toward its teachers' retirement system. The current employer contribution rate, which is paid by the state on behalf of local districts, of 22.6 percent is too high. The rate is set by law and is equivalent to the normal cost plus amortization payments, which must reduce the unfunded liability, to zero by June 30, 2040. The amortization payments increase by 4.5 percent a year. While this rate allows the state to pay off liabilities within the required 30-year period, it does so at great cost, precluding Massachusetts from spending those funds on other, more immediate means to retain talented teachers. The mandatory employee contribution rate of 11 percent is reasonable.

#### Supporting Research

Annual Statement of the Financial Condition of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System, for the year ended December 31, 2010

http://www.mass.gov/mtrs/4about/2010MTRSAnnualReport.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

The state would be better off if its system was over 95 percent funded to allow more protection during financial downturns. However, Massachusetts should consider ways to improve its funding level without raising the contributions of the state. 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.

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

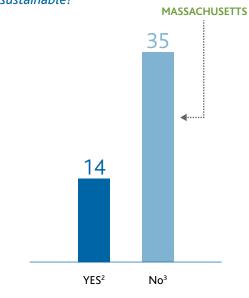
Massachusetts was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state also noted that a pension reform bill is expected to be enacted in the fall of 2011.

Figure 116		9
Do state pension	<u>1</u> 17	RIO RIO
systems meet standard	ERCE	N PH
benchmarks for	80 P	NOU NO
financial health?	DED 80	
inancial nealth?	NDF NDF	MAXIUMUM 30 YEAR MORTZATION PEAR PERO
	₹2 /	< <del>\</del>
Alabama		
Alaska		
Arizona Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
lowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky		<b>1</b>
Louisiana		
Maine		
Maryland		<b>1</b>
MASSACHUSETTS		
Michigan <sup>2</sup>		
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 <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.

Figure 119

How well funded are state pension systems?

	Funding Level
Alaska <sup>1</sup>	N/A
District of Columbia	118.3%
Washington	116%
New York	103.2%
Wisconsin	99.8%
South Dakota	96.3%
Delaware	96%
North Carolina	95.9%
Indiana <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%
lowa	80.8%
Virginia	80.2%
Arizona	79%
Idaho	78.9%
Michigan	78.9%
Minnesota	78.5%
California	78%
Missouri	77.7%
Pennsylvania	75.1%
Alabama	74.7%
Arkansas	73.8%
Nevada	71.2%
North Dakota	69.8%
South Carolina	67.8%
Vermont	66.5%
Maine	65.9%
New Mexico	65.7%
Maryland	65.4%
Montana	65.4%
Colorado	64.8%
Mississippi	64.2%
MASSACHUSETTS	63%
Connecticut	61.4%
Hawaii	61.4%
	61%
Kentucky	
Ohio New Hampshire	59.1%
New Hampshire	58.5%
New Jersey	57.6%
Oklahoma Kanaga	56.7%
Kansas	56%
Louisiana	54.4%
Illinois Dia da Island	48.4%
Rhode Island	48.4%
West Virginia	46.5%

