# 2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

## Pennsylvania





### Acknowledgments

### **STATES**

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

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

### **FUNDERS**

The primary funders for the 2011 Yearbook were:

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

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

National Council on Teacher Quality

### **Executive Summary**

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

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

### Pennsylvania at a Glance Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade:

Overall 2009 Yearbook Grade: D

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

### **Overall Progress**



### Highlights from recent progress in Pennsylvania include:

- Elementary teacher preparation in the science of reading instruction
- Middle school teacher preparation
- Special education teacher preparation

### How is **Pennsylvania** Faring?

### Area 1 Delivering Well Prepared Teachers

### **Policy Strengths**

- Teacher preparation programs are required to address the science of reading, and teacher candidates must pass a test to ensure knowledge.
- Middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.

С

С

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

### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Teacher candidates are not required to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- Elementary teachers are not adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with the Common Core Standards.
- Neither teacher preparation program nor licensure test requirements ensure that new elementary teachers are adequately prepared to teach mathematics.
- Although most secondary teachers must pass a content test to teach a core subject area, some secondary science and social studies teachers are not required to pass content tests for each discipline they intend to teach.
- Not all new teachers must pass a pedagogy test.
- There are no requirements to ensure that student teachers are placed with cooperating teachers who were selected based on evidence of effectiveness.
- The teacher preparation program approval process does not hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

### Area 2 Expanding the Pool of Teachers

### **Policy Strengths**

- Admission criteria for alternate routes to certification are selective, but they lack flexibility for nontraditional candidates.
- There are no restrictions on alternate route usage or providers.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

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

### How is **Pennsylvania** Faring?

### Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers

#### **Policy Strengths**

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

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Objective evidence of student learning is not the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.
- Tenure decisions are not connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

- All teachers must be evaluated annually.
- Licensure advancement and renewal are not based on teacher effectiveness.

D+

D+

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

### Area 4 Retaining Effective Teachers

### **Policy Strengths**

- All new teachers receive mentoring.
- 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.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

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

- Teachers can receive additional compensation for working in shortage subject areas.
- Teachers are only offered a defined benefit pension plan, and pension policies are not portable, flexible or fair to all teachers.
- The pension system 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**

 Eligibility for dismissal is a consequence of multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Teachers can teach for up to three years before having to pass required subject-matter tests.
- Improvement plans are not provided to teachers who receive an unsatisfactory evaluation rating.
- Ineffective classroom performance is not grounds for dismissal, and tenured teachers who are dismissed have multiple opportunities to appeal.
- Seniority, rather than a teacher's performance in the classroom, is considered in determining which teachers to lay off during reductions in force.

### Pennsylvania Goal Summary

Goal Breakdown	
★ Best Practice	1
Fully Meets	4
Nearly Meets	2
Partially Meets	10
Only Meets a Small Part	7
O Does Not Meet	12
Progress on Goals Since 2009	
Area 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs	0
1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation	0
1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	•
1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	٢
1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation	*
1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation	•
1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	0
1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies	0
1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation	0
1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge	٢
1-K: Student Teaching	0
1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	٢
Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers	
2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility	•
2-B: Alternate Route Preparation	٢
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.

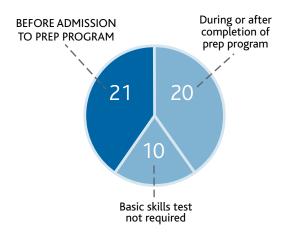


Some goals are marked with this symbol  $\bigcirc$ , which indicates that the bar has been raised for this goal since the 2009 *Yearbook*. With many states making considerable progress in advancing teacher effectiveness policy, NCTQ raised the standards for some goals where the bar had been quite low.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

