# 2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

## Delaware





#### 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.

## Delaware at a Glance

## Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade:

Overall 2009 Yearbook Grade: D

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

#### **Overall Progress**



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

- Evidence of student learning in teacher evaluations
- Tenure decisions are connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Dismissal for classroom ineffectiveness

## How is **Delaware** Faring?

## Area 1 Delivering Well Prepared Teachers

#### **Policy Strengths**

Middle school teachers may not teach on a K-8 generalist license, and they must appropriately pass a single-subject content test.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Teacher candidates are not required to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- Elementary teachers are not adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with the Common Core Standards.
- Preparation programs are not required to address the science of reading, and candidates are not required to pass a test to ensure knowledge.
- Neither teacher preparation program nor licensure test requirements ensure that new elementary teachers are adequately prepared to teach mathematics.
- Although most secondary teachers must pass a content test to teach a core subject area, some secondary science and social studies teachers are not required to pass content tests for each discipline they intend to teach.

D-

C+

- The state offers a K-12 special education certification.
- 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**

- Alternate route preparation is streamlined and relevant, and induction supports the immediate needs of new teachers.
- There are no restrictions on alternate route usage or providers.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

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

## How is **Delaware** Faring?

## Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers

#### **Policy Strengths**

- The state data system has the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Objective evidence of student learning is the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.
- All teachers must be evaluated annually.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

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

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Teacher compensation is controlled by a state salary schedule based on years of experience and advanced degrees.
- The state does not support performance pay or additional compensation for working in high-need schools or shortage subject areas.
- 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 certain relevant prior work experience.
- The pension system for teachers is well funded.
- Excessive resources are committed to the pension system.
- 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**

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

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Teachers can teach for up to three years before having to pass required subject-matter tests.
- Tenured teachers who are dismissed have multiple opportunities to appeal.

- The state has taken steps to make ineffective classroom performance grounds for dismissal.
- Performance is not considered in determining which teachers to lay off during reductions in force.

Tenure decisions are connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

B

D+

Evidence of teacher effectiveness is a factor in licensure advancement.

## **Delaware** Goal Summary

	Goal Breakdown	
	★ Best Practice	0
	Fully Meets	7
	Nearly Meets	4
	Partially Meets	9
	Only Meets a Small Part	3
8	O Does Not Meet	13
No.	Progress on Goals Since 2009	
]	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	0
	1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	٢
	1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation	١
	1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation	
	1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	•
	1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies	•
	1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation	0
	1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge	0
	1-K: Student Teaching	0
	1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	0
	Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers	
	2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility	0
	2-B: Alternate Route Preparation	•
	2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers	
	2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses	0
	2-E: Licensure Reciprocity	0

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers		
3-A: State Data Systems	•	
3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness	•	
3-C: Frequency of Evaluations	•	
3-D: Tenure	•	
3-E: Licensure Advancement	0	
3-F: Equitable Distribution	٠	
Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers		
4-A: Induction	•	
4-B: Professional Development	•	
4-C: Pay Scales	0	
4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience		
4-E: Differential Pay	0	
4-F: Performance Pay	0	
4-G: Pension Flexibility	•	
4-H: Pension Sustainability	•	
4-I: Pension Neutrality	0	
Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers		
5-A: Licensure Loopholes	0	
5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations	•	
5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance	0	
5-D: Reductions in Force	0	

## About the Yearbook

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

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

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

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

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

## How to Read the Yearbook

NCTQ rates state teacher policy in several ways.

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



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

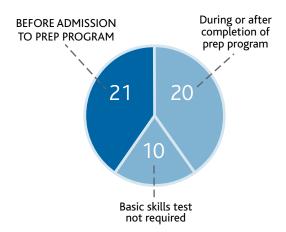


Some goals are marked with this symbol , which indicates that the bar has been raised for this goal since the 2009 *Yearbook*. With many states making considerable progress in advancing teacher effectiveness policy, NCTQ raised the standards for some goals where the bar had been quite low. As this may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

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

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

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



6 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 DELAWARE

## Goals

#### AREA 1: DELIVERING WELL PREPARED TEACHERS

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

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

#### 1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

#### 1-K: Student Teaching

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

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

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

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

#### 2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility

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

#### 2-B: Alternate Route Preparation

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

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

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

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

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

#### 2-E: Licensure Reciprocity

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

#### PAGE 9

#### PAGE 57

## 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**

#### **PAGE 103**

#### 4-A: Induction

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

#### 4-B: Professional Development

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

#### 4-C: Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

#### 4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

#### 4-E: Differential Pay

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

#### 4-F: Performance Pay

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

#### 4-G: Pension Flexibility

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

#### 4-H: Pension Sustainability

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

#### 4-1: 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 DELAWARE

**PAGE 145** 



## 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 **Delaware** Analysis



Raised for this Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

Supporting Research Delaware Administrative Code 14.290

#### 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 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—Delaware 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.

Delaware 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.

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware asserted that while the state does not require an admissions exam, its major colleges/universities require the Praxis I as an admissions requirement for their teacher preparation programs.

#### LAST WORD

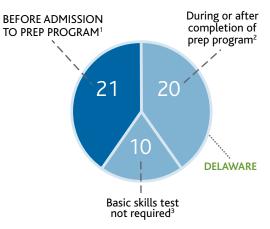
To ensure that all colleges and universities adopt or continue this practice, Delaware is urged to codify the requirement that teacher candidates pass a test of academic proficiency prior to program admission.

## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 3

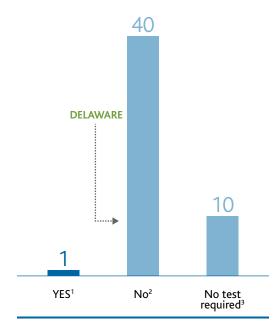
## When do states test teacher candidates' basic skills?



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

#### Figure 2

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



1. Strong Practice: Texas

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

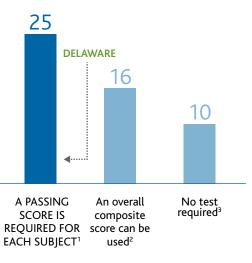
3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

#### Figure 4

Figure 4		Test normed only to the Property of the proper	Test normed only to tess.	, let	
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#### Figure 5

#### Do states measure performance in reading, mathematics and writing?



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

## Goal B – Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

#### Figure 6

How States are Faring in Elementary Teacher Preparation



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



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

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

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

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

**1**:3 ↔:44 ↓:4



## Area 1: Goal B **Delaware** Analysis

#### State Does Not Meet Goal

**Progress Since 2009** 

#### ANALYSIS

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

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

Although the state does not specify any coursework requirements for general education or elementary teacher candidates, Delaware requires NCATE accreditation, suggesting that the state uses the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) standards for approving its elementary programs.

However, ACEI standards fall far short of the mark by offering no mention of world and American history; world, British and American literature; American government; or grammar and composition. ACEI standards do mention important topics in science, but even in those areas, its standards consist mainly of extremely general competencies that programs should help teacher candidates to achieve.

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

Supporting Research Delaware Administrative Code Title 14, Sec. 1521 Praxis II www.ets.org

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

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



#### Require at least an academic concentration.

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

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

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

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

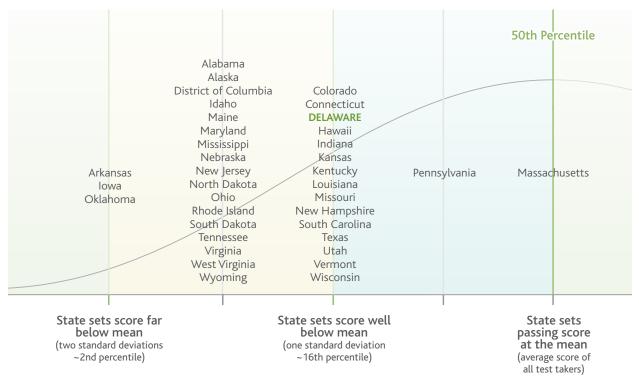


#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

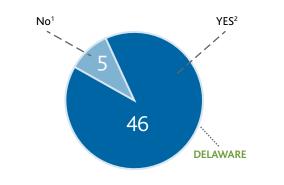
#### Figure 7

#### Where do states set the passing score on elementary content licensure 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.

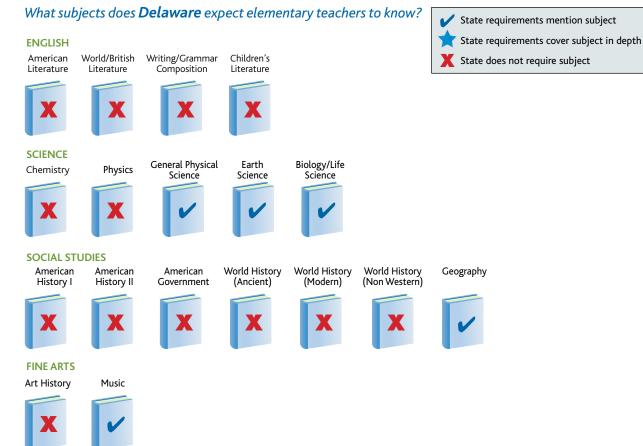
Figure 8 Have states adopted the K-12 Common Core State Standards?



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



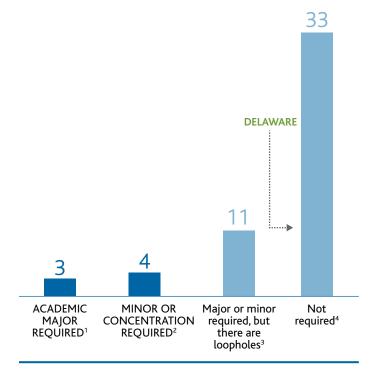
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18 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 DELAWARE

#### Subject mentioned to be subject covered in depth

#### Figure 11

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



- 1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico
- 2. Strong Practice: Indiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Oklahoma
- California, Connecticut, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia These states require a major, minor or concentration but there is no assurance it will be in an academic subject area.
- 4. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyorning



Goal C – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

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

## Area 1: Goal C **Delaware** Analysis

#### State Does Not Meet Goal

**Progress Since 2009** 

#### ANALYSIS

Delaware does not require that teacher preparation programs for elementary teacher candidates address the science of reading. The state has neither coursework requirements nor standards related to this critical area.

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

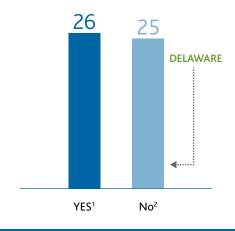


#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

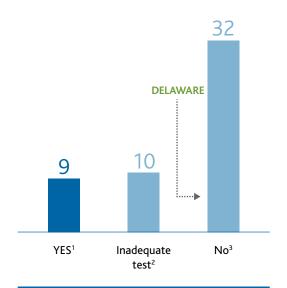
## Do states require preparation for elementary teachers in the science of reading?



