2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Arizona

OVERALL GRADA

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Acknowledgments

STATES

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

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

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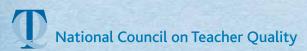
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Executive Summary

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.

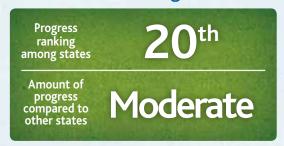
Arizona at a Glance Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade:



Overall 2009 Yearbook Grade: D+

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

Overall Progress



Highlights from recent progress in Arizona include:

- Evidence of student learning in teacher evaluations
- Broad usage and providers of alternative certification

How is Arizona Faring?

Area 1 Delivering Well Prepared Teachers



Policy Strengths

All new teachers must pass a pedagogy 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.

- Middle school teachers are allowed to teach on a K-8 generalist license.
- Not all secondary teachers must pass a content test to teach a core subject area, and some secondary science and social studies teachers are not required to pass content tests for each discipline they intend to teach.
- The state offers a K-12 special education certification.
- Requirements for teacher preparation do not ensure a high-quality student teaching experience.
- The teacher preparation program approval process does not hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

Area 2 Expanding the Pool of Teachers



Policy Strengths

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

Policy Weaknesses

- Alternate route preparation is not streamlined or geared toward the immediate needs of new teachers.
- The state 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 Arizona Faring?

Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers



Policy Strengths

- All teachers must be evaluated annually.
- Although it is not the preponderant criterion, objective evidence of student learning is a significant component of teacher evaluations.

Policy Weaknesses

- The state data system does not have the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Tenure decisions are not connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Licensure advancement and renewal are not based on teacher effectiveness.
- No school-level data are reported that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

Area 4 Retaining Effective Teachers



Policy Strengths

- Districts are given full authority for how teachers are paid, although they are not discouraged from basing salary schedules solely on years of experience and advanced degrees.
- Teachers can receive performance pay.
- Teachers vest immediately in their pension plans.

Policy Weaknesses

- All new teachers do not receive mentoring or other induction support.
- Professional development is not aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.
- The state does not support additional compensation for relevant prior work experience or for working in high-need schools or shortage subject areas.
- Teachers are only offered a defined benefit pension plan as their mandatory pension plan.
- The pension system for teachers is slightly underfunded and requires excessive contributions.
- Retirement benefits are determined by a formula that is not neutral, meaning that pension wealth does not accumulate uniformly for each year a teacher works.

Area 5 Exiting Ineffective Teachers



Policy Strengths

- The state has taken steps to make ineffective classroom performance grounds for dismissal.
- A last hired, first fired layoff policy during reductions in force is prohibited.

Policy Weaknesses

- Teachers can teach for one year on emergency certificates, which can be reissued an unspecified number of times.
- There is no assurance that teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations will be placed on structured improvement plans or that they will be eligible for dismissal if they fail to improve.
- Tenured teachers who are dismissed have multiple opportunities to appeal.
- Performance is not considered in determining which teachers to lay off during reductions in force.

Arizona Goal Summary

Goal Breakdown		
Best Practice	0	Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers
Fully Meets	3	3-A: State Data Systems
Nearly Meets	2	3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness
Partially Meets	6	3-C: Frequency of Evaluations
Only Meets a Small Part	11	
O Does Not Meet	14	3-D: Tenure
Progress on Goals Since 2009		3-E: Licensure Advancement
1 4 ♥ 2 € 23 GOAL 7		3-F: Equitable Distribution
Area 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers		Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers
1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs	0	4-A: Induction
1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation	0	4-B: Professional Development
1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	•	4-C: Pay Scales
1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	•	4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience
1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation	•	4-E: Differential Pay
1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation	0	4-F: Performance Pay
1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	•	4-G: Pension Flexibility
1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies	0	4-H: Pension Sustainability
1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation	0	4-I: Pension Neutrality
1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge		Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers
1-K: Student Teaching	0	5-A: Licensure Loopholes
1-L: Teacher Preparation Program		5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations
Accountability Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers		5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance
2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility	0	5-D: Reductions in Force
2-B: Alternate Route Preparation	•	
2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers	•	
2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses	0	
2-E: Licensure Reciprocity	0	

About the Yearbook

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

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

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

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

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

How to Read the Yearbook

NCTQ rates state teacher policy in several ways.

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









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





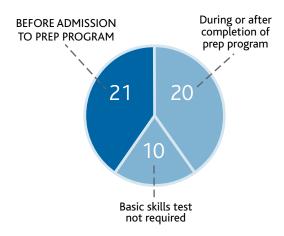


Some goals are marked with this symbol , which indicates that the bar has been raised for this goal since the 2009 *Yearbook*. With many states making considerable progress in advancing teacher effectiveness policy, NCTQ raised the standards for some goals where the bar had been quite low. As this may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

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

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

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



Goals

AREA 1: DELIVERING WELL PREPARED TEACHERS

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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-I: Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

1-K: Student Teaching

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

1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

AREA 2: EXPANDING THE POOL OF TEACHERS

PAGE 57

2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility

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

2-B: Alternate Route Preparation

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

2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses

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

2-E: Licensure Reciprocity

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

Goals

AREA 3: IDENTIFYING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

PAGE 79

3-A: State Data Systems

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

3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

3-C: Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

3-D: Tenure

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

3-E: Licensure Advancement

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

3-F: Equitable Distribution

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

AREA 4: RETAINING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

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4-A: Induction

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

4-B: Professional Development

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

4-C: Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

4-E: Differential Pay

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

4-F: Performance Pay

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

4-G: Pension Flexibility

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

4-H: Pension Sustainability

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

4-I: Pension Neutrality

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

AREA 5: EXITING INEFFECTIVE TEACHERS

PAGE 147

5-A: Licensure Loopholes

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

5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations

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

5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

5-D: Reductions in Force

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal A – Admission into Preparation Programs

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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



Area 1: Goal A **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona does not require aspiring teachers to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs. State policy leaves it to individual preparation programs to determine whether candidates are required to take and pass a basic skills test.

Supporting Research

Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments http://www.aepa.nesinc.com/AZ13_whoshouldtest.asp

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—Arizona 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.

Arizona 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.

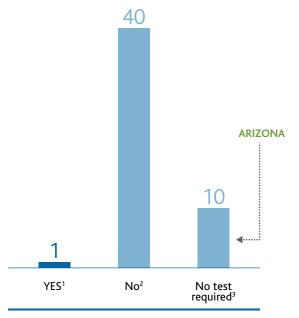
ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



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

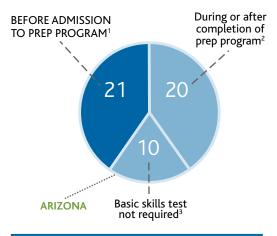
Figure 2 Do states require a test of academic proficiency that is normed to the general college-going population?



1. Strong Practice: Texas

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

Figure 3 When do states test teacher candidates' basic skills?

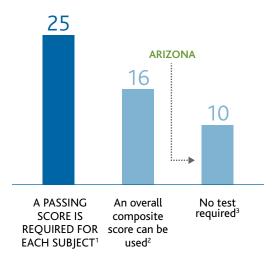


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, California, Delaware, District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



Figure 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
- California⁴, District of Columbia⁴, Hawaii⁴, Indiana, Iowa, Maine⁴, Maryland, New Hampshire⁴, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota⁵, Pennsylvania⁴, Rhode Island⁴, Vermont, Virginia
- 3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming
- 4. Minimum score must be met in each section.
- Composite score can only be used if passing score is met on two of three subtests.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal B – Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



ARIZONA

Area 1: Goal B **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Although Arizona 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.

Arizona requires candidates to pass the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA) general elementary content test, which does not report teacher performance in each subject area, meaning that it may be possible to pass the test and still fail some subject areas.

Arizona does not specify any general education coursework requirements and does not require specific subject-matter courses for elementary education majors. The state appears only to require methodology courses in subject areas (e.g., how to teach elementary school science, social studies, language arts); therefore, the coursework used to meet these requirements is most likely taught by education faculty, not arts and sciences faculty, and may fail to provide strong foundational knowledge in these subject areas. Additionally, all teachers must complete courses on the Arizona and United States constitutions.

In addition, Arizona has articulated program approval standards it expects elementary teachers to meet. According to the standards, candidates must "demonstrate knowledge" of language arts, science, social studies and fine arts. These are important curricular areas, but this statement is far too ambiguous to set a meaningful standard for holding either programs or teachers accountable. Arizona also articulates standards within the framework of the AEPA content test, which include more detail about the content elementary teachers should know. However, the framework lacks specific mention of important areas such as basic chemistry and literature.

Supporting Research

Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-602, -604, -608 Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments http://www.aepa.nesinc.com/

RECOMMENDATION

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

Arizona 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.

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

Provide broad liberal arts coursework relevant to the elementary classroom.

Arizona should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish comprehensive course-work 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 Arizona 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.

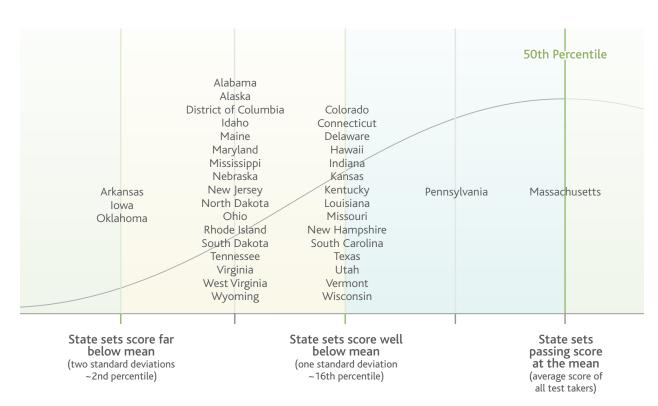
ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



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

Figure 7
Where do states set the passing score on elementary content licensure tests¹?