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

# What are the current employer<sup>1</sup> contribution rates to state pension systems?

#### Employer contribution rate

10 12.6 10.1 14 10.3 14.8 19.2 9.3 0 3.8 10.3 10.3				-			
10.1 14 10.3 14.8 19.2 9.3 0 3.8 10.3 15							
14 10.3 14.8 19.2 9.3 0 3.8 10.3 15							
10.3 14.8 19.2 9.3 0 3.8 10.3 15							
14.8 19.2 9.3 0 3.8 10.3 15							
19.2 9.3 0 3.8 10.3							
9.3 0 3.8 10.3 15							
0 3.8 10.3 15							
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4.8							
7.1							
	8.8 9.2 29.2 4.8	8.1         9.4         17.8         23.7         17.3         15.5         22.6         N/A         6.2         12         14.5         10         8.9         11.9         10.7         N/A         9.9         11.1         13.1         8.8         14         13.9         5.6         22.3         9.2         6         6.4         6.6         10         7.4         8.8         9.2         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         22.3         9.2         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         22.3         9.2         6         7.4         7.4         7.4         7.5         7.4	8.1         9.4         17.8         23.7         17.3         15.5         22.6         N/A         6.2         12         14.5         10         8.9         11.9         10.7         N/A         9.9         11.1         13.1         8.8         14         13.1         8.8         14         13.9         5.6         22.3         9.2         6         6         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         2.3         9.2         6         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         2.3         9.2         6         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         2.2         2.3         9.2         7.4         8.8        <	8.1         9.4         17.8         23.7         17.3         15.5         22.6         N/A         6.2         12         14.5         10         8.9         11.9         10.7         N/A         9.9         11.1         13.1         13.1         13.1         13.1         13.1         13.1         14         14.5         13.9         5.6         22.3         9.2         6         6         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         2.3         9.2         6         6         6         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         2.3         9.2         6         6         6         7.4         7.4         7.4        <	8.1         9.4         17.8         23.7         17.3         15.5         22.6         N/A         6.2         12         14.5         10         8.9         11.9         10.7         N/A         9.9         11.1         13.1         13.1         13.1         14         15.6         22.3         9.2         6         6         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         7.4         7.4         7.4         7.4         7.4         7.4	8.1         9.4         17.8         23.7         17.3         15.5         22.6         N/A         6.2         12         14.5         10         8.9         11.9         10         8.9         11.9         10.7         N/A         9.9         11.1         13.1         13.1         14         15.5         13.9         5.6         22.3         9.2         6         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         6         7.4         7.4         7.4         7.4         7.4         7.4	8.1         9.4         17.8         23.7         17.3         15.5         22.6         N/A         6.2         12         14.5         10         8.9         11.9         10         8.9         11.9         10         8.9         11.9         10         8.9         11.1         13.1         13.1         13.1         14         14         15.6         22.3         9.2         6         6         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         6         6         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         6         7.4         8.8         9.2         7.4         7.4         7.4          7.4

#### 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

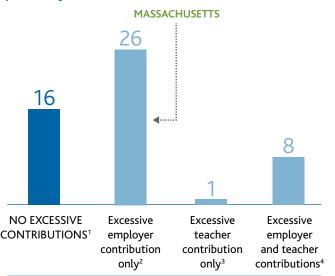
Analysts generally agree that workers in their 20's with no previous retirement savings should save, in addition to Social Security contributions, about 10-15 percent of their gross income in order to be able to live during retirement on 80 percent of the salary they were earning when they retired. While 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.
- 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.
- 4. Teachers share in the employer contribution through salary reductions or foregoing equivalent pay raises.
- 5. For teachers hired after July 1, 2011, the contribution ranges from 7.5-12.3 based on a variety of factors.
- 6. Teachers in the hybrid plan must make a mandatory contribution if the employer contribution does not cover system costs.
- 7. For the defined benefit plan; the rate varies for the defined contribution plan from a minimum of 5 percent.

## Figure 123

# How much do state pension systems require teachers to contribute?

Teacher contribution rate

Social Security (+6.2%) 0% 10% 15% 20% 5% 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.

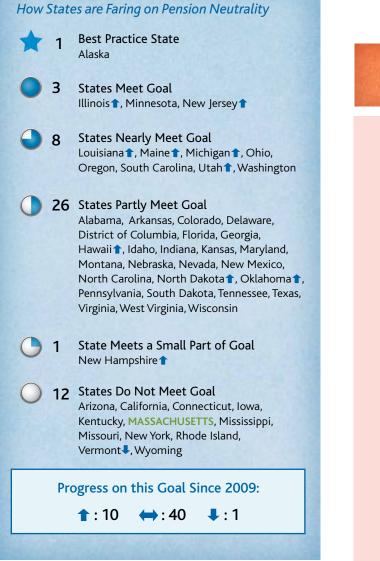
### **Goal Components**

(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.



# Area 4: Goal I **Massachusetts** Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

#### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts'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.

Massachusetts's pension plan does not utilize a constant benefit multiplier and bases retirement eligibility on years of service. Teachers with 20 years of service qualify for standard retirement at any age, while teachers with 10 years of service must be 55. The multiplier is 2.5 percent for those who retire at age 65, and then it is reduced one-tenth of a percent for each year below 65 (e.g., a 2 percent multiplier at age 60). Reducing benefits for younger retirees is appropriate because they will on average receive benefits longer; however, the state should use an actuarial reduction because depending on a teacher's years of service, a one-tenth reduction in the multiplier may only have a minimal impact on benefits.