- 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
- Based on the limited information available about the test on the state's website.
- 5. Test is under development and not yet available for review.

Figure 15		REPARATION	/	TEST	
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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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	30	States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, DELAWARE, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa , 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 **Delaware** Analysis

#### State Meets a Small Part of Goal

**Progress Since 2009** 

#### ANALYSIS

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

The state does not specify any coursework requirements regarding mathematics content. However, Delaware requires NCATE accreditation, suggesting that the state uses Association for Childhood Educational International (ACEI) standards for approving its elementary programs. ACEI standards address content in mathematics foundations, but these standards lack the specificity needed to ensure that teacher preparation programs deliver other mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates. For example, ACEI algebra standards state that teacher candidates should "know, understand and apply algebraic principles," but these standards make little mention of the actual knowledge that might contribute to such an understanding.

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

#### Supporting Research

Delaware Administrative Code, Title 14, Sec. 1521 www.ets.org/praxis

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

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

#### Require teacher candidates to pass a rigorous mathematics assessment.

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

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

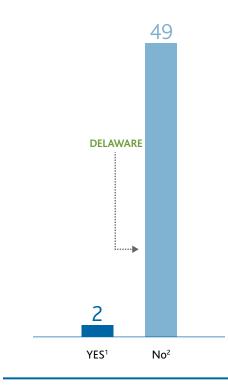


#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 17

Do states articulate appropriate mathematics preparation for elementary teachers?

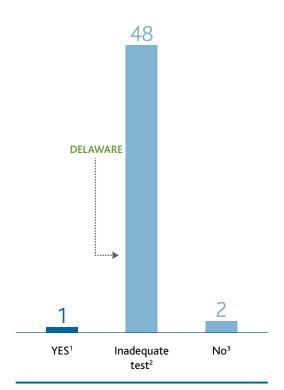


1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Massachusetts

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

#### Figure 18

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



#### 1. Strong Practice: Massachusetts

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

3. Montana, Nebraska

## Goal E – Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

- 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 **Delaware** Analysis

#### State Partly Meets Goal

#### Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Delaware requires middle-level certification for all middle school teachers. It appears, however, that these teachers are only required to complete a teacher preparation program; the state does not explicitly require a major or minor in these subject areas.

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

Supporting Research Delaware Administrative Code, Title 14, Sections 1505, 1531-34 www.ets.org/praxis

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Delaware is commended for not allowing middle school teachers to teach on a K-8 generalist license. But the state should strengthen middle school teachers' subject-matter preparation by encouraging middle school teachers who plan to teach multiple subjects to earn two minors in two core academic subjects.

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware reiterated that it does not allow for a generalist middle school grades certification. The state requires content-specific certification—the Praxis II—for all secondary subject areas, including all middle grades. Further, university programs are governed by NCATE requirements, and Delaware's colleges and universities generally require content-specific preparation for all aspiring middle school teachers.

## **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 **Delaware** Analysis



State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

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

Supporting Research Praxis II Chart

https://deeds.doe.k12.de.us/certificate/deeds\_testing.aspx#p2use

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it does not believe that a "loophole" exists for science certification as currently outlined in state regulation and asserted that a general science exam is not allowed. Candidates must either pass a content-specific exam (e.g., biology, chemistry) or the integrated science exam, which the state requires for educators teaching an integrated science course. The exam, therefore, covers multiple disciplines. Further, Delaware noted that the Department of Education and the Professional Standards Board are currently addressing the application of this regulation by districts.

#### LAST WORD

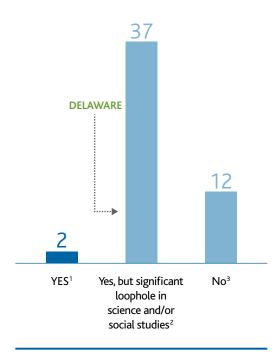
As discussed in Goal 1-G, Delaware's integrated science endorsement is similar to what other states often refer to as general science. The concern with the integrated science exam, like other general science tests, is that separate scores are not reported for each science discipline.

## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 23

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



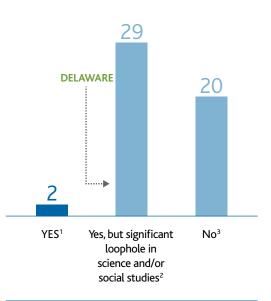
1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

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

#### Figure 24

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





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

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

## Goal G – Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

#### Figure 25 How States are Faring in Preparation to Teach Science **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 **Delaware** Analysis

### State Partly Meets Goal

### Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Delaware issues a secondary certificate for integrated science. Candidates must earn a major or its equivalent in any science discipline or related field. They must also pass the Praxis II "General Science" test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general science but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

The state also offers a secondary certificate for physical science, which requires a major in physics, chemistry, astronomy, space science, engineering or a related field. These candidates must pass the Praxis II "Physical Science" test.

Middle school science teachers in Delaware are required to have a middle-level science teacher certificate. Commendably, candidates must pass the Praxis II "Middle School Science" test.

#### Supporting Research

Delaware Administrative Code Title 14:1543; 14:1533 Praxis Testing Requirements www.ets.org

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

States that allow general science certifications or combination licenses across multiple science disciplines—and only require a general knowledge science exam—are not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. Delaware's required assessments combine subject areas (e.g., chemistry and physics) and do not report separate scores for each subject area. Therefore, candidates could answer many—perhaps all—chemistry questions, for example, incorrectly, yet still be licensed to teach chemistry to high school students.

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware asserted that the statement that teachers with general science licenses are not limited to teaching general science has only recently been made state policy. It is currently under review by the Professional Standards Board.

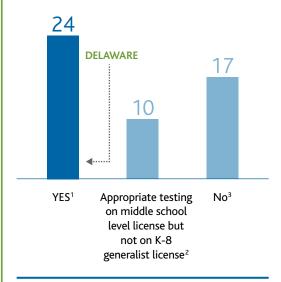
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#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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 **Delaware** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal

### Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Delaware only offers secondary certification in general social studies. Candidates must pass the Praxis II "Social Studies" content test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general social studies but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

Middle school social studies teachers in Delaware are required to have a middle level social studies teacher certificate. Commendably, candidates must pass the Praxis II "Middle School Social Studies" test.

Supporting Research Delaware Administrative Code, Title 14:1534 Praxis Testing Requirements www.ets.org

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

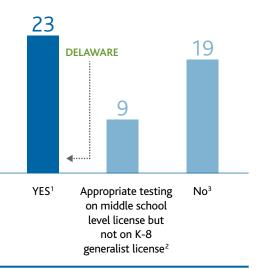
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#### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 30

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



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

#### Figure 29

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





### Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

### Goal I – Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

#### Background

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

#### Figure 31

How States are Faring in Special Education **Teacher Preparation** 



States Meet Goal

State Nearly Meets Goal Massachusetts



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

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

1:3 (+):48 **!**:0

### Area 1: Goal I **Delaware** Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Regrettably, Delaware only offers a K-12 special education certification.

Supporting Research Delaware Administrative Code 14.1571

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### End licensure practices that fail to distinguish between the skills and knowledge needed to teach elementary grades and secondary grades.

It is virtually impossible and certainly impractical for Delaware to ensure that a K-12 special education teacher knows all the subject matter he or she is expected to be able to teach, especially considering state and federal expectations that special education students should meet the same high standards as other students. While the broad K-12 umbrella may be appropriate for teachers of low-incidence special education students, such as those with severe cognitive disabilities, it is deeply problematic for the overwhelming majority of high-incidence special education students, who are expected to learn grade-level content.

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

Delaware should ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess knowledge of the subject matter at hand. Not only should the state require core-subject coursework relevant to the elementary classroom, but it should also require that these candidates pass the same subject-matter test required of all elementary teachers. Failure to ensure that teachers possess requisite content knowledge deprives special education students of the opportunity to reach their academic potential.

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

To make secondary special education teacher candidates more flexible and better able to serve schools and students, Delaware 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).

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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

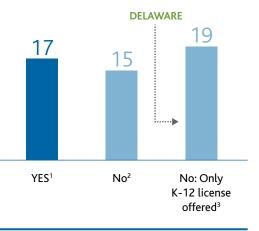
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#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 33

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



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

Figure 32 1. Beginning January 1, 2013

### **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

### Goal J – Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

#### Figure 34

How States are Faring in Assessing Professional Knowledge



**Best Practice States** 



0

23 States Meet Goal Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia 1, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia

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

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

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

1:1 😝 : 49 ↓:1



### Area 1: Goal J **Delaware** Analysis

#### State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

Supporting Research www.ets.org/praxis

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

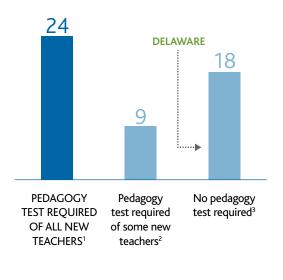
Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

### **★** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 35

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



- Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia
- 2. Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah<sup>4</sup>, Wyoming
- Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin
- 4. Not required until teacher advances from a Level One to a Level Two license.

### **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

### Goal K – Student Teaching

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

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

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

#### State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Delaware requires the completion of a student teaching program approved by a college or university or an alternative deemed appropriate to the program, such as supervised internships or other field-based experience.

The state's definition of a student teaching program also includes "one year of teaching experience within the last year consisting of a minimum of 91 days of long term teaching experience at one assignment during which regular evaluations were conducted, evidencing at least satisfactory performance."

Delaware does not articulate any requirements for cooperating teachers.

Supporting Research Delaware Administrative Code 14:1510

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Delaware 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.

#### DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

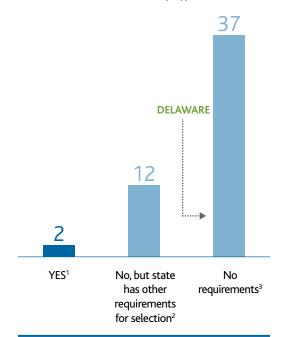
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### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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?* 

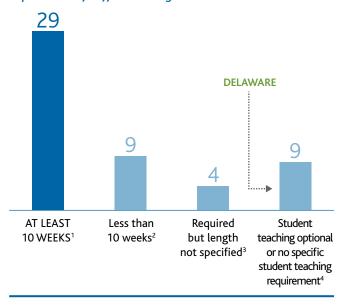


1. Strong Practice: Florida, Tennessee

- 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 1, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia 1 22 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, DELAWARE, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:4 ↔:44 ↓:3

### Area 1: Goal L **Delaware** Analysis

#### State Does Not Meet Goal

💦 Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 🬔

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

The state also fails to collect other objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs, and it does not apply any transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval.

However, Delaware collects and reports some performance data on its alternate route programs, including candidates' five-year retention rates and first and second-year ratings from principal evaluations. Unfortunately, the data are not disaggregated to the level of the individual program providing the preparation; the state instead annually reports aggregate data for all programs preparing teachers under its alternate routes. The state also tracks some important non-performance data, including the percentage of program teachers teaching in shortage areas.