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

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

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



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### Goals

### AREA 1: DELIVERING WELL PREPARED TEACHERS

### 1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs

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

### 1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

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

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

### 1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

### 1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

### 1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

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

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

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

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

### 1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

### 1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

### 1-K: Student Teaching

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

### 1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

### AREA 2: EXPANDING THE POOL OF TEACHERS

### 2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility

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

### 2-B: Alternate Route Preparation

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

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

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

### 2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses

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

### 2-E: Licensure Reciprocity

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

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### Goals

### AREA 3: IDENTIFYING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

### 3-A: State Data Systems

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

### 3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

### 3-C: Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

### 3-D: Tenure

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

### 3-E: Licensure Advancement

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

### 3-F: Equitable Distribution

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

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

### 4-A: Induction

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

### 4-B: Professional Development

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

#### 4-C: Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

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

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

### 4-E: Differential Pay

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

### 4-F: Performance Pay

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

### 4-G: Pension Flexibility

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

#### 4-H: Pension Sustainability

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

### 4-1: Pension Neutrality

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

### AREA 5: EXITING INEFFECTIVE TEACHERS

#### 5-A: Licensure Loopholes

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

### 5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations

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

### 5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

### 5-D: Reductions in Force

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

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### Goal A – Admission into Preparation Programs

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

### Background

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

### Figure 1

How States are Faring in Admission Requirements

- 1 Best Practice State
- **0** States Meet Goal

States Meet Goal

11 States Nearly Meet Goal Connecticut, Georgia , Hawaii , Indiana , Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Rhode Island , South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia



2

**States Partly Meet Goal** Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa**↑**, Missouri, Nebraska, Washington

States Meet a Small Part of Goal Florida, Wisconsin

31 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, PENNSYLVANIA, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

🕇:6 👄:45 🖡:0



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



### State Does Not Meet Goal

💦 Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 🧲

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

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

Supporting Research Pennsylvania Code 354.11, .12

### 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. 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—Pennsylvania 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.

Pennsylvania 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.

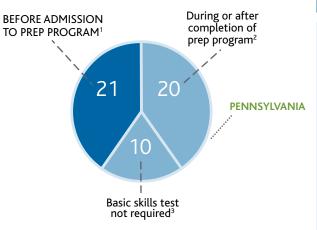
PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 3

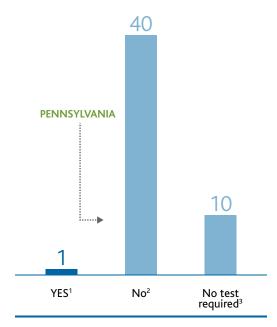
### When do states test teacher candidates' basic skills?



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

#### Figure 2

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



1. Strong Practice: Texas

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

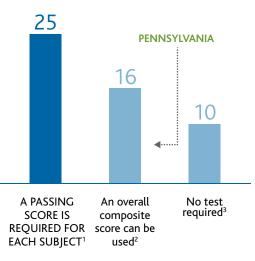
3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

### Figure 4

Figure 4 Do states appropriately test teacher candidates' academic proficiency?	TEST NORMED BOUND POBILE TO CC. ADMIC: POBIL: TO CC.	Test normed only the contract of the contract	Test normed only to test	No test required	
Alabama					
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana					
lowa					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland					
Massachusetts					
Michigan					
Minnesota					
Mississippi					
Missouri Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio					
Oklahoma					
Oregon PENNSYLVANIA					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	1	20	20	10	
	1	20	20	10	

### Figure 5

Do states measure performance in reading, mathematics and writing?



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

### Goal B – Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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

### Figure 6

*How States are Faring in Elementary Teacher Preparation* 



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

### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

**1**:3 ↔:44 ↓:4

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

### ) State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

Although Pennsylvania 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.

Pennsylvania requires candidates to pass the Praxis II test "Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment," which, unfortunately, not only combines content with a pedagogy assessment but also does not report teacher performance in each subject area, meaning that it is possible to pass the test and still fail some subject areas. The state also requires the Praxis II test "Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge," which combines subject areas and does not report individual subscores. Further, based on available information on the Praxis II, there is no reason to expect that the current versions would be well aligned with the Common Core Standards.

In addition, Pennsylvania requires that all teachers must complete at least six semester credit hours in college-level English composition and literature. The state also articulates a broad set of standards for programs to apply in preparing elementary candidates. Pennsylvania addresses many sensible areas such as earth/space, life and physical sciences; world, national, state and local history; and basic concepts in art, music, dance and drama. These are all important curricular areas, but these standards are far too ambiguous to set a meaningful standard for holding either programs or teachers accountable.