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

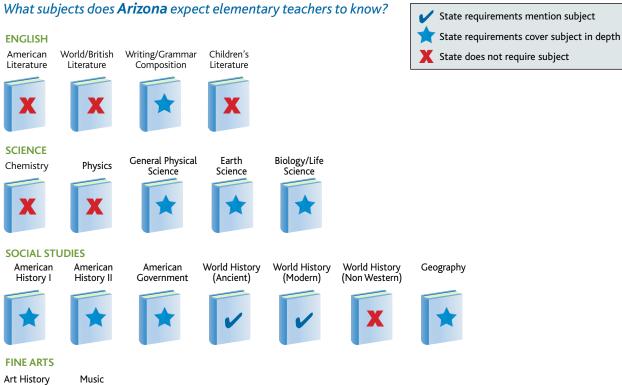
Figure 8

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



^{1.} Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, Virginia

Figure 9
What subjects does **Arizona** expect elementary teachers to know.



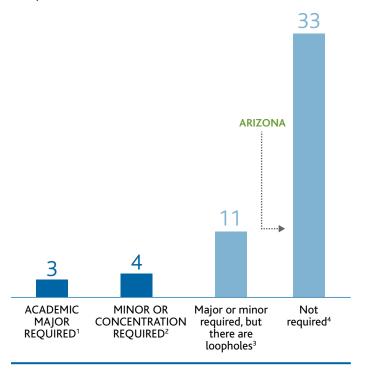
^{2.} Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, 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

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■ Subject mentioned ★ Subject covered in depth

Figure 11

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal C – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

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

Goal Components

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

- 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.



Area 1: Goal C **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona does not require that teacher preparation programs for elementary teacher candidates address the science of reading.

The state 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.

However, Arizona does require elementary teachers to complete 45 clock hours or three credit hours of instruction in "research-based systematic phonics" during their first two years of teaching in order to receive their standard elementary certificate. The state also requires that schools must adopt a scientifically based reading curriculum as part of its professional development for current teachers.

Supporting Research

http://www.ade.state.az.us/certification/requirements/TeachingCerts/RequirementsforElementaryCertificate.pdf Arizona Revised Statute 15-704

RECOMMENDATION

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

While Arizona does require elementary teachers to complete some professional development in scientifically based reading instruction, the state's policy would be stronger if its standards for teacher preparation programs included required training 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.

Arizona 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 class-room. 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.

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

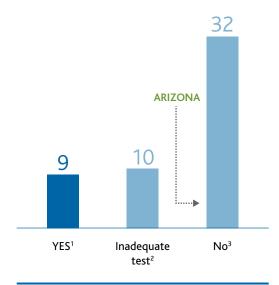
Eight states meet this goal by requiring that preparation programs for elementary teacher candidates address the science of reading and requiring that candidates pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and 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?



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

Figure 14 Do states measure new teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



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

Figure 15	DE	REPARATIO QUIREMEN	/	TEST REQUIRI	
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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.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

Goal Components

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

- 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.



Area 1: Goal D **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona relies on its standards for teacher preparation programs and its subject-matter testing framework 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, the state has articulated teaching standards that its approved teacher preparation programs must use to frame instruction in elementary mathematics content. According to these standards, candidates must "demonstrate knowledge" of mathematics. Unfortunately, these standards lack the specificity needed to ensure that teacher preparation programs deliver mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates.

Arizona requires that all new elementary teachers pass its general subject-matter test, the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment. The test's standards address content in mathematics foundations, but although they outline such areas as algebra, geometry and data analysis, the standards are not specifically geared to meet the needs of elementary teachers. The test also lacks a specific passing score for mathematics, so one can likely fail the mathematics portion and still pass the test. Further, the results of a NCTQ study on the preparation of elementary teachers in mathematics questions the rigor of Arizona's test, finding that its items representing elementary school content assess understanding at too superficial a level.

Supporting Research

Arizona Administrative Code, AAC R7-2-602, -608

http://www.aepa.nesinc.com/

"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 Arizona standards and subject-matter testing framework require some knowledge in key areas of mathematics, the state should require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers. This includes specific coursework in foundations, algebra and geometry, with some statistics.

■ Require teacher candidates to pass a rigorous mathematics assessment.

Arizona 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.

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona acknowledged that NCTQ's analysis is correct but added that it is incomplete. The state noted that teachers who teach grades 7-12 whose primary assignment is in an academic subject must demonstrate proficiency by passing the appropriate portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment, with the subject areas of demonstrated proficiency specified on the certificate. If an assessment is not offered in a subject area, then the candidate must complete a minimum of 24 semester hours of courses in the subject. Further, elementary teachers teaching a core academic subject in grades 7-8 must pass either the AEPA Middle School Mathematics or the AEPA 7-12 Mathematics exam.

Supporting Research

Arizona Administrative Code, AAC R7-2-607

LAST WORD

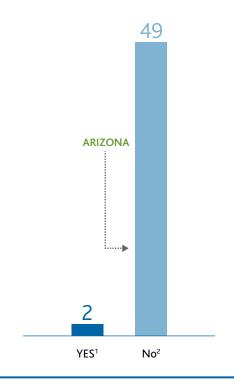
This goal is focused on elementary math teachers. For NCTQ's analysis regarding Arizona's middle grades policies, see Goal 1-E. For NCTQ's analysis regarding the state's secondary teachers policies, see Goal 1-F.



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?

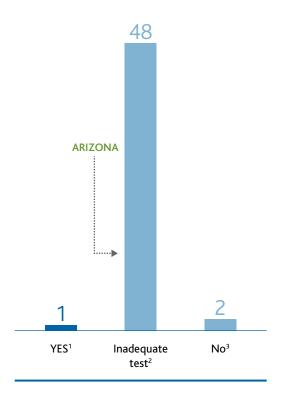


1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Massachusetts

 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

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal E - Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

- 1. The state should encourage middle school candidates who intend to teach multiple subjects to earn minors in two core academic areas rather than earn a single major. Middle school candidates intending to teach a single subject area should earn a major in that area.
- 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.



Area 1: Goal E **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona only requires that middle school teachers, who are allowed to teach on a generalist K-8 license, complete a teacher preparation program. Teachers with secondary licenses may also teach single subjects in middle school. The state does not explicitly require a major or minor in the subject areas that the candidates plan to teach. Arizona offers an optional middle grades endorsement (grades 5-9) for teachers who already have either an elementary or secondary certificate "to expand the grades a teacher is authorized to teach on an elementary or secondary certificate."

All new middle school teachers whose primary assignments are in academic subjects are required to pass a subject-matter portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Exam, the state's licensing test, to attain licensure.

Supporting Research

Arizona Administrative Code, Title 7, R7-2-607, -608, -609, -613(N) http://www.aepa.nesinc.com/AZ_viewFW_opener.asp

RECOMMENDATION

■ Eliminate K-8 generalist license.

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

■ Strengthen middle school teachers' subject-matter preparation.

Arizona should encourage middle school teachers who plan to teach multiple subjects to earn two minors in two core academic areas. Middle school candidates who intend to teach a single subject should earn a major in that area.

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

^{*} K-8 LICENSE NOT OFFERED Self-conso offered for contained dassrooms Figure 20 Do states distinguish middle ▲ □ K-8 license offered grade preparation from elementary preparation? Alabama Alaska П П **ARIZONA** Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida П Georgia Hawaii Idaho П Illinois П 2 Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota П Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska П Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma 4 Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota П Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont П Virginia Washington West Virginia 5 Wisconsin Wyoming 29 6 16

^{1.} California offers a K-12 generalist license for self-contained classrooms.

^{2.} Illinois offers K-9 license.

^{3.} With the exception of mathematics.

^{4.} Oregon offers 3-8 license.

^{5.} Wisconsin offers 1-8 license.

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

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal F – Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 22 How States are Faring in Secondary Teacher Preparation **Best Practice States** 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 States Partly Meet Goal District of Columbia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico States Meet a Small Part of Goal 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 **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

Although secondary teacher candidates whose primary assignments are in academic subjects are required to pass content tests, the state articulates that if an assessment is not offered in a particular subject, then an approved area will consist of a minimum of 24 semester hours of subject-related coursework. In addition, although Arizona offers a general science license, it fails to offer a content test in this area. Further, the state offers a general social studies license but does not require subject-matter testing for each subject area within this discipline (see Goals 1-G and 1-H).

Arizona also articulates that secondary candidates may satisfy the subject-knowledge requirement with a master's degree in the subject area, or a valid certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Secondary teachers in Arizona may add approved areas to their licenses as outlined above.

Supporting Research

Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-607, -615

Requirements for Secondary Certificates

http://www.ade.az.gov/certification/requirements/TeachingCerts/RequirementsforSecondaryCertificate.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

■ Require subject-matter testing for secondary teacher candidates.

As a condition of licensure, Arizona should require its secondary teacher candidates to pass a content test in each subject area they plan to teach to ensure that they possess adequate subjectmatter knowledge and are prepared to teach grade-level content.

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

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

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona asserted that the approved area of general science only allows teachers to be appropriately certified to teach general science at the high school level. The state added that teachers must have the appropriate science content as an approved area to be appropriately certified. Arizona currently has AEPA exams for the following science content areas: biology, chemistry, earth science, middle grades general science and physics.

LAST WORD

The issue of general science is addressed more fully in Goal 1-G. Arizona should ensure that its requirements do not make it possible for secondary teachers to be licensed to teach any core subjects with insufficient content knowledge.

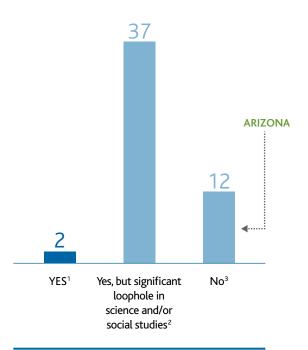
ARIZONA



T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

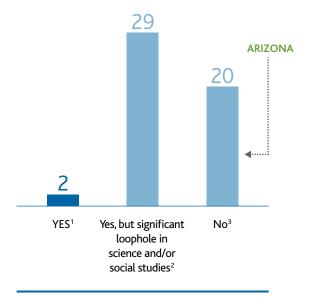
Figure 23 Do all secondary teachers have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

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

Figure 24 Do all secondary teachers have to pass a content test in every subject area to add an endorsement?



1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal G - Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

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

Goal Components

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

- 1. The state should require secondary science teachers to pass a subject-matter test of each science discipline they intend to teach.
- 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.