Further, in the past three years, no programs in the state have been identified as low performing—an additional indicator that programs lack accountability.

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

Delaware, a Race to the Top winner, has indicated in its Title II reporting that the state's criteria are being developed during the RttT period. According to the state's application, it will link teacher preparation to student achievement and growth, and plans to publicly report effectiveness data for all programs beginning in the fall of 2012. However, there is no evidence to date of specific policy to support these plans.

#### **Supporting Research**

Title II State Reports https://title2.ed.gov ARTC Report http://www.udel.edu/artc/documents/2009%20DOE%20Annual%20Report.pdf Delaware's Race to the Top Application http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/phase1-applications/delaware.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

In addition to knowing whether programs are producing effective teachers, collecting objective, meaningful data can also indicate whether programs are appropriately screening applicants and whether they are delivering essential academic and professional knowledge. In addition to the data it collects on its alternate route programs, Delaware should gather data such as the following: average raw scores of graduates on licensing tests, including basic skills, subject matter and professional knowledge tests; satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison; evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching; and five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.

#### Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.

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

#### 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, Delaware should present all the data it collects on individual teacher preparation programs. Delaware commendably issues an annual report on its alternate route preparation. However, it would be more useful to the public—especially hiring school districts—if the reports included specific data for each program.

NCTQ acknowledges that Delaware 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.

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware asserted that it has engaged its institutions of higher eduction regarding plans outlined in its Race to the Top application, and has also partnered with the Harvard Strategic Data program on this effort. Delaware has also received a pre-proposal from the RAND organization to partner on the project.

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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.

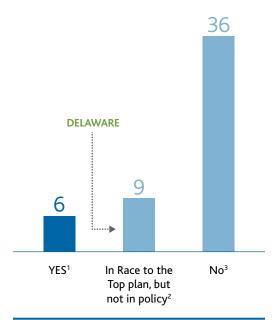


#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

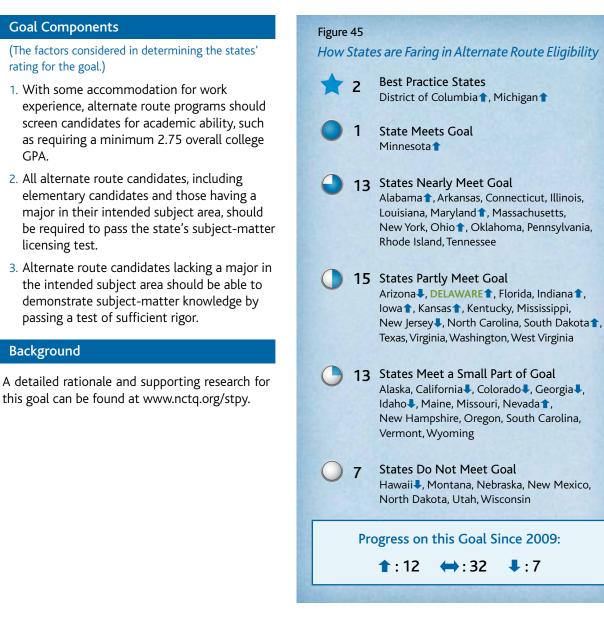
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1. According to information posted on NCATE's website.

### 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.





#### State Partly Meets Goal

#### Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Delaware has four routes to alternative certification. The Alternative Route for Licensure and Certification (ARTC) program, the Masters Plus Certification program (MPCP) in special education, the Teach For America program and the Delaware Teaching Fellows.

The state does not require ARTC or MCPC applicants to show evidence of past academic performance, such as a minimum GPA, as an entrance standard. ARTC candidates must have a major in the content area that they plan to teach. MCPC candidates must be accepted into a graduate program using the university defined requirements.

The state does not set additional requirements for the admission standards to those already in place for the Teach For America or the Delaware Teaching Fellows.

ARTC applicants are not required to pass a subject-matter test prior to admission. Candidates must pass a test of basic skills and a subject-matter test by the end of the next fiscal year after hire. The subject-matter test cannot be used to test out of coursework requirements.

MCPC candidates are required to pass a test of basic skills. Applicants pursing secondary special education must pass a subject-matter test or have 30 credit hours in one of the core academic areas.

Teach For America and Delaware Teaching Fellow applicants are required to pass a subject-matter test prior to admission and may use a passing score on the test to demonstrate subject knowledge in lieu of a content-specific major.

#### **Supporting Research**

Delaware Board Policy Chapter 12, 1260.1.b https://deeds.doe.k12.de.us/registration/deeds\_reg\_artc.aspx HB 102 amending 1260 Title 14 of Delaware code

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Screen all candidates for academic ability.

Delaware should require that candidates to ARTC 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.

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

Although Delaware requires Teach For America and Delaware Teaching Fellow candidates to pass a subject-matter test prior to admission, the requirement that candidates in other routes have up to a year from the date of hire to demonstrate content knowledge is ineffective. The concept behind alternate routes is that the nontraditional candidate is able to concentrate on acquiring professional knowledge and skills because he or she has strong subject-area knowledge. Teachers without sufficient subject-matter knowledge place students at risk.

#### Offer flexibility in fulfilling coursework requirements.

Delaware should allow any candidate who already has the requisite knowledge and skills to demonstrate such by passing a rigorous test. Rigid coursework requirements could dissuade talented individuals who lack precisely the right courses from pursuing a career in teaching.

#### Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

The state's requirement that alternate route candidates pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffectual, particularly since individuals have up to a year to take and pass the test. Basic skills tests measure minimum competency—essentially those skills that a person should have acquired in middle school—and are inappropriate for candidates who have already earned a bachelor's degree. Passage of a basic skills test provides no assurance that the candidate has the appropriate subject-matter knowledge needed for the classroom. The state should eliminate the basic skills test requirement or, at a minimum, accept the equivalent in SAT, ACT or GRE scores.

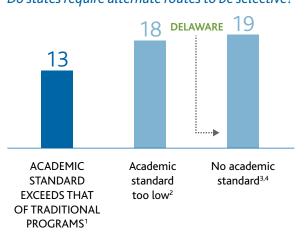
#### DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

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Are states' alternate routes selective yet flexible in admissions?	ACADEMIC STANDARD E ADMISSION EXCEMAD E TRADITION EXCEMAD E	Subject year the test	NO MAJOR RECURED C FIST CAN BE USED IN LIE OF MAJOR BE USED IN LIE
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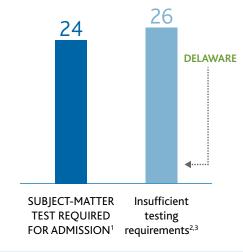
#### Figure 47 Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



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

#### Figure 48

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



- 1. 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

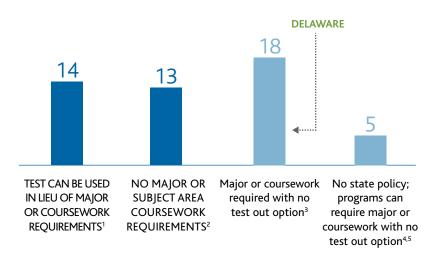
1. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

### 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.

# How States are Faring in Alternate Route Preparation

Figure 50

 Best Practice State Connecticut
 States Meet Goal Arkansas, DELAWARE 1, Georgia, New Jersey

#### 7 States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama, Florida, Maryland<sup>1</sup>, Mississippi, Rhode Island<sup>1</sup>, South Carolina, Virginia

#### 11 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska, California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada , New Mexico, New York, Ohio , South Dakota, West Virginia

- 18 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa , Kansas , Michigan , Minnesota , Missouri, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming
  - 10 States Do Not Meet Goal Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont, Wisconsin

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

**1**:8 ↔:42 ↓:1

### Area 2: Goal B **Delaware** Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Delaware offers its alternate route candidates streamlined preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers.

Prior to taking responsibility for a classroom, all Alternative Route for Teacher Licensure and Certification (ARTC) candidates must complete a seminar/practicum of no fewer than 120 clock hours. This includes professional development and introduction of basic teaching skills through a supervised teaching experience. While teaching, an additional 200 hours of coursework in the areas of curriculum, student development and learning, and classroom management is also required. This coursework consists of five graduate-level courses completed through the University of Delaware.

Intensive induction is provided during the first 10 weeks of school. Mentoring is provided for at least 30 weeks and may continue for up to two years. Four cycles of mentoring are available, including Creating a Classroom Environment, Designing Instructional Experiences, Assessment for Student Learning and Professional Growth Planning. During the first two cycles, new teachers are provided with time to talk with colleagues, observe veteran teachers and reflect on their performance, in addition to meeting with their mentors. Cycles three and four involve a learning-team format and preparing a professional growth plan.

ARTC candidates have up to three years to earn certification, but ARTC courses are designed to be completed within 12-18 months.

The Teach For America (TFA) program requires candidates to complete a five-week intensive training program, which includes practice teaching, during the summer. Coursework is focused on leadership, instructional planning and delivery, classroom management, diversity, learning theory and literacy development. Throughout the two-year program, TFA corps members receive one-on-one coaching.

The Delaware Teaching Fellows complete a six-week intensive training institute that includes a practiceteaching assignment, sessions designed to delve into a curriculum focused on student standards, foundations of teaching, classroom management and other skills necessary to become an effective teacher in a high-need school.

Supporting Research

https://deeds.doe.k12.de.us/registration/deeds\_reg\_artc.aspx

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware stated that "each alternative route program is structured differently. While the clock hour requirements and other requirements hold constant under state code, the means by which candidates obtain them vary." The state also asserted that all new teachers participate in the state's new teachermentoring program/requirements.

1.54

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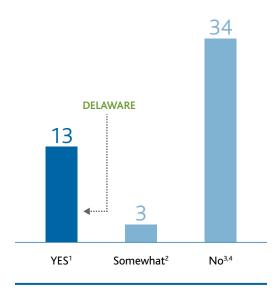
### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

1. Florida requires practice teaching or intensive mentoring.

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

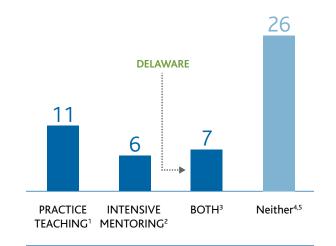
# Do states curb excessive coursework requirements?



- 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

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

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

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Delaware's Alternative Route for Teacher Licensure and Certification (ARTC) is only available for candidates seeking certification in certain critical needs secondary subjects and K-12 Music and Art.

ARTC is a partnership between the Department of Education and the University of Delaware. The state requires National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standards for approval of ARTC programs, precluding entities other than institutions of higher education from providing programs.

Delaware also authorizes Teach For America as an alternate route for all grade levels, subjects and geographic areas; however, this policy is set to expire in April 2012. If not renewed, the state would no longer meet this goal, as ARTC has both subject and provider limitations.

Supporting Research Title 14 Chapter 1260

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Broaden usage for all alternate routes.