In addition, teachers with 30 or more years of experience and at least 20 years' membership in the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System can increase their multiplier through a mechanism known as RetirementPlus. All teachers who become members of the pension system after July 1, 2001, participate in RetirementPlus, and teachers who were members prior to July 1, 2001, had the option of joining by raising their contribution rate to 11 percent. Teachers with 30 years of experience add 12 percent to their multiplier, and this RetirementPlus bonus grows at 2 percent for each additional year of service beyond 30 years, reaching a 32 percent bonus at 40 years of service. The maximum allowable pension benefit is 80 percent of one's final average salary. Therefore, teachers who begin their careers at age 22 can reach their maximum pension benefit by age 57 with 35 years of experience.

The net effect is that teachers who retire with 29 years of service at age 60 will have benefits equivalent to 58 percent of their final average salaries, while teachers who retire with 30 years of service at age 60 will have benefits equivalent to 72 percent, a substantial increase for one additional year of service. Some of 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**

Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System http://www.mass.gov/mtrs/2members/2members.htm

#### 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. Massachusetts should end its substantial increase in benefits for teachers with at least 30 years of service, and the state should use a pension formula that treats each year of service equally.

#### End retirement eligibility based on years of service.

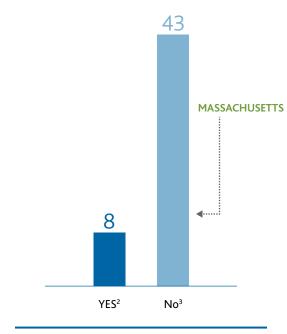
Massachusetts should change its practice of allowing teachers with 20 years of service to retire at any age with standard benefits. If retirement at an earlier age is offered to some teachers, benefits should be reduced accordingly to compensate for the longer duration they will be awarded. The state's current policy of reducing the multiplier for each year a teacher retires before age 60 does not achieve this purpose because the reduction is a standard one-tenth rather than an actuarially determined amount.

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

Massachusetts allows all teachers to retire before conventional retirement age, some as young as 57 with maximum benefits. 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).

MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Massachusetts had no comment on this goal.

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

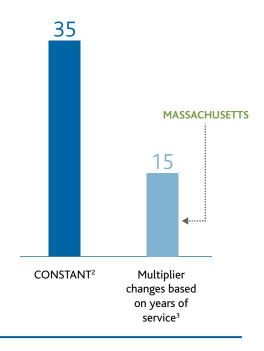


- 1. This only refers to determining retirement eligibility, not retirement benefits.
- Strong Practice: Alaska, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey
- 3. Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia,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

- 1. All calculations are based on a teacher who starts teaching at age 22, earns a starting salary of \$35,000 that increases 3 percent per year, and retires at the age s/he is first eligible for unreduced benefits. The calculations use states' current benefit formulas and do not include cost of living increases. The final average salary was calculated as the average of the highest three years of salary, even though a few states may vary from that standard. Age 65 was used as a point of comparision because it is the miminum eligibility for unreduced Social Security benefits.
- 2. Does not apply to Alaska's defined contribution plan.
- 3. Minnesota provides unreduced retirement benefits at the age of full Social Security benefits or age 66, whichever comes first.
- California's formula has many options for retirement. A teacher with 40 years of experience at age 62 would reach Califorina's maximum allowable multiplier of 2.4 percent.
- 5. Age 60 is the earlier teachers hired on or after July 1, 2012 may retire. Teachers hired prior to this point may retire at age 55.
- Massachusetts's formula has many options for retirement. A teacher with 35 years of experience at age 57 would reach Massachusetts's maximum allowable benefit of 80 percent.
- Total amount in banefits per teacher from the binefits paid retirement until age 65 me of Figure 126 Earliest retirement age th a teacher who started th -22 may unreduced bene How much do states pay for each teacher that retires with unreduced benefits at an early age?1 Alaska<sup>2</sup> \$0 Illinois 67 \$0 Maine 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 California<sup>4</sup> \$310,028 62 Indiana 55 \$317,728 Hawaii⁵ \$337,385 60 Kansas 60 \$337,385 Oregon \$361,536 58 North Dakota \$385,583 60 Oklahoma \$385,583 60 Maryland \$413,808 56 Wisconsin 57 \$416,007 Rhode Island \$430,013 59 New York \$440,819 57 Texas \$443,421 60 South Dakota 55 \$447,707 Virginia 56 \$468,982 Louisiana \$481,979 60 Florida \$485,257 55 Vermont \$486,832 56 Montana 47 \$518,228 Connecticut \$520,009 57 Utah 57 \$520,009 Iowa \$551,428 55 Idaho \$551,743 56 North Carolina \$568,555 52 South Carolina 50 \$577,142 Nebraska \$577,687 55 West Virginia 55 \$577,687 Delaware \$577,927 52 District of Columbia \$585,737 52 **MASSACHUSETTS<sup>6</sup>** 57 \$594.296 Georgia \$624,786 52 Mississippi \$624,786 52 Alabama \$625,747 47 Colorado \$650,011 57 Pennsylvania \$650,011 57 Wyoming \$655,506 54 Arizona \$664,340 55 Arkansas 50 \$681,789 Ohio \$687.265 52 New Mexico \$734,124 52 Nevada 52 \$780,983 Missouri \$789,343 51 Kentucky 49 \$791,679