Area 1: Goal G **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona offers an endorsement in secondary general science, which is comprised of 12 semester hours of life science courses and 12 semester hours of physical science courses. Because a proficiency assessment is not offered in this subject area, the state only requires 24 semester hours of subject-related courses from an accredited institution; a content test is not required. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general science but rather can teach any of the topical areas, including biology, chemistry and physics. Further, although Arizona requires secondary teachers to be highly qualified in each specific subject area (e.g., biology, chemistry), this requirement does not ensure that they will have passed a content test.

There is an optional middle-grades general science endorsement for teachers who already have either an elementary or secondary certificate. Teachers holding a valid elementary or secondary teaching certificate who want to attach a middle-grades general science area must pass the AEPA "Middle Grades General Science" test. Arizona also allows middle school science teachers to teach on a generalist K-8 license (see Goal 1-E).

Supporting Research

Teaching Certificate Requirements, Secondary http://www.ade.state.az.us/certification/requirements/TeachingCerts/ Arizona Administrative Code Title 7, R7-2-614(N) Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments www.aepa.nesinc.com

RECOMMENDATION

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

States that allow general science certifications—and do not require content tests for each area—are not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge.

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

Although the state requires a specific middle grades science test for its middle-grades science endorsement, this endorsement is optional. Therefore, Arizona does not ensure that all middle school teachers possess adequate knowledge of science.

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona asserted that the approved area of general science only allows teachers to be appropriately certified to teach general science at the high school level. The state added that teachers must have the appropriate science content as an approved area to be appropriately certified. Arizona currently has AEPA exams for the following science content areas: biology, chemistry, earth science, middle grades general science and physics. The state also noted that it uses the term "approved area," rather than endorsement.

LAST WORD

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

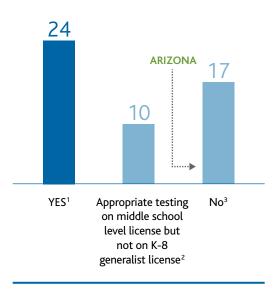
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T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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?



- 1. 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
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Wyoming

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal H - Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies

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

Goal Components

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

- 1. The state should require secondary social studies teachers to pass a subject-matter test of each social studies discipline they intend to teach.
- 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.



Area 1: Goal H **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Secondary social studies teachers in Arizona have the option of a general social studies teaching field license. Candidates are required to pass the AEPA "Social Studies" test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general social studies but rather can teach all core academic social studies classes. Further, although Arizona requires secondary teachers to be highly qualified in each specific subject area (e.g., history, geography), this requirement does not ensure that they will have passed a content test.

There is an optional middle grades social studies endorsement for teachers who already have either an elementary or secondary certificate. Teachers holding a valid elementary or secondary teaching certificate who want to attach a middle grades social studies area must pass the AEPA "Middle Grades Social Studies" test. Arizona also allows middle school social studies teachers to teach on a generalist K-8 license (see Goal 1-E).

Supporting Research

Arizona Administrative Code, Title 7, R7-2-607(J)

Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments www.aepa.nesinc.com

"The Difference Between State Certification and Federal Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements" http://www.ade.az.gov/asd/hqtp/TheDifference.pdf

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 do not require content tests for each area—are not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. Arizona's 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.

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

Although the state requires a specific middle grades social studies test for its middle grades social studies endorsement, this endorsement is optional. Therefore, Arizona does not ensure that all middle school teachers possess adequate knowledge of social studies.

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

ARIZONA

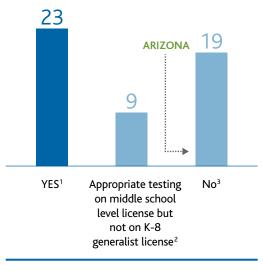
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Not only does Indiana ensure that its secondary social studies teachers possess adequate content knowledge of all subjects they intend to teach through both coursework and content 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.



Area 1: Goal I **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

Supporting Research

Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-609

Requirements for Cross-Categorical Special Education, K-12 Certificate

http://www.ade.az.gov/certification/requirements/SpecialEd/RequirementsforSpecialEducationCrossCategoricalCertificate.pdf

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 Arizona 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.
 - Arizona 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, Arizona 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).

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

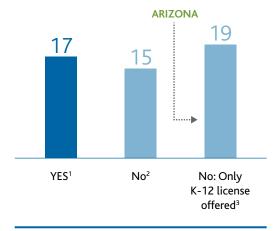
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 33 Do states require subject-matter testing for elementary special education licenses?



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

Figure 32

1. Beginning January 1, 2013

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal J – Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



Area 1: Goal J **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona requires all new teachers to pass a pedagogy test from its own series of assessments.

The Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments (AEPA) includes "Professional Knowledge Tests," which measure pedagogical knowledge and skills.

Supporting Research

http://www.aepa.nesinc.com/AZ13_requirements.asp

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

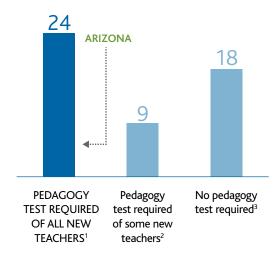
Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 35 Do states measure new teachers' knowledge of teaching and learning?



- 1. Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia
- 2. Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah⁴, Wyoming
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin
- 4. Not required until teacher advances from a Level One to a Level Two license.

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal K - Student Teaching

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



Area 1: Goal K **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Although Arizona requires that teacher preparation programs include a capstone experience—defined by the state as a culminating professional experience in a PK-12 setting, which may include student teaching—it does not articulate a requisite duration nor does it discuss the qualifications of cooperating teachers.

Supporting Research

Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-604.01

RECOMMENDATION

- Require teacher candidates to spend at least 10 weeks student teaching.
 - Arizona should require a summative clinical experience for all prospective teachers. Student teaching should be a full-time commitment, as requiring coursework and student teaching simultaneously does a disservice to both. Alignment with a school calendar for at least 10 weeks ensures both adequate classroom experience and exposure to a variety of ancillary professional activities.
- Ensure that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.
 - In addition to the ability to mentor an adult, cooperating teachers should also be carefully screened for their capacity to further student achievement. Research indicates that the only aspect of a student teaching arrangement that has been shown to have an impact on student achievement is the positive effect of selection of the cooperating teacher by the preparation program, rather than the student teacher or school district staff.
- Explicitly require that student teaching be completed locally, thus prohibiting candidates from completing this requirement abroad.
 - Unless preparation programs can establish true satellite campuses to closely supervise student teaching arrangements, placement in foreign or otherwise novel locales should be supplementary to a standard student teaching arrangement. Outsourcing the arrangements for student teaching makes it impossible to ensure the selection of the best cooperating teacher and adequate supervision of the student teacher and may prevent training of the teacher on relevant state instructional frameworks.

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 37	,	2/52
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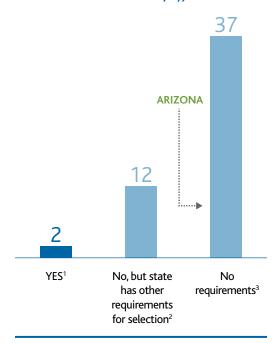
EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

Figure 38

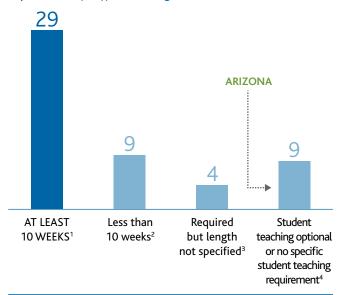
Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



1. Strong Practice: Florida, Tennessee

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

Figure 39
Is the summative student teaching experience of sufficient length?



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

Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers

Goal L – Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background

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



Area 1: Goal L **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal Raised for this Goal





Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona's approval process for its traditional and alternate route teacher preparation programs could do more to hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

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

Arizona does rely on some objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs. Not only does the state require that programs conduct internal and external evaluations (i.e., student/faculty/employer evaluations; graduate surveys), but Arizona also requires teacher preparation programs to submit three years of data that monitor program graduates, including: retention, success, number of candidates issued a state provisional certificate and number of candidates who progressed to a standard certificate within three years.

Regrettably, Arizona sets a low bar in its definition of "low performing institutions," only requiring teacher preparation programs to show that at least 75 percent of their graduates from the prior two years passed on their first attempt the professional knowledge portion of the state's licensing test, the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment.

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

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

Supporting Research

Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-604

Program Review Guidelines

http://www.azed.gov/highly-qualified-professionals/files/2011/10/step2programreviewguidelines.pdf

Title II State Reports

https://title2.ed.gov

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

■ Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance.

Although Arizona relies on a number of commendable objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs, the state should expand its requirements to include other metrics.

Ensure that criteria for program approval result in greater accountability.

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

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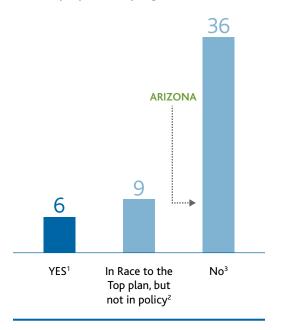
Reported institutional data do not distinguish between candidates in the traditional and alternate route programs.

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



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

Figure 42
Do states use student achievement data to hold teacher preparation programs accountable?



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

Figure 43

Which states collect meaningful data?

AVERAGE RAW SCORES ON LICENSING TESTS

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

SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

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

EVALUATION RESULTS FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES

Alabama, **ARIZONA**, Delaware¹, Florida, Illiniois, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont

STUDENT LEARNING GAINS

Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas

TEACHER RETENTION RATES

ARIZONA, Colorado, Delaware¹, Missouri, New Jersey

1. For alternate route only

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According to information posted on NCATE's website.

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Goal A – Alternate Route Eligibility

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



Area 2: Goal A **Arizona** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

Arizona classifies the Teaching Intern Certificate as its alternate route to certification.

In the 2009 edition of the *Yearbook*, it was noted that Arizona required applicants to have a minimum GPA of 3.0 for admission to the alternate route program; however, this policy appears to have changed. No requirement that candidates demonstrate prior academic performance, such as a minimum GPA, as an alternate route entrance standard was found.

In order to obtain a Teaching Intern certificate, all candidates must pass a subject-specific portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA). Arizona accepts this test as sufficient evidence of subject-matter knowledge and does not also require a content-specific major.