Delaware should reconsider grade-level and subject-area restrictions on the ARTC. Alternate routes should not be programs of last resort for hard-to-staff subjects, grade levels or geographic areas but rather a way to expand the teacher pipeline throughout the state.

#### Encourage diversity of alternate route providers.

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

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of NCTQ's analysis but noted that proposed language that would allow nontraditional providers such as The New Teacher Project to operate in the state is designed to take effect October 2011.

#### **Supporting Research**

http://regulations.delaware.gov/register/august2011/proposed/15%20DE%20Reg%20146%2008-01-11.htm

# 6.54

# Figure 55 Are states' alternate routes free from

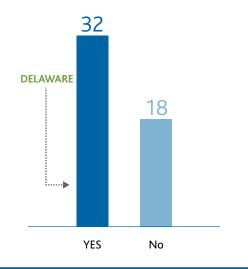
Figure 55		DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS
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West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	32	29

### **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

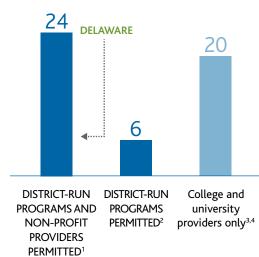
Can alternate route teachers teach any subject or grade anywhere in the state?



#### Figure 55 and 56

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

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



- 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, Vermont⁵, West Virginia
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho<sup>6</sup>, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi<sup>6</sup>, Missouri<sup>6</sup>, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey<sup>7</sup>, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina<sup>6</sup>, South Dakota, Utah<sup>6</sup>, Wyoming
- 4. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 5. Districts can run Peer Review programs only.
- 6. ABCTE is also an approved provider.
- 7. Permits school districts to provide programs without university partnerships in some circumstances.

Figure 58 Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification?	CENUINE OR NEARLY	Atternate route that needs	Offered nute is disingen
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Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota <sup>1</sup>			
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Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	7	25	18

#### Figure 58

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

#### Figure 58

Figure 59		UH	5 /	/	) OS	. /	/	¥0/q	/	4
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routes?	PREREQUISITE OF CT.	VERIFICATION OF SUL	AVAILABILITY OF TECT	STREAMLINED CO.	RELEVANT COURCE.	REASONABLE PROGRAM LE	RACTICE TEACHING	BROAD USAGE	DIVERSITY OF PROVINC	
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Utah										
Vermont										
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Washington										
West Virginia										
Wisconsin										
Wyoming										
	13	24	27	13	12	29	24	32	29	

70 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 DELAWARE

## Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

## Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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

Figure 60 How States are Faring in Part Time Teaching Licenses **Best Practice State** 1 Arkansas 2 States Meet Goal Florida, Georgia 5 States Nearly Meet Goal Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah States Partly Meet Goal California, Louisiana, Ohio, Oklahoma States Meet a Small Part of Goal 6 Colorado, Kansas, Mississippi, Montana, New York, Washington 33 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, DELAWARE, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

New Goal

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

## State Does Not Meet Goal

### **ANALYSIS**

Delaware 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.

Delaware 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.

### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state contended, however, that given the current supply of highly-qualified and better-prepared teachers, the state sees no reason to waive basic licensure requirements. The state asserted that traditional or alternate route preparation is preferable to what NCTQ proposes in this goal.

### LAST WORD

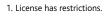
A part-time license such as this can be helpful in allowing districts to fill shortage areas, such as physics, with content experts who may not be interested in teaching full time and thus are unlikely to be willing to complete a preparation program, even through an alternate route.

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

	YES	No
Alabama		
Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California	1	
Colorado		
Connecticut		
DELAWARE		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
lowa		
Kansas	2	
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Louisiana	1	
Maine		
Maryland		
Massachusetts		
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Minnesota		
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Montana		
Nebraska		
Nevada		
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico		
New York	2	
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio	1	
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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.



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

## Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

## Goal E – Licensure Reciprocity

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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

### Figure 62 How States are Faring in Licensure Reciprocity **Best Practice States** 2 Alabama, Texas States Meet Goal 3 States Nearly Meet Goal Idaho, Ohio, Washington 13 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska, DELAWARE, Illinois 1, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin 15 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon 1, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Wyoming 18 States Do Not Meet Goal Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Carolina, Vermont

### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

★:2 ↔:49 ↓:0

## Area 2: Goal E **Delaware** Analysis

State Partly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

Regrettably, Delaware allows a waiver for its licensing tests to any out-of-state teacher who has passed a test in a previous state, regardless of whether he or she had met its passing scores.

Teachers with current, comparable out-of-state certificates are eligible for Delaware's Continuing License. Commendably, the state does not mandate additional coursework or impose recency requirements; however, Delaware does require that all out-of-state teachers (both traditional and alternate routes) have at least three years of experience. Those with less may apply for the state's Initial License.

Delaware 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

Delaware Administrative Code Title 14, Section 1505, 1511

### RECOMMENDATION

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

Delaware takes considerable risk by granting a waiver for its licensing tests to any out-of-state teacher who has passed a test in another state. It should not provide any waivers of its teacher tests unless an applicant can provide evidence of a passing score under its own standards.

### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware asserted that it distinguishes between teacher candidates earning licensure and earning certification. Candidates are not granted a waiver for test scores when applying from another state unless they have earned a full and valid certificate in their previous state. When this is not the case (i.e, test scores do not meet Delaware's standards), the state does not issue a standard certificate in that content area. Also, candidates are not required to have three years of teaching experience to earn licensure or certification. Rather, the state distinguishes again between those eligible for continuing licensure versus initial licensure.

### LAST WORD

Teachers applying for licensure from states with lower testing standards than Delaware will likely have earned a full and valid certificate and therefore would not be held to Delaware's standards. Evidence should be required of all out-of-state teachers that they meet Delaware's testing standards.

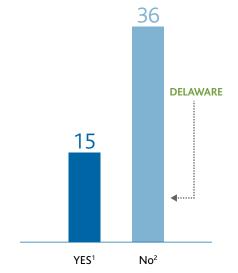
# 1.54

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

### Figure 63

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



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

### Figure 64

1. For traditionally prepared teachers only.

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

Figure 64	NO STRINGE RECIPROCITION	HE /	/	
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Wisconsin				
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	2			

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Figure 65	(0		ese .
Do states treat out-of-stat	STATE REALS TEACHERS	State Specifies different counte transits different route teaches for alternate	Differ has policies with the for allemant route create obstacles for allemante 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, Idaho 🕇 , Illinois 🕇 , Indiana 🕇 , number that connects student data across Iowa<sup>1</sup>, Kansas<sup>1</sup>, Kentucky, Louisiana, key databases across years; Maryland 1, Massachusetts 1, Minnesota 1, b. A unique teacher identifier system that Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska1, New can match individual teacher records with Hampshire 1, New Mexico, New York 1, North individual student records; and Carolina, North Dakota 1, 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 **Delaware** Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

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

Supporting Research Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org

### RECOMMENDATION

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

A definition of teacher of record is necessary in order to use the student-teacher data link for the purpose of providing value-added evidence of teacher effectiveness. Delaware utilizes its HQT definition to determine teacher of record. For elementary schools, the primary homeroom teacher is the teacher of record. For middle and secondary schools, the master schedule teacher is the teacher of record. However, to ensure that data provided through the state data system are actionable and reliable, Delaware should articulate a more distinct definition of teacher of record and require its consistent use throughout the state.

### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware noted that it uses the PHRST system to identify teachers. Teachers' assigned numbers in the state's payroll system become their identification numbers of record in Delaware's database.

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



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Alabama			
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Connecticut			
DELAWARE			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia			
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Idaho			
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Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			-
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	50	35	50

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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



Key

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

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

## Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

### Background

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

### Figure 68

*How States are Faring in Evaluating Teacher Effectiveness* 



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

State Meets Goal

Raised for this Goal 🕜 Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

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

The state now requires a uniform teacher evaluation based on student achievement. Teachers cannot be rated "effective" unless they have met growth targets. When it comes to measuring student improvement, a teacher's students must collectively demonstrate appropriate levels of student growth as benchmarked against standards to be set by the secretary based on input from stakeholder groups.

Further, classroom observations are required, as are the following four evaluation categories: highly effective, effective, needs improvement and ineffective.

**Supporting Research** 

Delaware Administrative Code 14.106A

### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that NCTQ's description of its statewide evaluation system, DPAS II, does not reflect Charlotte Danielson's framework and the accompanying evidence rubrics, which are the foundation for components one to four of the evaluation system.

Supporting Research http://www.doe.k12.de.us/csa/dpasii/default.shtml



Figure 69	REQURES THAT STUDENT ACHERENENTAT STUDENT THE PREPONDED CONDENT	Techer evaluation of the transformed of the transformed of the transformed of the transformed of the to be	Teacher evaluations much	_ /	
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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

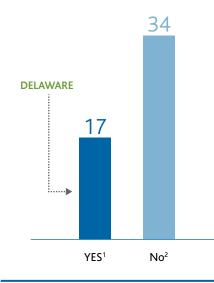
■ Artifacts of student work connected to specific student learning standards that are randomly selected for review by the principal or senior faculty, scored using rubrics and descriptors

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?



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

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

Figure 73		State-designed teacher evaluation with diacher	ų /	District designed minimal input ed Syster.	ji /	
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South Carolina		2				
South Dakota						
Tennessee		2				
Texas		2				
Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
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1. State approval required.

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

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

## Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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

### Figure 74 How States are Faring in Frequency of Evaluations **Best Practice States** 0 9 States Meet Goal Alabama 1, Idaho, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island 1, Tennessee 1, Washington 13 States Nearly Meet Goal Arizona, Colorado 1, DELAWARE 1, Florida 1, Georgia, Indiana<sup>1</sup>, Minnesota<sup>1</sup>, New York, North Carolina<sup>1</sup>, Ohio<sup>1</sup>, Pennsylvania, Utah<sup>1</sup>, Wyoming 9 States Partly Meet Goal Connecticut, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana 1, Maryland, Michigan 1, Nebraska, South Carolina, West Virginia States Meet a Small Part of Goal 2 Arkansas, Missouri 18 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:13 •:37 ↓:1

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

### State Nearly Meets Goal

### Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

Although nonprobationary teachers who earn a "highly effective" rating on their most recent summative evaluation—as well as those who earn an "effective" rating plus four "satisfactory" ratings on at least four of the components (including Student Improvement)—are only required to receive one announced observation a year, with a summative evaluation once every two years, the Student Improvement component is evaluated annually. All other nonprobationary teachers must receive one announced and one unannounced observations, as well as an annual summative evaluation.

New teachers in Delaware must receive at least two announced observations and one unannounced one, with an annual summative evaluation. It does not appear that the state articulates when the first observation should occur.