#### Figure 127

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

#### Figure 128

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Goal A – Licensure Loopholes

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

# **Goal Components**

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

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

# Background

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

# Figure 129



# Area 5: Goal A Massachusetts Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts allows certified, out-of-state teachers to teach in the state under a one-year, nonrenewable temporary license if they have not failed any part of the applicable licensing tests.

Massachusetts also has a one-year waiver for critical shortage situations in which no fully qualified teacher is available. The waiver is not renewable, and the individuals employed under these waivers must demonstrate that they are making progress toward meeting certification requirements.

#### **Supporting Research**

603 CMR 7.04 (2)(d) and 603 CMR 7.14 (13) Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: Educator Licensure http://www.doe.mass.edu/Educators/e\_License.html?section=k12

### RECOMMENDATION

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

While Massachusetts' policy minimizes the risks brought about by having teachers in classrooms who lack sufficient or appropriate subject-matter knowledge by offering its waiver for one year only, the state could take its policy a step further and require all teachers to meet subject-matter licensure requirements prior to entering the classroom.

# MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Massachusetts recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

	Figure 131	
	How long can new teac practice without passin licensing tests?	
T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE		
Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, and New Jersey require		Ŷ
all new teachers to pass all required subject-matter	Alabama	
tests as a condition of initial licensure.	Alaska	
	Arizona	
	Arkansas	
Figure 130	California	
Do states still award emergency licenses? <sup>1</sup>	Colorado	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Connecticut	
Nonrenewable emergency MASSACHUSETTS	Delaware	Г
or provisional licenses <sup>2</sup>	District of Columbia	
\ Renewable	Florida	Γ
emergency or	Georgia	
provisional licenses <sup>3</sup>	Hawaii	
	Idaho	
27 /	Illinois	
12/	Indiana	
	lowa <sup>1</sup>	
	Kansas	
9	Kentucky	
	Louisiana	
	Maine	
	Maryland	
PROVISIONAL LICENSES <sup>4</sup>	MASSACHUSETTS	
	Michigan	
	Minnesota	
1. Not applicable to Montana and Nebraska, which do not require subject	Mississippi	
matter testing.	Missouri	
<ol> <li>Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland,</li> </ol>	Montana <sup>2</sup>	
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,	Nevada	
Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming	New Hampshire	
<ol> <li>Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin</li> </ol>	New Jersey	
4. Strong Practice: Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey,	New Mexico	
New Mexico, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia	New York	
5. License is renewable, but only if licensure tests are passed.	North Carolina	
· · ·	North Dakota	
	Ohio	
	Oklahoma	
	Oregon	
	Pennsylvania	

`

# NO EMERGE PROVISIONAL

- 1. Not applicable to Montana matter testing.
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, C of Columbia, Florida, Georgi Massachusetts, New Hamps North Dakota<sup>5</sup>, Ohio<sup>5</sup>, Oklah Washington, West Virginia,
- 3. Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana, Lou Missouri, Pennsylvania, Sout
- 4. Strong Practice: Colorado, Ill New Mexico, South Carolin
- 5. License is renewable, but or

#### Figure 131

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

gure 131				
ow long can new teach	ers			
ractice without passing		,	,	,
censing tests?	~	/	/	d'e
ensing tests:	RRA	, et	sars (	or m crifie,
	DEFL	Up to 7 Jear	20	ears Inspe
	₹ /	194	194	er c
Alabama	0 ODEFERAL		$\Box \Box = (b_{t_0, 2})_{e_{a_{5}}}$	a stars or more (or unspecified)
Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut				
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Nebraska <sup>3</sup>				
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North Carolina				
North Dakota				
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Tennessee				
Texas				
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West Virginia Wisconsin				
Wyoming <sup>5</sup>				
wyonning		14		10
	9	14	8	18