In addition, Teaching Intern candidates must complete three semester hours, or 45 clock hours, of a Structured English Immersion (SEI) training program prior to receiving the Teaching Intern certificate.

Supporting Research

Arizona State Board of Education Policy R7-2-614, R7-2-609

RECOMMENDATION

Reinstate academic requirement for admission to alternate route program.

Arizona should reinstate its policy requiring that its alternate route candidates provide evidence of past academic performance. The standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of 2.75 or higher. 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.

■ Consider flexibility in fulfilling coursework requirements.

Arizona is commended for allowing nontraditional candidates the flexibility to demonstrate content knowledge by passing the AEPA subject-matter test. Still, the new coursework requirement for Structured English Immersion does not allow for a test-out option. While the state is recognized for its attempt to include pedagogical coursework that may increase effectiveness prior to entering the classroom, Arizona should consider whether it is appropriate to allow candidates who already have the requisite knowledge and skills to demonstrate such by passing a rigorous test.

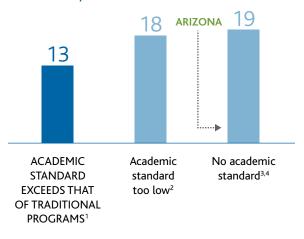
ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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



Figure 47

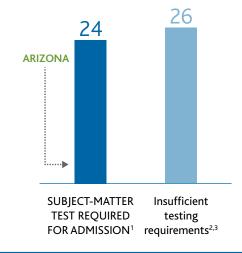
Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



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

Figure 48

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



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

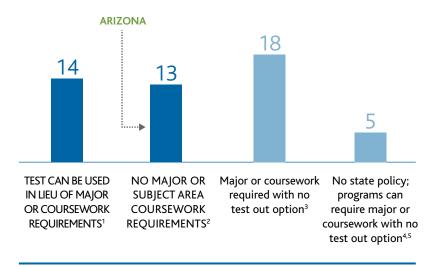
Figure 46

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



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

Figure 49
Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut⁶, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas
- 2. Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Virginia, Washington
- 3. Alaska, Delaware, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Wisconsin
- 5. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 6. Test out option available to candidates in shortage areas only.

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Goal B – Alternate Route Preparation

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

Goal Components

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

- 1. The state should ensure that the amount of coursework it either requires or allows is manageable for a novice teacher. Anything exceeding 12 credit hours of coursework in the first year may be counterproductive, placing too great a burden on the teacher. This calculation is premised on no more than six credit hours in the summer, three in the fall and three in the spring.
- 2. The state should ensure that alternate route programs offer accelerated study not to exceed six (three credit) courses for secondary teachers and eight (three credit) courses for elementary teachers (exclusive of any credit for practice teaching or mentoring) over the duration of the program. Programs should be limited to two years, at which time the new teacher should be eligible for a standard certificate.
- 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.



Area 2: Goal B **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona does not ensure that its alternate route provides streamlined preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers.

Arizona provides no specific guidelines about the nature or quantity of coursework for its alternate route. There is no limit on the amount of coursework that can be required overall, nor on the amount of coursework a candidate can be required to take while also teaching.

Candidates receive support from a trained, building-level mentor and are required to complete four semesters of student teaching. Mentors are provided in the specific grade/content area.

Upon successful completion of the program, usually two years, Arizona provides candidates with a full professional certificate.

Supporting Research

Arizona State Board of Education R7-2-604.04

RECOMMENDATION

Establish coursework guidelines for alternate route preparation programs.

Arizona should articulate guidelines regarding the nature and amount of coursework required of candidates. Requirements should be manageable and contribute to the immediate needs of new teachers. Appropriate coursework should include grade-level or subject-level seminars, methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction. Simply mandating coursework without specifying the purpose can inadvertently send the wrong message to program providers—that "anything goes" as long as credits are granted. However constructive, any course that is not fundamentally practical and immediately necessary should be eliminated as a requirement.

■ Ensure that new teachers are not burdened by excessive requirements.

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

Clarify practice teaching requirements.

Ideally, alternate route candidates would have a practice-teaching opportunity before they begin teaching. However, intensive mentoring support can be a suitable alternative. In Arizona's case, though, it is unclear how an individual who is already the teacher of record can participate in four semesters of student teaching, making it questionable whether alternate route candidates receive the appropriate support.

Strengthen the induction experience for new teachers.

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

62 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011
ARIZONA

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Arizona referenced sections of its state code that address the approval process for alternative preparation programs. Supporting Research A.A.C. R7-2-604.03, 604.04





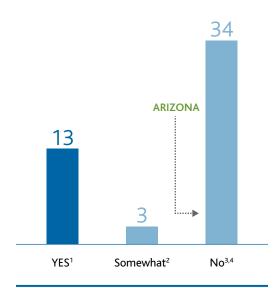
TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

^{1.} Florida requires practice teaching or intensive mentoring.

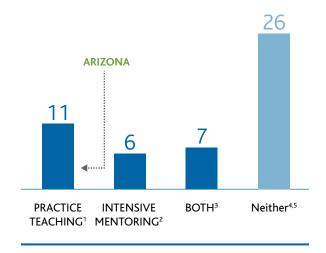
² North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

Figure 52 Do states curb excessive coursework requirements?



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

Figure 53 Do states require practice teaching or intensive mentoring?



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



Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

Goal Components

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

- 1. The state should not treat the alternate route as a program of last resort or restrict the availability of alternate routes to certain subjects, grades or geographic areas.
- 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.



Area 2: Goal C **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

There are no limitations on Arizona's Teaching Intern certificate in terms of grades, subjects or geographic areas.

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

Supporting Research

Arizona Administrative Rules R7-2-604.03

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state also noted that two new providers, The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence and the New Teacher Project, have applied for State Board approval and are in the process of being approved.





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?

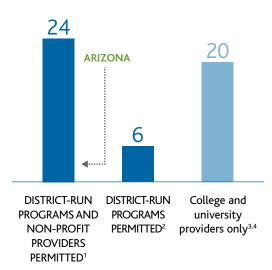


Figure 55 and 56

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

Figure 57

Do states permit providers other than colleges or universities?



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

GENUINE OR NEARLY
GENUINE ALTERNATEROUTE ∫ Offered route is disingenuous Figure 58 Alternate oute that need significant improvements Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification? Alabama Alaska **ARIZONA** П Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia П П Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois П Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana Maine П Maryland П П Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico П П New York North Carolina North Dakota¹ П Ohio П П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina П South Dakota Tennessee П П Texas Utah Vermont Virginia П Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 7 25 18

Figure 58

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

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	AVAILABILITY OF	STREAMINED CO.	RELEVANT COLLDS.	REASONABLE PROCRAMELE		□ □ DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS
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Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background



Area 2: Goal D **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal Progress Since 2009



ANALYSIS

Arizona 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.

Arizona 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.

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona had no comment on this goal.

Figure 61 Do states offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part-time? YES No Alabama Alaska **ARIZONA** Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Mass a chusettsMichigan Minnesota П Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York 2 П North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia 2 Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 16 35



T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

^{1.} License has restrictions.

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

Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

Goal E – Licensure Reciprocity

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background



Area 2: Goal E **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

Although out-of-state teachers must pass both the professional knowledge and subject knowledge portions of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA), waivers to this requirement are available that result in the state's not upholding its testing standards. Applicants may submit passing, out-of-state examination scores taken within the past seven years; teachers who passed their tests more than seven years ago must have five years of full-time teaching experience within the past seven years. Both exams may also be waived with a current certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Applicants must also verify a certain amount of Structured English Immersion training, based on when their out-of-state certificates were issued.

Teachers with valid, comparable out-of-state certificates are eligible for Arizona's Reciprocal Provisional Teaching Certificate. All out-of-state teachers must also take courses on the Arizona Constitution and the U.S. Constitution. However, they have three years to fulfill the requirement, and a test-out option is available. Transcripts are required for all applicants; it is not clear whether the state analyzes these transcripts to determine whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route or whether additional coursework will be required.

Arizona 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

Arizona Revised Statute 15-533

Requirements for Reciprocal Provisional Teaching Certificates www.azed.gov/CERTIFICATION/RequirementsforReciprocalProvisionalTeachingCertificate.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

Arizona should insist that out-of-state teachers meet its own testing requirements, and it should not provide any waivers of its teacher tests unless an applicant can provide evidence of a passing score under its own standards.

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

The state should offer standard licenses to certified out-of-state teachers rather than restricting them to provisional ones until they meet Arizona's requirements. Although the state requires additional coursework for out-of-state teachers, it is commended for allowing a test-out option. However, it should consider discontinuing its requirement for the submission of transcripts. Transcript analysis is likely to result in additional coursework requirements, even for traditionally prepared teachers; alternate route teachers, on the other hand, may have to virtually begin anew, repeating some, most or all of a teacher preparation program in Arizona. Regardless of whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route, all certified out-of-state teachers should receive equal treatment.

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona disagreed with this analysis, but the state offered no further information.

ARIZONA



T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 63 Do states require all out-of-state teachers to pass their licensure tests?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York³, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania³, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington³, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana⁴, Nebraska⁴, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Exception for teachers with National Board Certification.
- 4. No subject-matter testing for any teacher certification.

Figure 64

- 1. For traditionally prepared teachers only.
- 2. Transcript review required for those with less than 3 years experience.



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Figure 65		ς /	, je s
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Goal A – State Data Systems

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background



Area 3: Goal A **Arizona** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona does not have a data system that can be used to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

However, Arizona does have two of three necessary elements that would allow for the development 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 it has the capacity to match student test records from year to year in order to measure student academic growth.

Although Arizona assigns teacher identification numbers, it cannot match individual teacher records with individual student records.

Supporting Research

Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org

RECOMMENDATION

Develop capacity of state data system.

Arizona should ensure that its state data system is able to match individual teacher records with individual student records.

Develop a clear definition of "teacher of record."

Arizona has not yet established a definition of teacher of record, which is essential in order to use the student-data link for teacher evaluation and related purposes. To ensure that data provided through the state data system are actionable and reliable, Arizona should articulate a definition of teacher of record and require its consistent use throughout the state.

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona had no comment on this goal.