### Supporting Research

Delaware Administrative Code 14.106A

### RECOMMENDATION

### Base evaluations on multiple observations.

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

### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



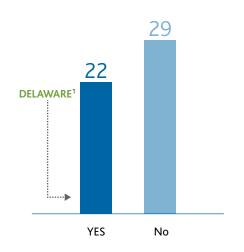
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South Carolina			
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Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	22	43	

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

### Figure 76

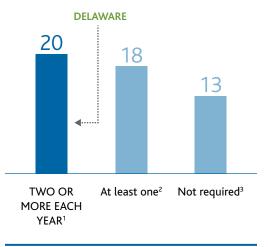
Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



#### Figures 75 and 76

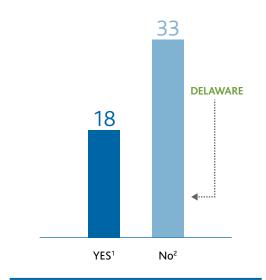
- Although highly effective teachers are only required to receive a summative evaluation once every two years, the student improvement component is evaluated annually.
- 2. All District of Columbia Public Schools teachers are evaluated at least annually.

Figure 77 *Do states require classroom observations?* 



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

## Area 3: Goal D **Delaware** Analysis

### State Nearly Meets Goal

### Raised for this Goal OProgress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

Delaware is on the right track in connecting tenure decisions to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

The state now requires that probationary teachers show two years of satisfactory student growth-evidenced by satisfactory ratings in the "student improvement" component of the teacher appraisal process—within a three-year period before they earn tenure.

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

### Supporting Research

Delaware Code, Chapter 14, Section 1403(a)(2)

### RECOMMENDATION

### Ensure the probationary period is adequate.

To ensure tenure decisions are based on adequate assessment and sufficient evidence of teacher effectiveness in the classroom, Delaware should consider extending the time before teachers can earn tenure and requiring that probationary teachers earn at least three consecutive "effective" ratings prior to the award of tenure.

### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware asserted that technically, it does not grant "tenure," although many of the traditional functions of tenure have historically applied.

### LAST WORD

For the purposes of this goal, the term "tenure" refers to the point at which a teacher is granted nonprobationary status.

### 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							
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 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.

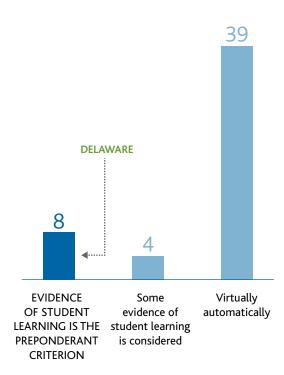
2. Teachers who receive two years of ineffective evaluations are dismissed.

#### 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 $\square$ District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana lowa $\square$ Kansas Kentucky $\square$ Louisiana Maine $\square$ Maryland Massachusetts $\square$ Π Michigan Minnesota Mississippi $\square$ Missouri Montana $\square$ Nebraska Nevada $\square$ New Hampshire New Jersey $\square$ New Mexico New York $\square$ North Carolina North Dakota Ohio $\square$ Oklahoma 2 Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina $\square$ South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming $\square$ 8 4 39

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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





#### Figure 81

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

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

## Goal E – Licensure Advancement

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

### **Goal Components**

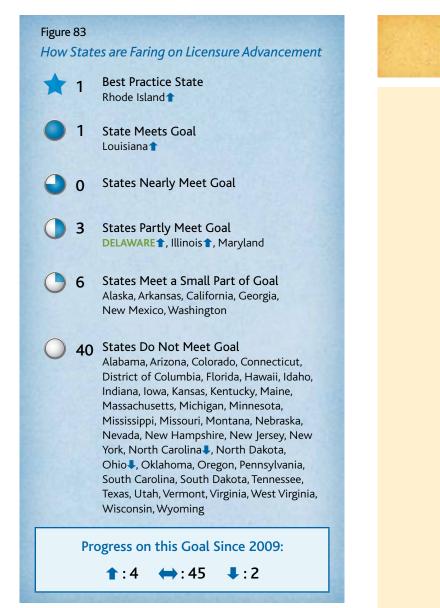
(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

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

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

### Background

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



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

### **ANALYSIS**

Delaware's policies for teacher licensing factor evidence of effectiveness into licensure advancement.

Delaware uses a three-tier licensure system; the Initial license, the Continuing license and the Advanced license. To advance from Initial Licensure to Continuing Licensure, applicants must complete a mentoring program and demonstrate satisfactory annual summative evaluations for the period of Initial Licensure. The state requires that teachers have not received more than one unsatisfactory annual evaluation on the state's performance-based teacher evaluation system (which factors student growth as a preponderant criterion into teacher ratings) during the period of Initial Licensure. Advanced Licensure is available for those teachers certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

However, Delaware does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Most Delaware teachers hold a continuing license, which must be renewed every five years through the completion of 90 clock hours of professional development or six semester hours of graduate school credit.

### Supporting Research

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/csa/profstds/renewal/profstds\_GdelinesrRnwaltLicManual.pdf http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title14/1500/1510.shtml#TopOfPage http://www.doe.k12.de.us/csa/profstds/renewal/profstds\_GdelinesrRnwaltLicManual.pdf

### RECOMMENDATION

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

Delaware commendably connects its strong evaluation system (see Goal 3-B) to licensure advancement. Although it need not set the standard for denying licensure—the right to practice in the state-that might result in termination from a particular position, Delaware should consider whether its current policy, which allows a single ineffective rating, is appropriate and sufficient. Further, the state should also factor evaluation evidence into decisions about license renewal.

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

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

### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

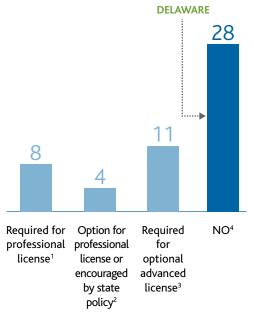
Figure 84	OBJECTIVE ENDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS IS REQUIRED	/	Consideration Performance bliven to teacher Potied to classion effectivers (classion effectivers)	sa /
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### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

**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?

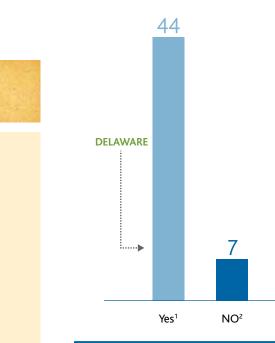


- Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New York and Oregon all require a master's degree or coursework equivalent to a master's degree
- 2. Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, U tah,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

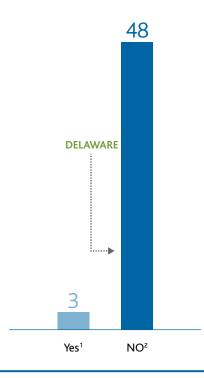
Do states require teachers to take additional, nonspecific coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



- 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>0 States Meet Goal</li> <li>0 States Nearly Meet Goal</li> </ul>
a. percentage of new teachers; b. percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once;	6 States Partly Meet Goal 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	<b>DELAWARE</b> , District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho <b>1</b> , 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 1, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah 1, Vermont 1, 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.	Alabama, Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Wyoming
Background	Progress on this Goal Since 2009:
A detailed rationale and supporting research for	<b>↑</b> :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. Delaware reports little school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent among schools within districts.

Delaware does not collect and 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, but it does report at the school-level the ratio of new to veteran teachers. The state provides district-level data on the percentage of teachers on emergency credentials. However the data has not been updated since the 2006-2007 school year. While Delaware does not report on teacher absenteeism rates, it does report school-level data on the percentage of highly qualified teachers and years of teaching experience of the staff. The state is commended for comparing the percentage of highly qualified teachers at high and low-poverty schools.

### Supporting Research

Delaware Education State Report Card 2006-2007 http://www.doe.k12.de.us/reports\_data/reportcard/de\_edreportcard200607v2.pdf Delaware Highly Qualified Teacher Statistics 2010-2011 http://profiles.doe.k12.de.us/SchoolProfiles/State/Default.aspx Delaware School Report Card 2010-2011 http://profiles.doe.k12.de.us/SchoolProfiles/School/Default.aspx

### 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. Delaware 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.

Delaware 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 Delaware 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.

### Report data at the school level.

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

### Ensure that data are current.

It is important to keep data updated and current in order to provide the public with an accurate picture of teacher distribution across schools in districts. While Delaware has kept the majority of its data up-to-date, the state has not issued a new state report card since the 2006-2007 school year.

### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 89	AN NDEX FOR EACH SCHOOL THAT INCLE OR EACH SCHOOL TACKER DU WIT ACTOR	PREENTAGE OF TAA	PERCENTAGE OF NO.	, sy	/	/	4,
Do states publicly	H SCL		15. 15.	EACH	ANNUAL TURNOUS	74 JE	1847
report school-level	S EAC	EX LE				EFIC.	Voi
data about teachers?	E E C	HLIT FOR			KNO K	SENT	
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Alabama	₹₩,	/ <i>* &amp;</i> □	/ ₩	PERCENTAGE OF HIGH.	/ र / □	TEACHERABSENTEERS	
Alaska							
Arizona							
Arkansas							
California							
Colorado							
Connecticut							
DELAWARE							
District of Columbia							
Florida Georgia							
Hawaii							
Idaho							
Illinois							
Indiana							
lowa							
Kansas							
Kentucky							
Louisiana							
Maine							
Maryland							
Massachusetts Michigan							
Minnesota							
Mississippi							
Missouri							
Montana							
Nebraska							
Nevada							
New Hampshire							
New Jersey							
New Mexico							
New York North Carolina							
North Dakota							
Ohio							
Oklahoma							
Oregon							
Pennsylvania							
Rhode Island							
South Carolina							
South Dakota							
Tennessee							
Texas							
Utah							
Vermont Virginia							
Washington							
West Virginia							
Wisconsin							
Wyoming							
	0	18	10	41	6	5	
					•		

T 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**

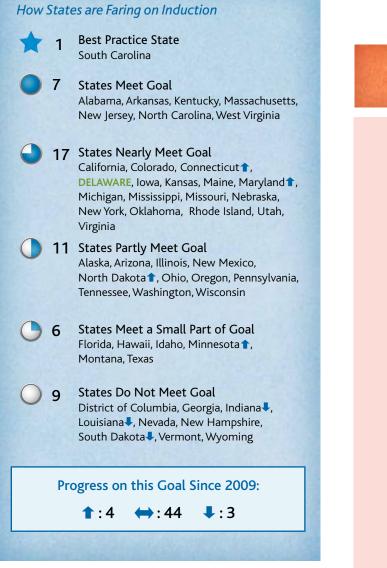
(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 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 **Delaware** Analysis

### State Nearly Meets Goal

### Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

Delaware requires that all new teachers receive mentoring. The state's "New Educator Mentoring Program" mandates that all new teachers are assigned mentors for their first year in the profession, with continuing support throughout years two and three. New teachers and their mentors must meet at least 30 documented hours during the first year of employment. New teachers are also required to participate in workshops and other activities offered as part of this program.