# 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	6 States Nearly Meet Goal Georgia, Hawaii, Michigan 1, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas			
A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.	13 States Partly Meet Goal California, Connecticut, Iowa, MASSACHUSETTS ↑, Minnesota ↑, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada ↑, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee ↑, 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 Massachusetts Analysis



# Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

Massachusetts requires that any educator who receives an unsatisfactory evaluation rating will be placed on an Improvement Plan for no less than 30 days and no more than one school year. While the state stipulates that results of evaluations may be used in dismissal decisions (see Goal 5-C), Massachusetts does not set specific criteria for a teacher's eligibility for dismissal, such as that a particular number of unsatisfactory evaluations would make a teacher automatically eligible for dismissal.

#### **Supporting Research**

603 CMR 35.06; General Laws of Massachusetts, Title XII, Chapter 71, Section 38

### 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. While Massachusetts has taken a step in the right direction by requiring improvement plans for teachers with unsatisfactory evaluation ratings and stipulating that the results of evaluations can be used in personnel decisions, the state should ensure that teachers who receive such unsatisfactory evaluations are eligible for dismissal.

### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state also asserted that under the new evaluation framework, educators who fail to achieve the goals of their Improvement Plan may be dismissed, but dismissal is a personnel action reserved to districts under state statute. The state also referenced its dismissal law, which permits dismissal for "inefficiency, incompetency, incapacity, conduct unbecoming a teacher, insubordination or failure on the part of the teacher to satisfy teacher performance standards developed pursuant to section 38 of this chapter or other just cause." The state added that Massachusetts evaluation regulations and the standards of performance they set were developed under this authority, and failure to meet the performance standards they articulate would be grounds for dismissal. Further, one of the stated purposes of the teacher evaluation regulations is to "provide a record of facts and assessments for personnel decisions."

#### LAST WORD

Although the statute the state cites does allow dismissal based on a teacher's failure to satisfy teacher performance standards, which in effect could result in eligibility for dismissal after two unsatisfactory evaluations, the state provides no guarantee that this will occur. Further, while hiring and firing of teachers is a local issue, the state can and should send an important message to local districts that there should be meaningful consequences to unsatisfactory evaluations. Teachers should be given the opportunity and support to improve, but those who cannot do so should not be allowed to remain in the classroom, placing students at risk.

Figure 133	MPROVENENT PLANAFTER RATING EUNSATISACA	EUCIRIE EDR DISMISSAL AFTER		/
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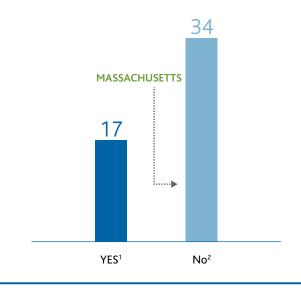
- Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- While results of evaluations may be used in dismissal decisions, there are no specific criteria for a teacher's eligibility for dismissal.
- Improvement plans are only used for teachers in identified "Schools At Risk." Those same teachers are also eligible for dismissal for multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal.
- 5. Teachers in low performing schools can be dismissed after one negative rating.
- Local school boards must include procedures for using evaluation results for the removal of poorly performing teachers.

# T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 134

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



- 1. Strong Practice: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington
- 2. Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, 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.

# 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 Colorado 1, Illinois 1, Michigan 1, New York 1, ensure that this appeal occurs within a Rhode Island 1. Tennessee 1 reasonable time frame. 3. There should be a clear distinction between 8 States Partly Meet Goal 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<sup>1</sup>, Nevada<sup>1</sup>, Ohio<sup>1</sup>, 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 Massachusetts Analysis

# State Partly Meets Goal

# Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

In Massachusetts, a teacher can be dismissed for failing to meet performance standards as measured by the state's new evaluation system.

However, the state does not distinguish the due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance from those facing other charges commonly associated with license revocation, such as a felony and/or morality violations. The process is the same regardless of the grounds for cancellation, which include "inefficiency, incompetency, incapacity, conduct unbecoming a teacher, insubordination or failure on the part of the teacher to satisfy teacher performance standards."