Figure 67 Do state data systems have the capacity to assess teacher effectiveness?	UNIQUE STUDENTINE	VETACHE DENTIFE PRECION MACHER TRECORD TO TO	TEST RECORDS MATCH
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Texas Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	50	35	50



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Key

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

Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

Goal Components

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

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



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

Background



Area 3: Goal B **Arizona** Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona stops short of requiring that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations.

The state now requires the use of an evaluation framework that includes quantitative data on student academic progress. These objective data must account for between 33 percent and 50 percent of outcomes. By school year 2012-2013, districts must use this instrument for annual evaluations of all teachers.

Arizona requires districts to formulate reliable evaluation instruments that include "specific criteria for measuring effective teaching performance in each area of the teacher's classroom responsibility," as well as "an assessment of the competencies of teachers as they relate to the specific criteria for measuring teacher performance."

Further, the state also requires that evaluations include classroom observations "of the certificated teacher demonstrating teaching skills."

Supporting Research

Arizona Revised Statute 15-203, -537

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that as of the 2012-2013 school year, local educational agencies (LEAs) will need to map evaluation performance to four levels—highly effective, effective, partially effective and ineffective—for reporting purposes.





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

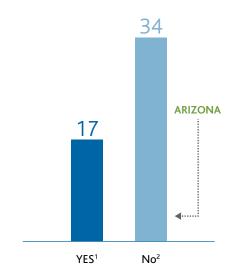
^{1.} District of Columbia Public Schools requires that student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations.

Figure 71 Sources of objective evidence of student learning

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

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

Figure 72 Do states require more than two categories for teacher evaluation ratings?



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

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^{1.} State approval required.

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

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



Area 3: Goal C **Arizona** Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Commendably, all teachers in Arizona must be evaluated at least annually.

New teachers in Arizona must be formally evaluated twice a year. However, the state's policy does not include any guidelines on when these evaluations should occur.

Supporting Research

Arizona Revised Statute 15-537

RECOMMENDATION

■ Base evaluations on multiple observations.

To guarantee that annual evaluations are based on an adequate collection of information, Arizona 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. Arizona 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. As evaluation instruments become more data driven, it may not be feasible to issue a formal evaluation rating until applicable student data are available later in the year.

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 75		S& /
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 76 Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



Figures 75 and 76

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

Figure 77

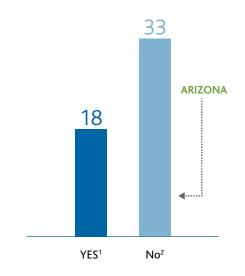
Do states require classroom observations?



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

Figure 78

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



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

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.
- 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



Area 3: Goal D **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

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

Supporting Research

Arizona Revised Statute 15-502(H), 15-537(C)

RECOMMENDATION

End the automatic awarding of tenure.

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

- Ensure evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.
 - Arizona should make evidence of effectiveness, rather than the number of years in the classroom, the most significant factor when determining this leap in professional standing.
- Articulate a process that local districts must administer when deciding which teachers get

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

Require a longer probationary period.

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

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona asserted that it does not award tenure in the classic academic sense. The term is referenced in state regulations due to the popularity of the term "tenure" as a shorthand for continuing teachers (those employed three consecutive years or more). However, the only thing afforded continuing teachers by law in Arizona is due process for dismissal, rather than insulation from consequences for ineffectiveness, which tenure would suggest. A probationary teacher, by contrast, can be dismissed at any time.

Supporting Research

Arizona Revised Statute 15-536, 538.01

LAST WORD

For the purposes of this goal, the term "tenure" refers to the point at which a teacher is granted nonprobationary status. NCTQ agrees that nonprobationary teachers should be afforded due process for dismissal. However, that due process frequently creates insulation from consequences for poor performance (see Goal 5-C).

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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.

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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 82 How are tenure decisions made?

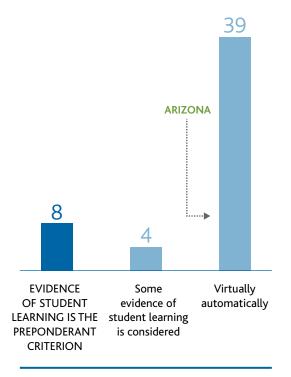


Figure 81

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

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



Area 3: Goal E **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

Arizona defines two types of certifications based on grade level. To advance from a Provisional Elementary Certificate to a Standard Elementary Certificate (grades K-8), teachers must receive a passing score on the performance portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment and complete 45 hours or three semesters of instruction in research-based systematic phonics. Advancement from the Provisional Secondary Certificate to a Standard Secondary Certificate (grades 7-12) requires a passing score on the performance portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment.

However, it does not appear that a performance assessment is actually required. The website for the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment only identifies subject-matter and professional knowledge tests, and the application for conversion from a provisional to a standard certificate makes no reference to passing a performance assessment.

Arizona does not require that teachers demonstrate effectiveness in order to renew a professional license. Arizona teachers must renew their licenses once every six years. The application for renewal of teaching certificate requires that teachers complete 180 hours of professional development activities or 12 hours of education coursework posted on official transcripts.

Supporting Research

http://www.ade.az.gov/certification/downloads/ApplicationForRenewalOfCertificate.pdf http://www.ade.az.gov/certification/

RECOMMENDATION

- Require evidence of effectiveness as a part of teacher licensing policy.
 - Arizona should require evidence of teacher effectiveness to be a factor in determining whether teachers earn advanced licenses.
- Discontinue licensure requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

While some targeted requirements—such as Arizona's requirement for study of research-based phonics instruction—may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Arizona's other general, nonspecific coursework requirements for license renewal merely call for teachers to complete a certain amount of seat time. These requirements do not correlate with teacher effectiveness.

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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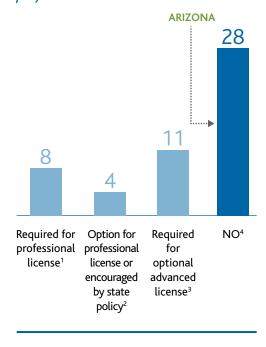


TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 85

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

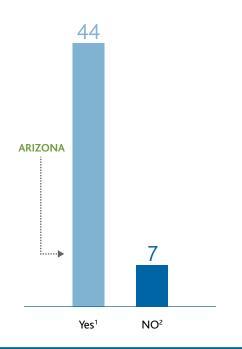


- 1. Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New York and Oregon all require a master's degree or coursework equivalent to a master's degree
- 2. Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio. South Carolina, Utah,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

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

Figure 86

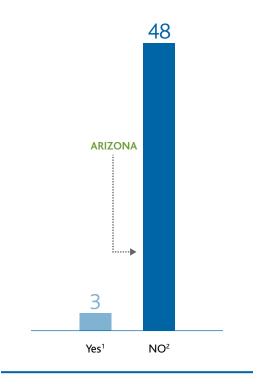
Do states require teachers to take additional, nonspecific coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



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

Goal F – Equitable Distribution

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

Goal Components

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

The state should make the following data publicly available:

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

Background



Area 3: Goal F **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Providing comprehensive reporting may be the state's most important role for ensuring the equitable distribution of teachers among schools. Arizona does not report school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

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

Arizona does report on the percentage of teachers on emergency credentials and the percentage of highly qualified teachers. However, these data are reported only at the district level, not for individual schools, and have not been updated since the 2007-2008 school year. While Arizona compares the average percentage of highly qualified teachers in high- and low-poverty schools within each district, it does not provide the percentage of highly qualified teachers for each school.

Supporting Research

Arizona State Report Card 2009-2010 http://www.ade.az.gov/srcs/statereportcards/StateReportCard2010.pdf Arizona District Report Cards 2007-2008 http://www10.ade.az.gov/reportcard/Districts.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. Arizona 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.

Arizona 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 Arizona 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.

Arizona 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 school districts. Arizona should update the data on the percentage of teachers on emergency credentials and the percentage of highly qualified teachers, as the state has not done so since 2007-2008. **ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Arizona had no comment on this goal.

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

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

Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers

Goal A - Induction

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background



Area 4: Goal A **Arizona** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona does not require a mentoring program or any other induction support for all of its new teachers. However, the state's Master Teacher Program places accomplished teachers with five or more years of experience in qualifying schools to help with teacher retention. Under this program, master teachers must commit to at least half-time mentoring duties for three years and agree to mentor 15 new teachers with less than two years of experience. To qualify, a site must meet at least two of the following criteria: 60 percent or higher poverty, 25 percent or higher new teacher turnover, 30 percent or higher teacher turnover, any middle or high school labeled as underperforming.

Supporting Research

Arizona K12 Center Program
http://www.azk12.org/programs.html
Arizona's Master Teacher Program
http://www.ade.az.gov/asd/hqp/AZMasterTeacherProgram_K12.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

Although Arizona does support mentoring for some teachers, the state should ensure that all new teachers—and especially any teacher in a low-performing school—receive mentoring support, especially in the first critical weeks of school. Arizona should consider expanding its program throughout the state.

Set more specific parameters.

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

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

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

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

104 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011
ARIZONA

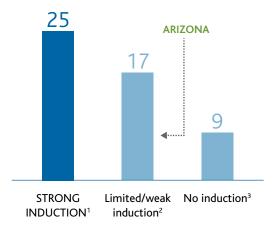
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

South Carolina requires that all new teachers, prior to the start of the school year, be assigned mentors for at least one year. Districts carefully select mentors based on experience and similar certifications and grade levels, and mentors undergo additional training. Adequate release time is mandated by the state so that mentors and new teachers may observe each other in the classroom, collaborate on effective teaching techniques and develop professional growth plans. Mentor evaluations are mandatory and stipends are recommended.

Figure 92 Do states have policies that articulate the elements of effective induction?



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

Goal B - Professional Development

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background



Area 4: Goal B **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona requires that teachers receive copies of their evaluations within five days after the evaluation has been completed. The state does not specify that professional development activities must be aligned with findings from teacher evaluations.

Supporting Research

Arizona Revised Statute 15-537 (E)

RECOMMENDATION

- Require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance.
 - Although Arizona requires teachers to receive copies of their evaluations, this only ensures that teachers will receive their ratings, not necessarily feedback on their performance. Arizona should specify that teachers should receive specific feedback on identified strengths and areas that need improvement.
- Ensure that professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.