Mentors are required to complete training and coaching development classes and receive an annual stipend based on schedules adopted annually by the Professional Standards Board and the State Board of Education.

Supporting Research Delaware Administrative Code 14.1503

### RECOMMENDATION

### Expand guidelines to include other key areas.

While still leaving districts flexibility, Delaware should articulate minimum guidelines for a highquality induction experience. The state should set a timeline in which mentors are assigned to new teachers, ideally soon after the commencing of teaching, to offer support during those critical first weeks of school. Mentors should also be required to be trained in a content area or grade level similar to that of the new teacher, and the state should mandate a method for performance evaluation.

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

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

**DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

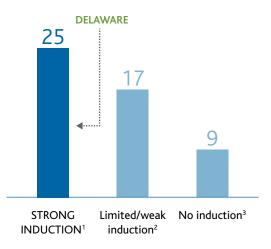
Figure 91 Do states have policies that articulate the elements of effective	MENTORING FOR ALL	MENTORING SUFER	NC PROLUCE	CARENL SELECTION	MENTORS MUST	NENTORSPROGRAM	MENTOR IS COMM.	USE OF A VARETY OF EFFECTIVE
induction?	MENTON TEACHER	MENTOR	MENTOR	CAREFUL S	MENTOR	MENTORSIPROC	MENTOR	UCTIC NDUCTIC
Alabama								
Alaska								
Arizona Arkansas								
California								
Colorado								
Connecticut								
DELAWARE								
District of Columbia								
Florida								
Georgia								
Hawaii								
Idaho Illinois								
Indiana								
lowa								
Kansas								
Kentucky								
Louisiana								
Maine								
Maryland								
Massachusetts								
Michigan								
Minnesota								
Mississippi								
Missouri Montana								
Nebraska								
Nevada								
New Hampshire								
New Jersey								
New Mexico								
New York								
North Carolina								
North Dakota								
Ohio Oklahoma								
Oregon								
Pennsylvania								
Rhode Island								
South Carolina								
South Dakota								
Tennessee								
Texas								
Utah								
Vermont								
Virginia								
Washington West Virginia								
Wisconsin								
Wyoming								
	30	18	9	17	28	12	21	17

### 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 **Delaware** Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

Delaware requires that teachers receive feedback from their evaluations during an end-of-year Summative Evaluation Conference. The state also specifies that findings shared during the Summative Evaluation Conference should be used to inform a teacher's future professional development activities. In addition, for teachers on improvement plans, required professional development activities must be aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.

#### **Supporting Research**

Delaware Performance Appraisal System II http://www.doe.k12.de.us/csa/dpasii/ti/dpasII\_TeachDPASIIGuide.pdf

### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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

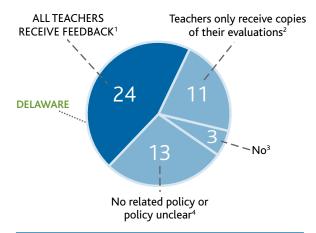
EVALUATION INFORMS ALL TEACHERS RECEIVE FEEDBAG Alabama Alaska  $\square$ Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut DELAWARE District of Columbia  $\square$ Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana lowa Kansas  $\square$ Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey  $\square$ 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 24 12

## **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.

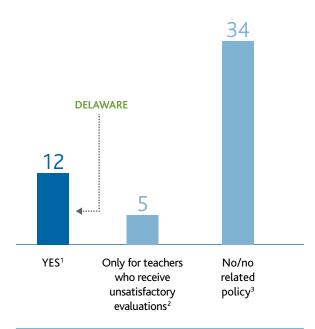
#### Figure 94

#### 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

# Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



- Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wyoming
- 2. Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Texas
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi<sup>4</sup>, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 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 4:0

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

## State Does Not Meet Goal

```
Progress Since 2009
```

## **ANALYSIS**

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

Supporting Research Delaware Code Title 14 Section 1305

### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware contended that while the state does provide the minimum salary component, districts do have the flexibility to set local schedules as they see fit. The state provides equal funding for each teacher's position, regardless of district. Local schedules have the potential to be adjusted based upon factors they deem relevant.

## 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 <i>What role does the state</i>		5ets minimum salary	DISTRICTS SET SALARY
play in deciding teacher pay rates?	Sets minimum salary schedule	num s	IS SET
payrates.	ts min ary sch	<sup>5</sup> minii	STRIC. HEDUL
Alabama	sal,		
Alaska Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado <sup>1</sup>			
Connecticut			
DELAWARE			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine			
Maryland			
Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Mississippi			
Missouri			
Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island <sup>2</sup>			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	16	8	27

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

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

Figure 99	Decoures Perconnauce ADVANCED DECRETHANCE	1	Requires compensation for advanced degrees
Do states discourage	E TH	, /	<sup>1</sup> sati
districts from basing	FCR FCR	to	deg
teacher pay on advanced	EDC	liscre a	Leo 2
degrees?	10 X	ict '	Puire Idva,
-	8 Q Q	Le <sub>ë</sub> dist <sub>i</sub>	for e
Alabama		district discretion	
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
DELAWARE			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia Hawaii			
Hawaii Idaho			
Idano Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine			
Maryland			
Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Mississippi			
Missouri			
Montana		-	
Nebraska		_	
Nevada		-	
New Hampshire		-	
New Jersey New Mexico		-	
New York		-	
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island		1	
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas		2	
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia Washington			
Washington West Virginia			
west vilginia			
Wisconsin			
Wisconsin Wyoming			
Wisconsin Wyoming	3	32	

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 DELAWARE

## 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 **Delaware** Analysis

## State Partly Meets Goal

## Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

In Delaware, local districts are encouraged to compensate some teachers for related prior subject-area experience. The state only awards credit for subject-related professional experience to teachers of trade and industry. This type of experience is on a year-for-year basis.

Supporting Research Delaware Code Title 14 Section 1312(b)

#### RECOMMENDATION

Expand policy to encourage local districts to compensate all new teachers with relevant prior work experience.

Delaware should not limit this policy to teachers of trade and industry. Such compensation would be attractive to career changers in other fields, such as in the STEM subjects.

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

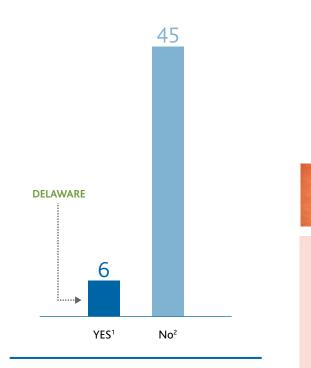
Delaware pointed out that the state also compensates new teachers for years of service in the military. New teachers who have earned a GPA of 3.75 or higher are also awarded one year of experience. In Delaware, "years of experience" has consistently meant "years of teaching."

## 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 **Delaware** Analysis

## State Does Not Meet Goal

**Progress Since 2009** 

### ANALYSIS

Delaware neither supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects nor offers incentives to teach in high-needs schools. However, the state has no regulatory language that would directly block districts from providing differential pay.

Teachers who are National Board Certified are eligible to receive an annual 12-percent increase in base pay for a period of ten years. However, this type of differential pay is not tied to high-needs schools or subject-area shortages.

Supporting Research Delaware National Board Certification http://www.doe.k12.de.us/news/2007/0110.shtml

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware noted that through Race to the Top, both the state and local educational agencies are addressing this policy area via several different approaches: the state's Retention Bonus program to be initiated in the 2011-2012 school year, district creation of talent recruitment and/or talent retention bonuses, and the state's Teacher-Leader initiative, whereby each district with high-needs schools is required to hire/ promote a teacher into a teacher-leadership role (and provide additional compensation for these teachers).

Figure 103 Do states provide		HIGH NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE		
incentives to teach in				AREAS		
	4	less		less		
high-need schools	<sup>1</sup> LN	Silver	<sup>1</sup> LN	Siver	ts.	
or shortage subject	FERE	For	FERE	For	ddns	
areas?	DIFFERENTIAL	Loan Folgiveness	DIFFERENTIAL PAY	Loar	No support	
Alabama				Loan Forgiveness		
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	
	21	1	17		1/	

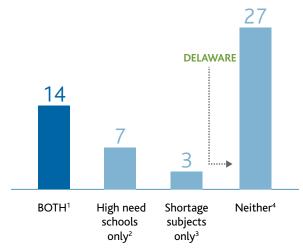
- Connecticut offers mortgage assistance and incentives to retired teachers working in shortage subject areas.
- Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 3.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

## State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

## ANALYSIS

Delaware does not support performance pay. The state does not have any policies in place that offer teachers additional compensation based on evidence of effectiveness. However, the state's plans for the future include tying compensation to teacher effectiveness.

#### Supporting Research

Delaware Education Plan Overview (Oct 2010) http://www.doe.k12.de.us/rttt/files/DEEducationPlanOverview.pdf

## RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

## **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware referred to its response to Goal 4-E, describing the state's Race to the Top program.

**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?	E FACTORED	PERCORNANCE BON	L TEACHERS	State-Sonsored Perfi-	Mered in select rt	
	PERFORMANCE FACTORES	PERFORMANCE AVAILABLE TOCE	Performance pay Permin	State-Sponsor Pay initiatives	Does not support	
Alabama						
Alaska						
Arizona						
Arkansas						
California						
Colorado						_
Connecticut						
DELAWARE						_ 1
District of Columbia						
Florida						- 1
Georgia						
Hawaii						
Idaho Illinois						
Indiana						
lowa						
Kansas						
Kentucky						
Louisiana						
Maine						
Maryland						
Massachusetts						
Michigan						
Minnesota						
Mississippi						
Missouri						
Montana						
Nebraska <sup>1</sup>						
Nevada						
New Hampshire						_
New Jersey						
New Mexico						_
New York						
North Carolina						
North Dakota Ohio						
Oklahoma						
Oregon						
Pennsylvania						
Rhode Island						
South Carolina						
South Dakota						
Tennessee						
Texas						
Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
	3	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

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

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

Vesting in a defined benefit plan guarantees a teacher's eligibility to receive lifetime monthly benefit payments at retirement age. Nonvested teachers do not have a right to later retirement benefits; they may only withdraw the portion of their funds allowed by the plan. Delaware's vesting at five years of service limits the options of teachers who leave the system prior to this point. Further, Delaware raised the vesting to 10 years of service for all new employees hired after January 1, 2012.

Teachers who withdraw their funds when they stop teaching in Delaware only receive their own contributions plus interest. This means that teachers who withdraw their funds accrue no benefits beyond what they might have earned had they simply put their contributions in basic savings accounts. 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.

Delaware 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. Delaware's plan allows teachers to purchase time for previous teaching experience, up to five years. While better than not allowing any purchase at all, this provision disadvan-tages teachers who move to Delaware with more teaching experience. The state's plan also allows teachers to purchase time up to one year of time for each maternity leave.

#### Supporting Research

Delaware State Employees' Pension Handbook http://www.delawarepensions.com/pensionplans/stateemployees/sepp\_handbook/sepp.shtml

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

If Delaware maintains its defined benefit plan, it should allow teachers that leave the system to withdraw employer contributions. The state should also allow teachers to purchase their full amount of previous teaching experience 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 Delaware 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.