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

Supporting Research Pennsylvania Code 22 Sections 354.23, -.24 Praxis II www.ets.org

### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

Pennsylvania should either articulate a more specific set of standards or establish comprehensive coursework requirements that are specifically geared to the areas of knowledge needed by PK-6 teachers. 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 Pennsylvania teachers' content knowledge, but it would also ensure that prospective teachers have taken higherlevel 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.

**PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

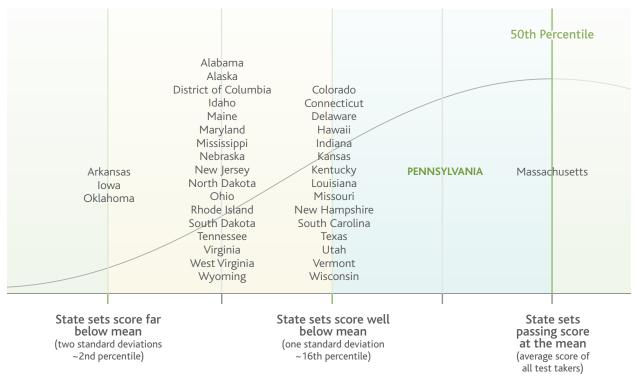


### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

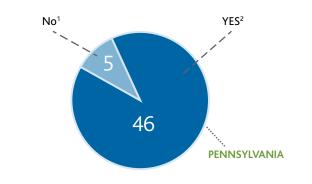
### Figure 7

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



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

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



1. Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, Virginia

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

### Figure 9

### What subjects does **Pennsylvania** expect elementary teachers to know?

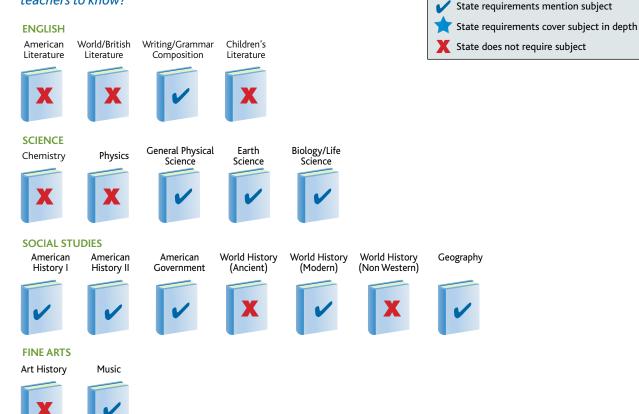
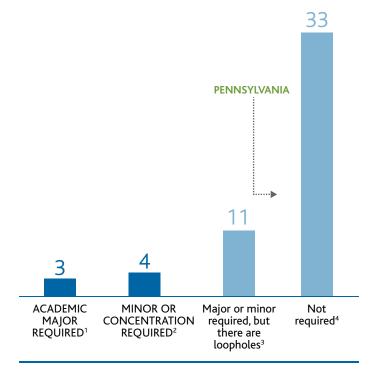




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Wyoming																			

### Figure 11

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



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



Goal C – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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

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

### Area 1: Goal C Pennsylvania Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

### ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania requires teacher preparation programs to address the science of reading. Programs must provide training in the five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phone-mic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

As of April 2, 2012, the state will require the Pennsylvania Educator Certification Test (PECT) for grades PK-4. This will be a modular test that will report a specific score for the science of reading.

### **Supporting Research**

PK-4 Guidelines

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\_0\_123236\_893942\_0\_0\_18/Prek4Guidelines.pdf 4-8 Guidelines

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\_0\_123236\_588882\_0\_0\_18/4\_8ProgramGuidelines.pdf Testing Requirements

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/testing\_requirements/8638

### RECOMMENDATION

### Monitor new assessment to ensure rigor.

Pennsylvania will need to monitor this new assessment to make sure it really is rigorous and an appropriate measure of teachers' knowledge and skill of effective reading instruction.

### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

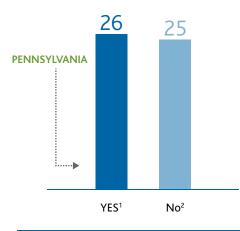


### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

### Figure 13

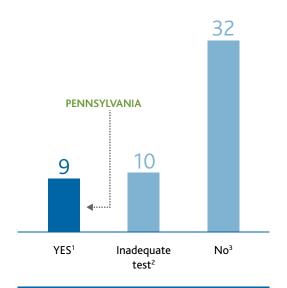
### Do states require preparation for elementary teachers in the science of reading?



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

### Figure 14

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



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

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Do states ensure that elementary teachers know the science of reading?	APPROPRIATE TEST Inadequate test No reading test
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	PPRC 60 PE
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Colorado	
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District of Columbia	
Florida	
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20 25	9 10 52

1. Based on the limited information available about the test on the state's website.

2. Test is under development and not yet available for review.

### Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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

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•	1	State Nearly Meets Goal Indiana
0	5	States Partly Meet Goal California, Florida, Minnesota 🕇 , New Mexico, Utah 🕇
•	30	States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa , Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, PENNSYLVANIA, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming
0	14	States Do Not Meet Goal Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, West Virginia, Wisconsin
	Pro	ogress on this Goal Since 2009:
		<b>1</b> :4 ↔:47 <b>↓</b> :0

### Area 1: Goal D Pennsylvania Analysis

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

#### ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania relies on both coursework requirements and its standards for teacher preparation programs as the basis for articulating its requirements for the mathematics content knowledge of elementary teacher candidates.

The state requires elementary teaching candidates to earn at least six semester hours of credit in collegelevel mathematics. However, Pennsylvania specifies neither the requisite content of these classes nor that they must meet the needs of elementary teachers. The state has also articulated teaching standards that its approved teacher preparation programs must use to frame instruction in elementary mathematics content. The state's standards appropriately address content in mathematics foundations, but although they mention such areas as algebra, geometry and statistics, the standards lack the specificity needed to ensure that teacher preparation programs deliver this mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates to teach to the state's elementary student curriculum.

As of April 2, 2012, the state will require the Pennsylvania Educator Certification Test (PECT) for grades PK-4. This will be a modular test that will report a specific score for mathematics. The rigor of this new assessment has yet to be determined.

#### Supporting Research

Pennsylvania Code 22 Sections 354.23

Elementary Education Program Guidelines http://www.teaching.state.pa.us/teaching/cwp/view.asp?a=135&Q=93761 www.ets.org/praxis

"No Common Denominator: The Preparation of Elementary Teachers in Mathematics by America's Education Schools," NCTQ, June 2008

http://www.nctq.org/p/publications/docs/nctq\_ttmath\_fullreport.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Although Pennsylvania requires knowledge in some 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.

Pennsylvania 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.

### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state added that its new PK-4 certificate requires that all PK-4 candidates demonstrate knowledge of mathematics in the "appropriate depth and breadth."

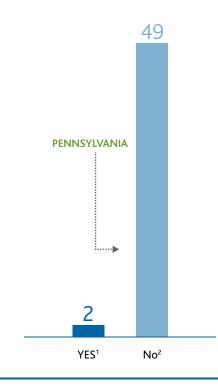


### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

### Figure 17

Do states articulate appropriate mathematics preparation for elementary teachers?

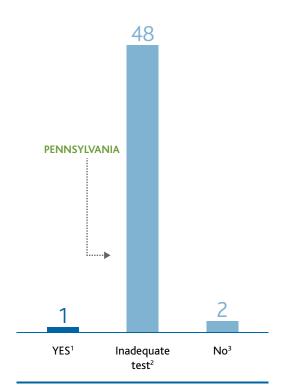


1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Massachusetts

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

### Figure 18

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



#### 1. Strong Practice: Massachusetts

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

### Goal E – Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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

### Figure 19

How States are Faring in Middle School **Teacher Preparation** 3 **Best Practice States** Arkansas 1, Georgia, PENNSYLVANIA 1 7 States Meet Goal Connecticut, Florida<sup>↑</sup>, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, South Carolina 1 States Nearly Meet Goal 8 Alabama, District of Columbia, Indiana, Kansas, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia 11 States Partly Meet Goal Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia 11 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota<sup>1</sup>, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, Wyoming 11 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, North Carolina, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 关 : 45 ↓:1 1:5



### Area 1: Goal E **Pennsylvania** Analysis



Best Practice State

Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

Pennsylvania will now require an elementary/middle-level (4-8) certification for its middle school teachers. Candidates may choose between two design options. The first option is the completion of one concentration (30 credit hours) in either English/language arts and reading, math, science or social studies. Candidates must then also complete 12 credit hours in each of the remaining three areas.