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

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona asserted that according to a new code, the state board of education is responsible for adopting and maintaining a model framework for a teacher and principal evaluation instrument that includes quantitative data on student academic progress that accounts for between 33 percent and 50 percent of the evaluation outcomes and best practices for professional development and evaluator training on or before December 15, 2011. The state added that school districts and charter schools are required to "use an instrument that meets the data requirements established by the state board of education to annually evaluate individual teachers and principals beginning in school year 2012-2013."

LAST WORD

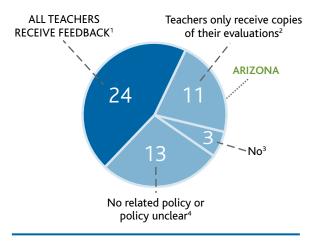
NCTQ encourages the state to include in its model framework requirements that professional development be aligned with evaluation results. However, as districts are not required to use this model framework, the state should also consider adopting policy that ensures that all teachers will receive feedback on their performance, and that evaluation results inform professional development activities.



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 94 Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?

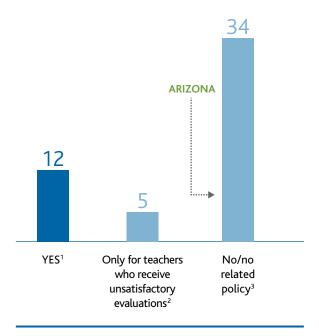


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska,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



Figure 96

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, Mississippi⁴, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Viiginia, Washington, West Viiginia, 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.
- 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** Florida 1, Indiana 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 Illinois. Rhode Island, Texas States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia Progress on this Goal Since 2009: **1**:3 **⇔**: 48 **↓**:0

Area 4: Goal C **Arizona** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona gives local districts the authority for pay scales, eliminating barriers such as state salary schedules and other regulations that control how districts pay teachers. The state allows the local governing board to "employ and fix the salaries and benefits of employees necessary for the succeeding year."

Supporting Research

Arizona Revised Statutes 15-502(A)

RECOMMENDATION

■ Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.

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

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

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

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

***** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

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

Figure 99	REQUIRES PERCORNANCE	, <i>≥</i> ,	Requires compensation
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^{1.} Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training".

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

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.)

 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



Area 4: Goal D **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

While still leaving districts with the flexibility to determine their own pay scales, Arizona should encourage districts to incorporate mechanisms such as starting these teachers at a higher salary than other new teachers. Such policies would be attractive to career changers with related work experience, such as in the STEM subjects.

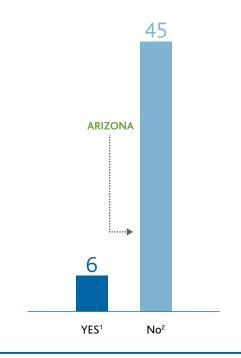
ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



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



Area 4: Goal E **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona 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.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 103		HIGH NEED	/	SHORTAGI	
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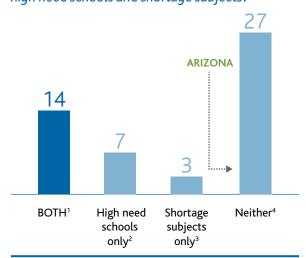
- Connecticut offers mortgage assistance and incentives to retired teachers working in shortage subject areas.
- Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 3. South Dakota offers signing bonuses and scholarships to fill shortages in high-need schools.
- Shortage subject area differential pay is limited to the Middle School Teacher Corps program.



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

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



Area 4: Goal F **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona supports a performance pay initiative. The state's Career Ladder Program provides teachers with opportunities for advancement based on "improved or advanced teaching skills, evidence of pupil academic progress and higher-level instructional responsibilities."

The program requires that the placement of teachers on the Career Ladder be based on more than one measure of performance, including increasingly higher levels of student academic progress, the use of various methods of progress assessments by local districts and procedures for review of student progress. The restructured salary schedule must be based on performance and not on experience and education.

Supporting Research

Arizona Revised Statutes 15-918.02

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

Goal G – Pension Flexibility

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background



Area 4: Goal G **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona only offers a defined benefit pension plan to its teachers as their mandatory pension plan. This plan is not fully portable, as the state eliminated the ability to withdraw employer contributions for teachers who choose to withdraw their account balances when leaving the system who were hired after July 1, 2011. It also limits flexibility by restricting the ability to purchase years of service. However, the state is commended for offering immediate vesting and a fully portable supplemental savings plan.

Teachers in Arizona 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. Arizona is commended for allowing immediate vesting.

However, Arizona eliminated an important portability provision for most new teachers hired after July 1, 2011. Employees hired prior to that date are allowed to withdraw an employer match on contributions made prior to July 1, 2011, which is rare among defined benefit plans. Arizona teachers with five years of experience who do not want to receive monthly payments at retirement age are allowed to withdraw their contributions and a 25 percent employer match, plus interest. The amount of employer match increases by 15 percent for each year of additional service, reaching 100 percent at 10 years of service. While ideally teachers would be entitled to their full employer contribution at time of vesting, Arizona's scale was moving in the right direction. There is no match, even for these teachers, on contributions made after July 1, 2011.

Now, new hires and those teachers that retire with less than five years of experience 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.

Arizona also recently changed important flexibility provisions, placing limits on teachers' purchase of 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. While the state is commended for allowing teachers to purchase time for previous teaching experience and approved leaves of absence, as of July 20, 2011, teachers may not initiate this purchase until they have 10 years of service in Arizona, which makes the purchase cost much more expensive than if calculated earlier in a teacher's career. While the ability to purchase time is valuable to any teacher who enters the system with previous service or needs to take a leave for personal reasons such as maternity or paternity care, the required wait may make the purchase price too expensive for teachers to take advantage of the provision. Additionally, as of July 20, 2011, teachers are limited to purchasing no more than 60 months per type of purchase. These restrictions do not apply to teachers purchasing previously forfeited service in the retirement system.

Arizona is commended for recently creating the Supplemental Retirement Savings Plan (SRSP). The SRSP is optional and allows teachers to contribute income before taxes to investment portfolios. Unlike other supplemental plans, the SRSP has unique restrictions placed on it by the IRS. Teachers only have a two-year window to decide whether to participate, and their decisions are final. Decisions about the manner and amount of participation cannot be changed, and account balances must be distributed upon retirement. Teachers may elect to defer up to 100 percent of pay or \$45,000, whichever is lower. Also, employers must choose to join the SRSP, so participation by all local districts is not guaranteed.

Teachers may also have the option of participating in a Supplemental Salary Deferral Plan (SSDP), a 403b or 457, if their employer chooses to participate. The SSDP is more flexible and has fewer restrictions than the SRSP.

Supporting Research

Arizona State Retirement System, Member Handbook, 2011 https://www.azasrs.gov/content/pdf/Mem_Handbook_2011.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Increase the portability of its defined benefit plan.

If Arizona maintains its defined benefit plan, it should return to its previous policy of allowing teachers leaving the system to withdraw employer matching contributions. The state should also allow teachers to purchase previous teaching experience on the first day of employment and to purchase approved leaves of absence. A lack of portability is a disincentive to an increasingly mobile teaching force.

Offer an employer contribution to the supplemental retirement savings plan.

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

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

The state noted that select professionals at the three universities in Arizona (Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University) have always had an option to participate in the University Optional Retirement Plan, which is a defined contribution plan, in lieu of Arizona State Retirement System coverage. This program is sponsored and managed by the Arizona State Board of Regents.

Arizona stated that employees forfeiting service and withdrawing their dollars from the ASRS may roll over their funds to a qualified retirement account, such as an IRA. Also, forfeiting members were credited with 8 percent interest for all contributions made prior to July 1, 2005. For all contributions made after that date, employees are credited 4 percent interest. Both amounts are typically higher than what is currently offered in a basic savings account.

Further, the state maintained that one of the statutory missions of the ASRS defined benefit plan is to be an incentive to attract and retain employees in the public sector, including teachers. The average years of service for retired educators in Arizona are approximately 20 years. Our feedback from stakeholders in the educational community indicates that they continue to view the ASRS defined benefit plan as a valuable part of their overall compensation package.

LAST WORD

Arizona is commended for offering professionals at its universities the option of a defined contribution plan. This option should be extended to public school teachers.

The state does offer interest at a higher rate than current basic savings plans. This is a valuable aspect of the system for any teachers who choose to withdraw their contributions. The former 8 percent rate is similar to offering an employer match. However, interest rates credited to accounts are easily altered, as shown by the state's recent changes affecting all members, and returning to the previous policy of a guaranteed employer match of contributions would offer more security for teachers who withdraw their funds.

Some stakeholders may view a defined benefit plan as a valuable part of their overall compensation, but in addition to concerns about the financial sustainability of these plans (see Goal 4-H), the fact that the choice of other compensation methods is not offered certainly affects the feedback received. Similarly, local districts are not offered a choice of other ways to attract and retain teachers with the funds they must contribute to the defined benefit pension system.