## **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state noted that all Delaware teachers are covered under the same pension plan and remain under that plan even when moving from LEA to LEA (district or charter) within the state.

## LAST WORD

Being able to continue membership within the state of Delaware is valuable, but it still does not aid educators who move out of the state. 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 since with A	ined in	CHOICE OF DEFINED BEAM	~~ / ~
What type of pension	Defined benefit	Alu ti	tal pla		DEFINED CONTRIBUTION
systems do states offer		lan <sub>c</sub>	unen .	ED BI	RIBU DU
teachers?	ilit c			DEFIN	
teachers?	bene	ben ion s	lan	50	
	pəuj	fineo tribut	brid µ	DOCE	N O N
	Def	<i>ရီ ဖြ</i>	Hybrid plan	5Ë	47
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					
Ohio⁴					
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
		••	r	r	•

## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

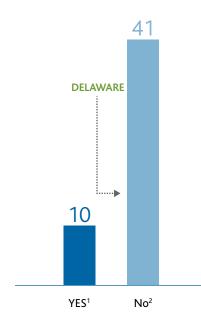
Alaska provides a fair and flexible defined contribution pension plan for all teachers. This plan is also highly portable, as teachers are entitled to 100 percent of employer contributions after five years of service. South Dakota's defined benefit plan has some creative provisions, which makes it more 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
- Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado<sup>3</sup>, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii<sup>3</sup>, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Although not fully portable, the state's defined benefit plan has some notable portability provisions.

#### Figure 111

- 1. For teachers who join the system on or after January 1, 2012.
- 2. 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.
- 6. South Carolina's defined benefit plan does not vest until year five; teachers vest immediately in the state's defined contribution plan.
- 7. 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.

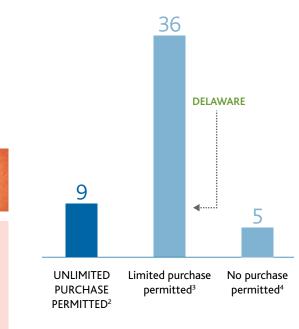
	3 YEARS OR LESS	4 to 5 years	6 to 9 years	10 years
Alabama				
Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut				
DELAWARE <sup>1</sup>				
District of Columbia				
Florida <sup>2</sup>				
Georgia				
Hawaii <sup>3</sup>				
Idaho				
Illinois				
Indiana				
lowa <sup>3</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				
Ohio <sup>4</sup>				
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

130 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 DELAWARE

Figure 112		Only their own	tion	Their own contribution	THER OWN CONTRIENT	
What funds do states p	ermit rom their own contribution Contribution	~ /	Their own contribution plus interest	ution Ution	er teres TRIBL	5
teachers to withdraw f	rom [		<sup>com</sup> tribu	ntrib		>
their defined benefit pl	ans 🛱	u, who			I DI	ES-1
<i>if they leave after</i>	than butii	their	<sup>r</sup> own ntere	ir ou		I I I
five years? <sup>1</sup>	Less ontri	NIV.	Thei Ius ii	Part Ontri	£\$63	
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Alaska <sup>2</sup>						
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.

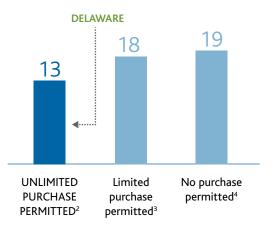
Do states permit teachers to purchase time for previous teaching experience?<sup>1</sup>



- 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 **Delaware** Analysis

## State Nearly Meets Goal

## Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

As of June 30, 2010, the most recent date for which an actuarial valuation is available, Delaware's teacher pension system is 96 percent funded and has a 20-year amortization period. This means that if the plan earns its assumed rate of return and maintains current contribution rates, it would take the state 20 years to pay off its unfunded liabilities. Both levels are better than regulatory recommendations, and Delaware's system is financially sustainable according to actuarial benchmarks.

However, Delaware commits excessive resources toward its teachers' retirement system. The current employer contribution rate of 9.27 percent is excessive, in light of the fact that the state must also contribute to Social Security. While this rate allows the state to keep its system well funded and pay off liabilities, it does so at great cost, precluding Delaware from spending those funds on other, more immediate means to retain talented teachers. The mandatory employee contribution rate to the defined benefit plan of 3 percent of income greater than \$6,000 is reasonable. The rate will increase to 5 percent for those hired on or after January 1, 2012. This rate is also reasonable.

#### **Supporting Research**

Delaware Public Employees' Retirement System, Thirty-Ninth Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010

http://www.delawarepensions.com/financials/fy10cafr.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Avoid committing excessive resources to the pension system.

While the state meets actuarial benchmarks for a financially sustainable system, it does so at great cost, precluding Delaware from spending those funds on other, more immediate means to retain talented teachers. The state should consider decreasing employer contributions to allow the state to spend those funds on other recruitment and retention strategies. However, it must be careful to maintain its funding level to allow for protection during financial downturns.

#### **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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

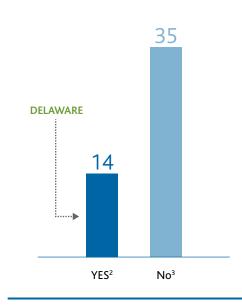
Do state pension systems meet standard benchmarks for fir

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o state pension	ENJ	ERIC
, stems meet standard	<sup>E</sup> FRC	10°E
enchmarks for	80	MUL ALL
nancial health?	EAST 8	RILL
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Alahama		· <del>v</del>
Alabama Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut		
DELAWARE		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
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lowa		
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Kentucky		
Louisiana Maine		
Maryland		
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
	118.3%
District of Columbia	116%
Washington	
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%
	61.4%
Hawaii	61%
Kentucky	
Ohio	59.1%
New Hampshire	58.5%
New Jersey	57.6%
Oklahoma	56.7%
Kansas	56%
Louisiana	54.4%
Illinois	48.4%
Rhode Island	48.4%
West Virginia	46.5%

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

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

### Figure 120

What is a reasonable rate for pension contributions?

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

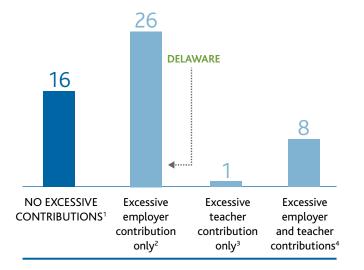
Analysts generally agree that workers in their 20's with no previous retirement savings should save, in addition to Social Security contributions, about 10-15 percent of their gross income in order to be able to live during retirement on 80 percent of the salary they were earning when they retired. While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

#### Sources:

http://www.schwab.com/public/schwab/resource\_center/expert\_insight/retirement\_strategies/planning/ how\_much\_should\_you\_save\_for\_retirement\_play\_ the\_percentages.html https://personal.vanguard.com/us/insights/retirement/ saving/set-retirement-goals

- 1. The employer contribution rate includes the contributions of both school districts and state governments, where appropriate.
- The contribution rate is set to increase in future years. Some school districts in Georgia do not contribute to Social Security.
- 3. The contribution rate is set to increase in future years.
- Michigan opened a new system in July 2010 and employer contributions are not yet reported.
- New Jersey reports its contributions as a flat dollar amount, and a percentage could not be calculated.
- 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>
- 4. Arizona, Hawaii, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island
- 5. While not excessive, the employer and state contribution are quite low. The most recent total employer contribution was only 5.4 percent of the actuarially-determined annual required contribution.
- 6. Employer contribution rates to Michigan's new system have not yet been reported.

#### Figure 123

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

## Figure 123

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

Teacher contribution rate

leacher contribution rate						
Social Security (+6.2%)	C	)% 	5% 	10% 	15% 	20% 
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 <sup>1</sup>	5.5					
Hawaii <sup>1</sup>	6					
Idaho	6.2					
Illinois	9.4					
Indiana	3					
lowa	5.4					
Kansas	6					
Kentucky	10.9					
Louisiana	8					
Maine	7.7					
Maryland	7					
Massachusetts	11					
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					
Nevada⁴	11.9					
New Hampshire	7					
New Jersey <sup>1</sup>	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					
Pennsylvania⁵	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	7					

## **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.

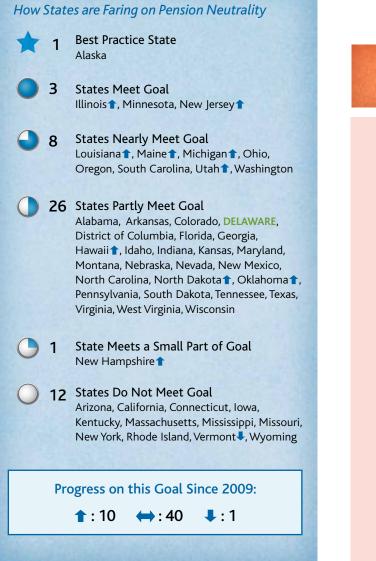
## **Goal Components**

(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 **Delaware** Analysis

## State Partly Meets Goal

## Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

Delaware'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.

Delaware's pension plan utilizes a constant benefit multiplier of 1.85 percent for years of service earned after December 31, 1996; however, teachers may retire before standard retirement age based on years of service without a reduction in benefits. The state allows teachers with 30 years of service to retire at any age, and teachers with 20 years of service may retire at age 60. Other vested teachers with less than 20 years of service may not retire until age 62.

Therefore, teachers who begin their careers at age 22 can reach 30 years of service by age 52, entitling them to 10 years of additional unreduced retirement benefits beyond what other teachers would receive who may not retire until age 62. Not only are they both being paid unreduced benefits by the state well before Social Security's retirement age, but these provisions, along with the state's early retirement with reduced benefits based on years of service, may also encourage effective teachers to retire early. They also fail to treat equally those teachers who enter the system at a later age and give the same amount of service.

#### Supporting Research

Delaware State Employees' Pension Handbook http://www.delawarepensions.com/pensionplans/stateemployees/sepp\_handbook/sepp.shtml

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Delaware should change its practice of allowing teachers with 30 years of service to retire at any age and teachers with 15 years of service to retire at age 60, both with full benefits. If retirement at an earlier age is offered to some teachers, benefits should be reduced accordingly to compensate for the longer duration they will be awarded.

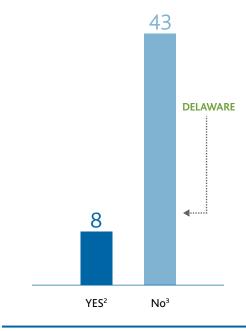
Align eligibility for retirement with unreduced benefits with Social Security retirement age. Delaware allows all teachers to retire before conventional retirement age, some as young as 52. As

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).

## DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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



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

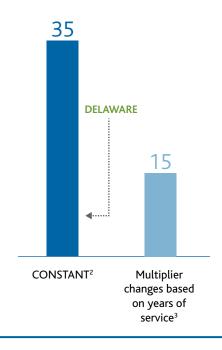
#### Figure 126

- 1. All calculations are based on a teacher who starts teaching at age 22, earns a starting salary of \$35,000 that increases 3 percent per year, and retires at the age s/he is first eligible for unreduced benefits. The calculations use states' current benefit formulas and do not include cost of living increases. The final average salary was calculated as the average of the highest three years of salary, even though a few states may vary from that standard. Age 65 was used as a point of comparision because it is the miminum eligibility for unreduced Social Security benefits.
- 2. Does not apply to Alaska's defined contribution plan.
- 3. Minnesota provides unreduced retirement benefits at the age of full Social Security benefits or age 66, whichever comes first.
- 4. 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.
- 6. Massachusetts's formula has many options for retirement. A teacher with 35 years of experience at age 57 would reach Massachusetts's maximum allowable benefit of 80 percent.

Figure 126	Paid of	29 Fattest retirement are a teacher who started receive unreduced banetis
How much do states	lefits time 5	lefin
pay for each teacher	ber the Se 6	men Stan 22 n d be,
that retires with	Total amount in benefits pai per teacher from the benefits pai retirement until age 65 me of	etire, who age duce
	int u	est n her B at B at
unreduced benefits at	otal r tea reme	Earli, teac achir eive
an early age?1	left b	fe Leu
Alaska <sup>2</sup>		
Illinois	\$0	67
Maine	\$0	65
Minnesota <sup>3</sup>	\$0	66
New Hampshire	\$0	65
New Jersey	\$0	65
Washington	\$0	65
Tennessee	\$238,654	52
Michigan	\$289,187	60
California⁴	\$310,028	62
Indiana	\$317,728	55
Hawaii⁵	\$337,385	60
Kansas	\$337,385	60
Oregon	\$361,536	58
North Dakota	\$385,583	60
Oklahoma	\$385,583	60
Maryland	\$413,808	56
Wisconsin	\$416,007	57
Rhode Island	\$430,013	59
New York	\$440,819	57
Texas	\$443,421	60
South Dakota	\$447,707	55
Virginia	\$468,982	56
Louisiana	\$481,979	60
Florida	\$485,257	55
Vermont	\$486,832	56
Montana	\$518,228	47
Connecticut	\$520,009	57
Utah	\$520,009	57
lowa	\$551,428	55
Idaho	\$551,743	56
North Carolina	\$568,555	52
South Carolina	\$577,142	50
Nebraska	\$577,687	55
West Virginia	\$577,687	55
DELAWARE	\$577,927	52
District of Columbia	\$585,737	52
Massachusetts <sup>6</sup>	\$594,296	57
Georgia	\$624,786	52
Mississippi	\$624,786	52
Alabama	\$625,747	47
Colorado	\$650,011	57
Pennsylvania	\$650,011	57
Wyoming	\$655,506	54
Arizona	\$664,340	55
Arkansas	\$681,789	50
Ohio	\$687,265	52
New Mexico	\$734,124	52
Nevada	\$780,983	52
	\$789,343	51
Missouri	3103,343	51

## 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.)

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

# Background

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



# Area 5: Goal A **Delaware** Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

**Progress Since 2009** 

## ANALYSIS

Delaware allows new teachers who have not passed required licensing tests to teach on a three-year emergency certificate. The state can issue an emergency certificate if the candidate holds at least an initial license (which requires a passing score on a basic skills test but not a subject-matter test). The employing district is required to submit a plan to assist the certificate recipient in proceeding toward full certification. At the end of each school year, the district must submit evidence that the teacher received a satisfactory evaluation on the Delaware Performance Appraisal System and document the emergency-certificate holder's progress toward meeting certification requirements.

Supporting Research Delaware Administrative Code 14.1506

## RECOMMENDATION

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

All students are entitled to teachers who know the subject matter they are teaching. Permitting individuals who have not yet passed state licensing tests to teach neglects the needs of students, instead extending personal consideration to adults who may not be able to meet minimal state standards. Delaware should ensure that all teachers have passed their licensing tests—an important minimum benchmark for entering the profession—prior to entering the classroom.

## Limit exceptions to one year.

There might be limited and exceptional circumstances under which conditional or emergency licenses need to be granted. In these instances, it is reasonable for a state to give teachers up to one year to pass required licensure tests. However, Delaware's current policy puts students at risk by allowing teachers to teach on emergency certificates for three years without passing required subject-matter tests.

## **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state also noted that the Professional Standards Board is finalizing amendments to limit Emergency Certificate validity to one year, with a possible provision for a one-year school extension, provided the educator has made documented progress toward the Standard Certificate.

# LAST WORD

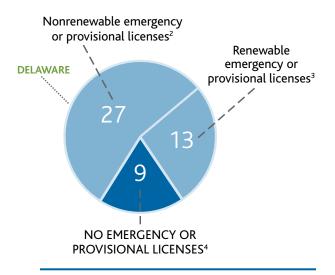
NCTQ looks forward to reviewing Delaware's progress in future editions of the *Yearbook* and encourages the state to limit the time teachers are granted to pass subject-matter licensing tests to one year only.

# EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 130

## Do states still award emergency licenses?<sup>1</sup>



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

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

Figure 131				
How long can new teac	hers			
practice without passing		,	,	,
	y 			d'a
licensing tests?	RRA	1	S.F.	2r m cifie
	DEFE	J. Service	2	lispe,
	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	Pr C	194 19	n is
Alabama	0 DEFERRAL	Up to 7 year	up to chears	a <sup>3</sup> years or more (or unpecified)
Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut				
DELAWARE				
District of Columbia				
Florida				
Georgia				
Hawaii				
Idaho				
Illinois				
Indiana				
lowa <sup>1</sup>				
Kansas				
Kentucky				
Louisiana				
Maine				
Maryland				
Massachusetts				
Michigan				
Minnesota				
Mississippi Missouri				
Montana <sup>2</sup>				
Nebraska <sup>3</sup>				
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				
Utah⁴				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming⁵				
	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 <sup>1</sup> , Minnesota <sup>1</sup> , Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada <sup>1</sup> , Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee <sup>1</sup> , 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 **Delaware** Analysis

State Meets Goal

# Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

Delaware requires local districts to place teachers on an improvement plan if they earn ratings of "needs improvement" or "ineffective" on their summative evaluations or if they earn a rating of "unsatisfactory" on any component of the evaluation. An improvement plan is also required if a teacher's overall rating on a lesson is deemed "unsatisfactory." The plan must include more frequent observations and intense professional development the following year.

Teachers who receive ineffective ratings for two consecutive years or who earn a combination of ineffective and unsatisfactory ratings for three consecutive years are considered to have patterns of ineffective teaching and are eligible for dismissal.

#### **Supporting Research**

Delaware Administrative Code 14.106A Delaware Performance Appraisal System II, page 36 http://www.doe.k12.de.us/csa/dpasii/ti/dpasII\_TeachDPASIIGuide.pdf Delaware Code 14.1270-1273

## **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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

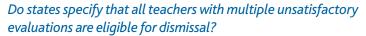
Figure 133	MPPOVENENT PLANAFER	EUCIBLE FOR DISMISSIAL AFTER		/ ~
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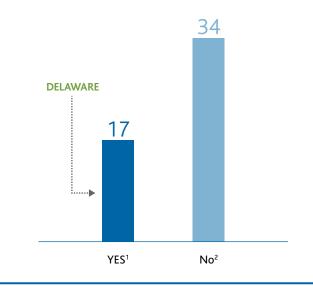
- Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- While results of evaluations may be used in dismissal decisions, there are no specific criteria for a teacher's eligibility for dismissal.
- 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.





- 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 1, Nevada 1, Ohio 1, Wisconsin, Wyoming ineffectiveness and the process and accompanying due process rights for teachers States Meet a Small Part of Goal dismissed or facing license revocation for felony Louisiana, New Hampshire, Virginia, or morality violations or dereliction of duties. West Virginia 30 States Do Not Meet Goal Background Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, A detailed rationale and supporting research for Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy. Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:16 ↔:35 4:0

# Area 5: Goal C **Delaware** Analysis

# State Partly Meets Goal

# Progress Since 2009

## ANALYSIS

In Delaware, teachers can be dismissed for incompetency, which the state defines as "a pattern of ineffective teaching."

In addition, tenured teachers who are terminated may appeal multiple times. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher has 10 days to file the first appeal, which is scheduled up to 21 days after receipt of the request. The teacher may then file an additional appeal with the superior court. The state does not stipulate the time frame of this appeal.

Delaware 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 "immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency, disloyalty, neglect of duty, willful and persistent insub-ordination, a reduction in the number of teachers required as a result of decreased enrollment, or a decrease in education services."

## Supporting Research

Delaware Statute Title 14, Chapter 14, 1410-1413; Delaware Code Title 14, Chapter 12, 1273

#### 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 and only at the district level. 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. Delaware should ensure that appeals related to classroom effectiveness are only decided by those with educational expertise.

## **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware asserted that "the due process for a revocation of a license and Standard Certificate is substantially different from that of dismissal for ineffective teaching or a reduction in the number of teachers as a result of diminished student enrollment."

### LAST WORD

The point is that the multiple appeals allowed for dismissal based on ineffectiveness—including to the superior court—are more in keeping with the more serious consequence of license revocation.

#### Figure 136

Do states articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal?

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#### 154 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 DELAWARE

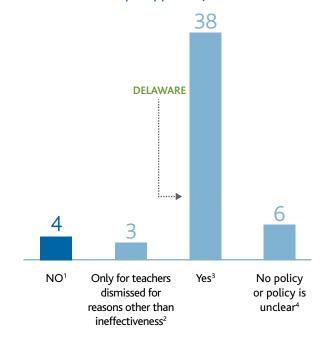
# T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

**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).

# Goal D – Reductions in Force

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

# **Goal Components**

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

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

# Background

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



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

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

## ANALYSIS

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

## RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

Unlike some states, Delaware does not require that districts consider seniority; however, the state should do more to prevent districts from making decisions solely on this basis

## **DELAWARE RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Delaware recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



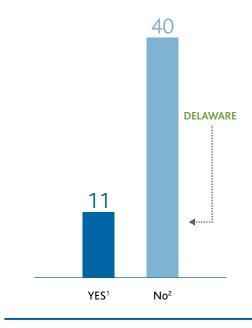
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# T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

## Figure 140

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

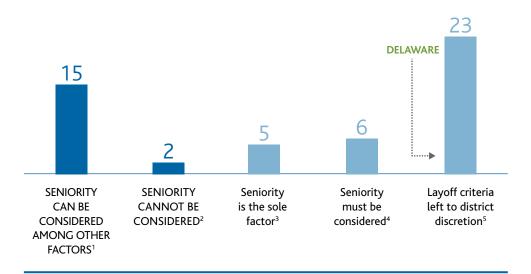


1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah

2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, 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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