The second option is the completion of a concentration in two content areas. The state recommends a minimum of 21 credits in each content-area concentration, with 12 credits in each of the two remaining content areas.

All new middle school teachers in Pennsylvania are currently required to pass a single-subject Praxis II content test to attain licensure; a general content knowledge test is not an option. Beginning April 2, 2012, the state will begin to require modular format tests for its new programs.

### **Supporting Research**

The Framework for Grades 4-8

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\_0\_123236\_588882\_0\_0\_18/4\_8ProgramGuidelines.pdf www.ets.org/praxis

### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

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

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

- 1. California offers a K-12 generalist license for self-contained classrooms.
- 2. Illinois offers K-9 license.
- 3. With the exception of mathematics.
- 4. Oregon offers 3-8 license.
- 5. Wisconsin offers 1-8 license.

### Figure 20

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Oregon					
PENNSYLVANIA		2			
Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
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Texas					
Utah					
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West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wisconsin Wyoming	13				

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

<sup>2.</sup> Pennsylvania has two options. One option requires a 30 credit concentration in one subject and nearly a minor (12 credits) in three additional subjects; the second option is 21 credits in two subject-area concentrations with 12 credits in two additional subjects.

### Goal F – Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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

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

### Area 1: Goal F Pennsylvania Analysis



State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

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

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

Supporting Research

Pennsylvania Code Title 22, Section 49.18

### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

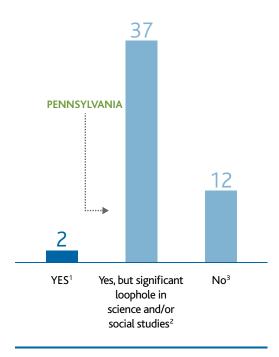
Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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

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

### Figure 23

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



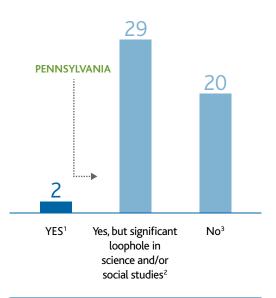
1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

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

### Figure 24

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





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

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

### Goal G – Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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

### Figure 25

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

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

### State Partly Meets Goal

# Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania offers secondary certification in general science. Candidates must only pass the Praxis II "General Science" content test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general science but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

Middle school science teachers in Pennsylvania have the option of a middle level science certificate. Candidates must earn an academic major and, commendably, pass the Praxis II "Middle School Science" test.

#### Supporting Research

Types of Certificates in PA http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/types\_of\_certificates/8823 Pennsylvania Code Title 22, Chapters 354.24 Praxis Testing Requirements www.ets.org

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania asserted that while there is a general science assessment, a teacher cannot teach a specific science course (e.g., biology, chemistry) without passing the Praxis II content test. The state also pointed out that it offers 7-12 certificates for each of the following science subjects: biology, chemistry, physics, earth science and environmental education. Each of the sciences has its own content knowledge test, which is required before any of the science subject certificates are issued. Further, each of the sciences has its own program guidelines: "A teacher who holds a general science certificate is not authorized to teach biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences or environmental education."