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 wish	ifined /	CHOICE OF DEFINED RED.	Š / >
What type of pension	Defined benefit	Spuc / Fig.) tal p		DEFINED CONTRIBUTION
systems do states offer		lan (, emer	VED.	
teachers?	<i>*</i>			DEFIN	
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Delaware					
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Rhode Island					
South Carolina ⁶					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
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Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington ⁸					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	25	17	4	4	1



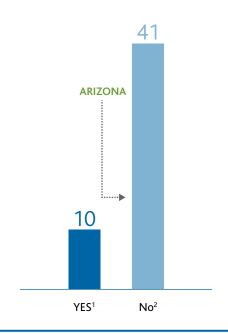
TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

Figure 110

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



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

Figure 111

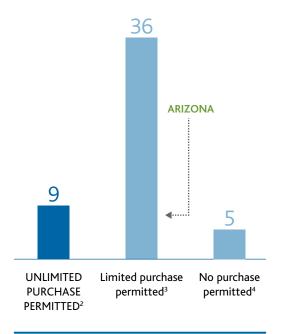
- 1. For teachers who join the system on or after January 1, 2012.
- 2. Florida's defined benefit plan does not vest until year eight; teachers vest in the state's defined contribution plan after one year.
- 3. For teachers who join the system on or after July 1, 2012.
- 4. Ohio's defined benefit plan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

igure 111 Iow many years before	teachers ves	t?		
	3 YEARS OR LESS	4 to 5 years	6 to 9 years	10 years
Alabama				
Alaska				
ARIZONA				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut				
Delaware ¹				
District of Columbia				
Florida ²				
Georgia				
Hawaii ³				
Idaho				
Illinois				
Indiana Iowa ³				
Kansas Kentucky				
Louisiana				
Maine				
Maryland				
Massachusetts				
Michigan				
Minnesota				
Mississippi				
Missouri				
Montana				- i
Nebraska				
Nevada				
New Hampshire				
New Jersey				
New Mexico				
New York				
North Carolina				
North Dakota				
Ohio ⁴				
Oklahoma				
Oregon ⁵				
Pennsylvania				
Rhode Island				
South Carolina ⁶				
South Dakota				
Tennessee				
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington ⁷				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming		30	3	16
	3	29	3	16

Figure 112		Only their own	, 6 ₀ , /	Their own contribution	THER OWN CONTRIBUTION PLUS INTEREST AND FILL EMPLOYNER
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five years? ¹	¹ 400	\ \ \(\int_{0} \)	Li snja	/ ¹²	1.403
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California ³					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana					
lowa ⁴					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland					
Massachusetts					
Michigan⁵					
Minnesota					
Mississippi					
Missouri					
Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada ⁶					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio ⁷					
Oklahoma					
Oregon ⁸					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina ⁹		ī			
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah ¹⁰					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington ¹¹					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming	4			6	1
	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, lowa 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.
- 8. 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.

Figure 113 Do states permit teachers to purchase time for previous teaching experience?1



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

Figure 114 Do states permit teachers to purchase time for leaves of absence?1



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

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.)

- The state should ensure that its pension system is financially sustainable, without excessive unfunded liabilities or an inappropriately long amortization period.
- 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



Area 4: Goal H **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

As of June 30, 2009, the most recent date for which an actuarial valuation is available, Arizona's pension system for teachers is 79 percent funded and has a 30-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 30 years to pay off its unfunded liabilities. While its amortization period meets regulatory benchmarks, Arizona's funding level is just below the conventionally recommended minimum funding level of 80 percent. The state's system is just short of being financially sustainable according to actuarial benchmarks.

In addition, Arizona commits excessive resources toward its teachers' retirement system. The current employer contribution rate of 10.10 percent and employee contribution rate of 11.39 percent are each too high, in light of the fact that local districts and teachers must also contribute 6.2 percent to Social Security. The rate is determined according to statutory requirements, which mandate that the employer contribution rate must equal the cost to fund this year's expenses (the normal cost) plus any amount needed to amortize any unfunded liabilities over a 30-year period. While these rates allow the state to pay off liabilities within 30 years, it does so at great cost, precluding Arizona from spending those funds on other, more immediate means to retain talented teachers.

Supporting Research

Arizona State Retirement System, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report https://www.azasrs.gov/content/pdf/financials/2010_CAFR.pdf Arizona State Retirement System Contribution Rates https://www.azasrs.gov/web/ContributionRates.do

RECOMMENDATION

■ Ensure that the pension system is financially sustainable.

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

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona maintained that the Arizona Constitution (Article XXIX, Section 1.A.) requires retirement benefits to be funded with contributions and investment earnings using actuarial methods and assumptions that are consistent with generally accepted actuarial standards. Accordingly, the funded status of the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) will gradually improve due to the actuarial assumptions in place and therefore continue to keep the ASRS financially sustainable.

The state asserted that systemic changes have been proposed by the ASRS to the legislature since 2003. Collectively, these changes are expected to reduce the total contribution rate by over 3 percent and reduce long term liabilities by \$5 to \$7 billion. A legislative study committee has also been created to analyze the public pension plans in Arizona and to consider more suggestions.

ARIZONA

Further, Arizona stated that the ASRS has exceeded its annual rate of return expectation (8 percent) in 20 of the past 30 years. During that time, members and employers benefited from contribution rates as low as 2 percent. The ASRS was well over 80 percent funded when the downturn began in 2001. Of the 10 years where the expectation was not met, five have occurred in the last decade.

In Arizona, public employers have always made their actuarially required contributions as required by the constitution, which has kept the ASRS in relatively good financial condition. The ASRS, along with many other pension plans, mitigates contribution rate volatility by "smoothing" its investment returns over a 10-year period.

LAST WORD

NCTQ maintains that Arizona's funding ratio is slightly below suggested benchmarks and commends the state for maintaining a 30-year amortization period. However, this analysis shows that the contributions necessary to fund a system of this format place a considerable burden on teachers and school districts.

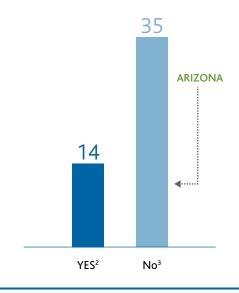
Figure 116		. 9
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financial health?	FUNDE	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
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Alaska		
ARIZONA		
Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
lowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky		1
Louisiana		
Maine		
Maryland		1
Massachusetts		
Michigan ²		
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		
Utah³		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wisconsin Wyoming		
	16	26



TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 117 Are state pension systems financially sustainable?1



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

Figure 116

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

Figure 118

Real Rate of Return

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

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

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

Figure 119

Figure 119

How well funded are state pension systems?

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

^{1.} Alaska has only a defined contribution pension system.

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

Figure 120
What is a reasonable rate for pension contributions?

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

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

Sources:

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

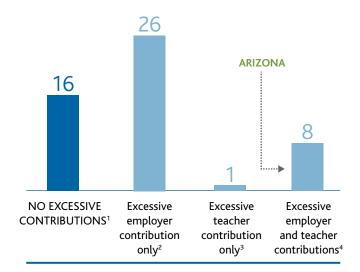
Figure 121

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



Figure 122

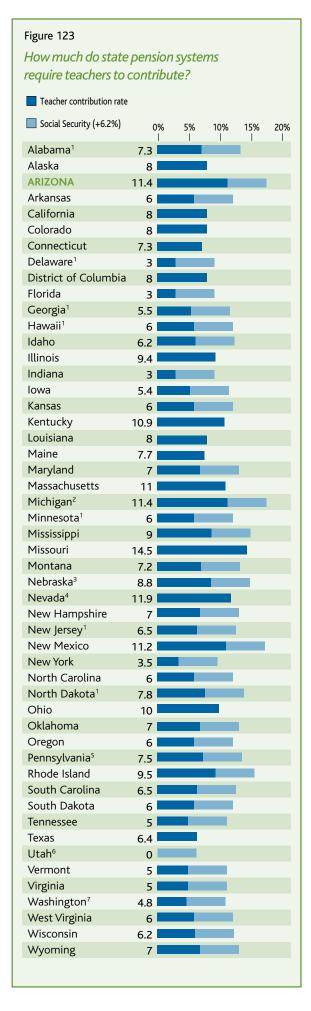
Do states require excessive contributions to their pension systems?



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

Figure 123

- 1. The contribution rate is set to increase in future years.
- Teachers contribute 9.4 percent to the defined benefit component and are automatically enrolled to contribute 2 percent to the defined contribution component; teachers may change the latter rate.
- 3. The contribution rate is set to increase in 2012 and decrease in 2014.
- 4. Teachers share in the employer contribution through salary reductions or foregoing equivalent pay raises.
- 5. For teachers hired after July 1, 2011, the contribution ranges from 7.5-12.3 based on a variety of factors.
- 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.



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



Area 4: Goal I **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona'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.

Arizona's pension plan does not utilize a constant benefit multiplier. Instead, the plan's multiplier is 2.1 percent for up to 19 years of service, 2.15 percent for 20 to 24 years of service, 2.2 percent for 25 to 29 years of service and 2.3 percent for 30 or more years of service.

In addition, teachers may retire before standard retirement age based on years of service without a reduction in benefits. All teachers with 10 years of service may retire at age 62, while other vested teachers with less than 10 years of service may not retire until age 65. Teachers hired prior to July 1, 2011, may also retire according to the "Rule of 80," which means that teachers may retire when their age plus years of service equal 80. Therefore, teachers who begin their careers at age 22 can reach the "Rule of 80" with 29 years of service by age 51, entitling them to more than 14 additional years of unreduced retirement benefits beyond what other teachers would receive who may not retire until age 65. Teachers hired on or after July 1, 2011, may retire at age 55 with 30 years of service, at age 60 with 25 years of service, at age 62 with 10 years of service or age 65. Not only are teachers being paid benefits by the state before Social Security's retirement age, but these provisions may also encourage effective teachers to retire early, and they fail to treat equally those teachers who enter the system at a later age and give the same amount of service.

Supporting Research

Arizona State Retirement System, Member Handbook, 2011 https://www.azasrs.gov/content/pdf/Mem_Handbook_2011.pdf Arizona State Retirement System, 2011 Legislation Summary https://www.azasrs.gov/content/pdf/2011_legislation_summary.pdf

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

- End retirement eligibility based on years of service.
 - Arizona should change its practice of allowing teachers with 10 years of service and teachers whose age and service equal 80 to retire before other teachers. 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. Arizona allows all teachers to retire before conventional retirement age, some as young as 51. 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).

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

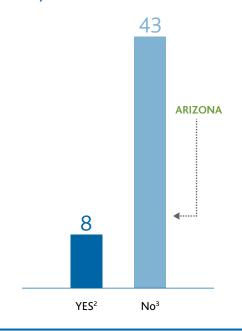
Arizona noted that the ASRS defined benefit plan calculates benefits based on service and salary, which rewards career employees and is consistent with the overall statutory purpose of the defined benefit plan to attract and retain public employees. The design of the ASRS plan is generally consistent with the design of most teacher pension plans. If the ASRS were to change its plan design in the manner suggested, it has the potential to negatively affect schools trying to attract employees.

LAST WORD

NCTQ is not suggesting that years of service be excluded from the benefit formula; it is an important component that represents how many years teachers have contributed to the system. The point is that it should not be included in the eligibility requirements, as it creates unnecessary peaks in pension wealth.