In addition, tenured teachers who are terminated may appeal multiple times. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher has 10 days to appeal and review the decision with the principal or superintendent. If a decision is made to dismiss, within 30 days, the teacher may file an additional appeal with the commissioner for arbitration. The state does not articulate a time frame for this appeal, but the arbitrator's decision must be issued within one month of the completion of the hearing. The arbitrator's decision is subject to judicial review.

For teachers in schools declared underperforming, an expedited hearing with an arbitrator is available, which must be completed within 20 days of the teacher's receipt of notice of dismissal. The state does not articulate whether an appeal is possible.

# Supporting Research

General Law of Massachusetts, Title XII, Chapter 71, Section 42; Chapter 69, Section 1J

### RECOMMENDATION

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. Massachusetts should ensure that appeals related to classroom effectiveness are only decided by those with educational expertise.

### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state also pointed out that arbitrators assigned with determining whether the district has proven adequate grounds for dismissal are required to consider the best interests of the pupils in the district and the need for elevation of performance standards.

#### Figure 136

Do states articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal?

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New York				
North Carolina				
North Dakota				
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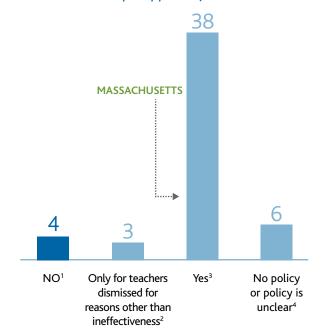
# T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

**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, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, So uth 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).

154 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 MASSACHUSETTS

# 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**

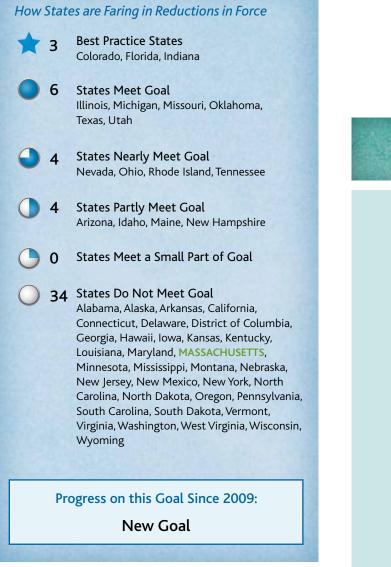
(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

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 Massachusetts Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

## ANALYSIS

In Massachusetts, the factors used to determine which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force consider a teacher's tenure status. School districts may not lay off teachers with "professional teacher status" if there is a teacher "without such status" within the same certification area who could be laid off instead.

#### **Supporting Research**

Massachusetts General Law Title XII, Chapter 71, Section 42

### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

While it is not unreasonable to lay off probationary teachers before those with tenure, doing this without also considering performance is in effect a proxy for seniority-based layoffs and risks sacrificing effective teachers while maintaining low performers. Further, because probationary teachers draw lower salaries, the state may in fact be mandating that districts dismiss a larger number of effective probationary teachers rather than a smaller group of ineffective tenured teachers to achieve the same budget reduction.

Finally, the language in Massachusetts' law might be misinterpreted by districts to suggest that the state is encouraging seniority-based layoffs. The language directly following its reduction-in-force policy effectively permits "bumping," when a senior teachers displaces a more junior teachers from his or her teaching position.

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Massachusetts was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state asserted that "Massachusetts law does not require that seniority be a factor, other than in dividing the teacher pool into those with, and those without, [tenure]."





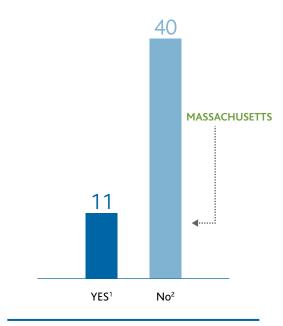
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Wisconsin		
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	11	17

# 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?

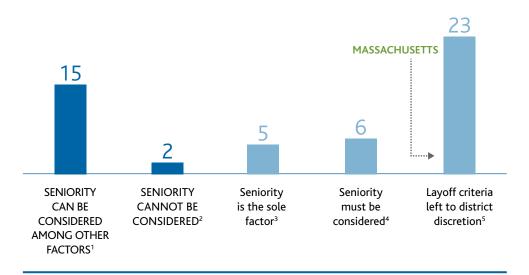


1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah

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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> Sandi Jacobs Vice President sjacobs@nctq.org 202-393-0020