Figure 125

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



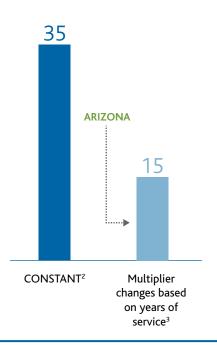
- 1. This only refers to determining retirement eligibility, not retirement benefits.
- 2. Strong Practice: Alaska, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey
- Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia,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

Figure 126

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

Figure 126	Total anount in benefits paid the transfer of the transfer from the transfer paid to the tran	se th
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an early age?¹	Per Per /	tea, tea, tea, tea, tea, tea, tea, tea,
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Illinois	\$0	67
Maine	\$0	65
Minnesota ³	\$0	66
New Hampshire	\$0	65
New Jersey	\$0	65
Washington	\$0	65
Tennessee	\$238,654	52
Michigan	\$289,187	60
California ⁴	\$310,028	62
Indiana	\$317,728	55
Hawaii⁵ 	\$337,385	60
Kansas	\$337,385	60
Oregon	\$361,536	58
North Dakota	\$385,583	60
Oklahoma	\$385,583	60
Maryland Wisconsin	\$413,808	56
Rhode Island	\$416,007	57
New York	\$430,013 \$440,819	59 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 ⁶	\$594,296	57
Georgia	\$624,786	52
Mississippi	\$624,786	52
Alabama	\$625,747	47
Colorado	\$650,011	57
Pennsylvania	\$650,011	57
Wyoming ARIZONA	\$655,506	54 55
Arkansas	\$664,340 \$681,789	55
Ohio	\$687,265	52
New Mexico	\$734,124	52
Nevada	\$780,983	52
Missouri	\$789,343	51
Kentucky	\$791,679	49
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Figure 127
What kind of multiplier do states use to calculate retirement benefits?¹



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



TEXAMPLES 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.

146 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011
ARIZONA

Goal A – Licensure Loopholes

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



Area 5: Goal A **Arizona** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona allows teachers who have not passed their licensing tests to teach for one year under an emergency teaching certificate. That certificate can be reissued, and the state does not specify how many times a reissuance can occur.

Supporting Research

Arizona Administrative Code; R7-2-607 (C); R7-2-614 (D)

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. Protecting the most disadvantaged children from being in classrooms with teachers who have not passed licensure tests is a step in the right direction, though it appears that this policy is not in effect in Arizona. The state 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 licensing tests. Arizona's current policy puts students at risk by allowing teachers to teach on emergency certificates for three years without passing required subject-matter licensing tests.

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona asserted that it no longer issues emergency teaching certificates to core academic teachers because that certificate is considered a waiver by the USDOE, and, therefore, the holder does not meet ESEA Title IIA highly qualified teacher requirements.

LAST WORD

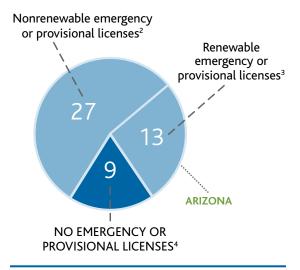
It does appear that the state is not presently issuing emergency certificates. However, as long as the regulatory language remains unchanged, the state remains authorized to do so at any time.



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 130 Do states still award emergency licenses?1



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

Figure 131

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

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Goal B – Unsatisfactory Evaluations

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

Goal Components

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

- 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.
- The state should require that all teachers who receive two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations or two unsatisfactory evaluations within five years be formally eligible for dismissal, whether or not they have tenure.

Background

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



Area 5: Goal B **Arizona** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona provides "assistance and opportunities" for teachers whose evaluation identifies them as needing improvement, but it is unclear how structured this remediation plan must be. Arizona does not address whether a particular number of unsatisfactory evaluations would make a teacher automatically eligible for dismissal.

Supporting Research

Arizona Revised Statute 15-537

RECOMMENDATION

Require that all teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations be placed on improvement

While Arizona provides opportunities for improvement to all teachers identified as needing assistance, the state's policy does not clearly articulate that formal remediation plans will be utilized for teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations. The state should, therefore, clarify and expand its policy to require that teachers who receive even one unsatisfactory evaluation be placed on structured improvement plans. These plans should focus on performance areas that directly connect to student learning and should list noted deficiencies, define specific action steps necessary to address these deficiencies and describe how and when progress will be measured.

Make eligibility for dismissal a consequence of unsatisfactory evaluations.

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

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

ARIZONA

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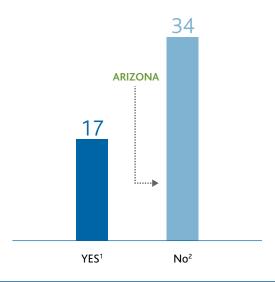
- Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- While results of evaluations may be used in dismissal decisions, there are no specific criteria for a teacher's eligibility for dismissal.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

***** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 134

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



- Strong Practice: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington
- 2. Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho³, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada⁴, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- 4. A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal.

Goal C – Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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



Area 5: Goal C **Arizona** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona makes "inadequacy of classroom performance" grounds for dismissal. In addition, the state takes steps to differentiate the due process rights of teachers facing dismissal for poor performance leading up to the actual notice of dismissal. However, it seems as though once the dismissal occurs, all teachers undergo the same appeals process, regardless of whether they are being dismissed for poor performance or for other charges commonly associated with license revocation, such as a felony and/or morality violations.

The governing board must provide the teacher with a written "preliminary notice of inadequacy of classroom performance." Within ten days, the teacher begins a 60-day period to correct the inadequacy. If the teacher does not correct deficiencies within this time frame, the board "shall dismiss the teacher either within ten days of the service of a subesequent notice of inadequacy of classroom performance or by the end of the contract year." The teacher facing dismissal may file a written request for a hearing within 10 days of receiving this notice.

In Arizona, teachers facing dismissal may appeal multiple times. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher has 10 days to file a first appeal. A hearing must occur within 30 days after the request is filed. Once the governing board has made its decision, the teacher has 30 days to file another appeal with the county's superior court. The state does not address the time frame for this appeal, except to articulate that "the proceeding shall be set for hearing at the earliest possible date and shall take precedence over all other cases, except older matters of the same character and matters to which special precedence is otherwise given by law."

Supporting Research

Arizona Revised Statute 15-203; 15-539; 15-541; 15-543

RECOMMENDATION

Specify that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

Arizona leaves it up to districts to develop definitions of "inadequacy of classroom performance," failing to ensure that teachers who receive a certain number of ineffective evaluation ratings are eligible for dismissal. The state should consider establishing at least some marker for what defines inadequacy in the classroom so that districts do not feel they lack the legal basis for terminating consistently poor performers. Without this specification, Arizona's efforts to improve its evaluation framework (see Goal 3-B) may be undermined.

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

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.

ARIZONA

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

While Arizona has taken steps to differentiate due process rights for teachers facing dismissal for poor performance, in effect, the only difference appears to lie in the process leading up to providing a teacher with a dismissal notice. The state's appeals policy seems to still equally apply to all teachers. Nonprobationary teachers should have due process for any termination, but 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. Arizona should ensure that appeals related to classroom effectiveness are only decided by those with educational expertise.

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona had no comment on this goal.

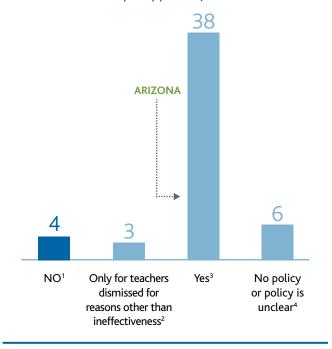
Figure 136			
Do states articulate		FY THROUGH	<u>ک</u> /
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TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 137 Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



- 1. Strong Practice: Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Wisconsin
- 2. Teachers in these states revert to probationary status following ineffective evaluation ratings, meaning that they no longer have the due process right to multiple appeals: Colorado, Indiana, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois⁵, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. District of Columbia, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada⁶, Utah, Vermont
- 5. The teacher is responsible for the cost of the second appeal.
- 6. Though a teacher returns to probationary status after two consecutive unsatisfactory ratings, the state does not articulate clear policy about its appeals process.

Figure 136

- 1. It is left to districts to define "inadequacy of classroom performance."
- 2. A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not articulated that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.
- 3. Dismissal policy includes dismissal for unsatisfactory evaluations, but the state's evaluation system does not measure teacher effectiveness (see Goal 3-B).

Goal D – Reductions in Force

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

Goal Components

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

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

Background

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

Figure 138 How States are Faring in Reductions in Force **Best Practice States** Colorado, Florida, Indiana States Meet Goal Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah States Nearly Meet Goal Nevada, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee States Partly Meet Goal ARIZONA, Idaho, Maine, New Hampshire States Meet a Small Part of Goal 34 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: **New Goal**

Area 5: Goal D **Arizona** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

ANALYSIS

Arizona ensures that seniority and tenure status are not the sole factors used by districts to determine which teachers are laid off during reductions in force. However, the state does not require that teacher performance be among the considered factors.

Supporting Research

Arizona State Statute 15-502 (h)

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

ARIZONA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Arizona recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

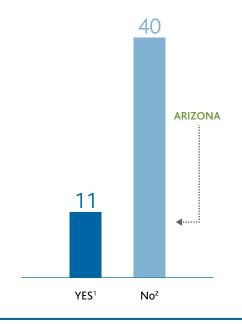




T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

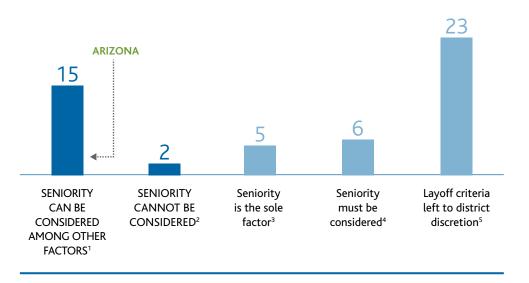
Figure 140 Do districts have to consider performance in determining which teachers are laid off?



- 1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio3, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Tenure is considered first.

Figure 141

Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?



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

- 2. Strong Practice: Idaho, Utah
- 3. Hawaii, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin⁷
- 4. California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon
- 5. Alabama, Alaska⁶, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia⁶, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts⁶, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska⁶, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming
- 6. Nontenured teachers are laid off first.
- 7. Only for counties with populations of 500,000 or more and for teachers hired before 1995.

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