#### **Supporting Research**

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/institutional\_program\_approval/8817

#### LAST WORD

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

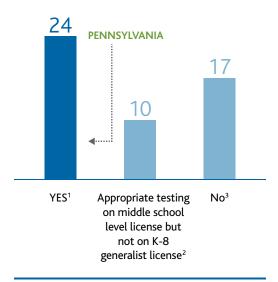
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		55	10		

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

### Figure 27

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



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

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

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

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

### Goal H – Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

#### Figure 28

How States are Faring in Preparation to Teach Social Studies 1 **Best Practice State** Indiana 2 States Meet Goal Georgia, South Dakota States Nearly Meet Goal 2 Minnesota, Oklahoma 32 States Partly Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, PENNSYLVANIA, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming State Meets a Small Part of Goal Illinois 13 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

New Goal

# Area 1: Goal H **Pennsylvania** Analysis



### State Partly Meets Goal

# Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

Further, the state offers two additional combination certifications: general social sciences and citizenship education (a compilation of U.S. history, world history, government/civics/political science, geography and economics). Candidates must pass similarly titled Praxis II exams, which combine multiple subject areas and fail to report subscores.

Middle school social studies teachers in Pennsylvania have the option of a middle level social studies certificate. Candidates must earn an academic major and, commendably, pass the Praxis II "Middle School Social Studies" test.

#### Supporting Research

Types of Certificates in PA http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/types\_of\_certificates/8823

Pennsylvania Code Title 22, Chapters 354.24

Praxis Testing Requirements www.ets.org

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

#### Figure 29

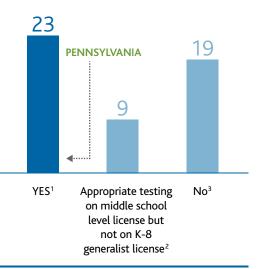
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### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Not only does Indiana ensure that its secondary social studies teachers possess adequate content knowledge of all subjects they intend to 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.
- All elementary special education candidates should have a broad liberal arts program of study that includes study in mathematics, science, English, social studies and fine arts and should be required to pass a subjectmatter test for licensure that is no less rigorous than what is required of general education candidates.
- 3. The state should require that teacher preparation programs graduate secondary special education teacher candidates who are highly qualified in at least two subjects. The state should also customize a "HOUSSE" route for new secondary special education teachers to help them achieve highly qualified status in all the subjects they teach.

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

#### Background

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

### Figure 31

*How States are Faring in Special Education Teacher Preparation* 



State Nearly Meets Goal Massachusetts



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

### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

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

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

#### **ANALYSIS**

Commendably, as of January 1, 2013, Pennsylvania will no longer issue a K-12 special education certification.

Pennsylvania's new policy for elementary special education teacher candidates requires dual certification in one of the following: early childhood, elementary/middle or reading specialist. Regrettably, not all options offered by the state ensure that candidates are provided with a broad liberal arts program of study relevant to the elementary classroom, or that all candidates will be required to pass a content test, namely those who opt for a dual certification as a reading specialist.

Pennsylvania also fails to require that secondary special education teacher candidates are highly qualified in at least two subject areas, and it does not customize a HOUSSE route for new secondary special education teachers to help them achieve highly qualified status in all subjects they teach.

#### Supporting Research

Chapter 49-2 Final Form Regulations http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/chapter\_49/8627/chapter\_49-2\_final\_form\_regulations/506814 **Praxis Test Requirements** www.ets.org

#### RECOMMENDATION

Provide a broad liberal arts program of study to elementary special education candidates, and require that they pass the same content test as general education teachers.

Pennsylvania 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 coresubject coursework relevant to the elementary classroom, but it should also require that all 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, Pennsylvania 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).



#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania asserted that special education teachers must pass a content test as well as earn a special education certificate. Reading specialists are permitted to be special education teachers; however, the state contended that the reading specialist program is typically offered as a post-baccalaureate one to teachers who already hold initial teaching certificates. Therefore, these candidates would have already passed a content assessment.

Pennsylvania added that it does have a customized HOUSSE route for new secondary special education teachers.

Supporting Research http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=506867&mode=2

#### LAST WORD

It appears that Pennsylvania allows new secondary special education teachers to use its existing HOUSSE route. The state has not tailored one that specifically targets the unique needs of new teachers.

#### Figure 32

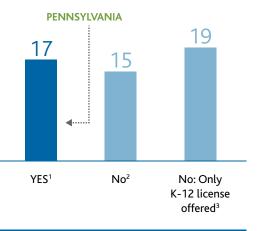
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	16	16	19

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 33

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



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

Figure 32 1. Beginning January 1, 2013

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

# Goal J – Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

#### Figure 34

0

How States are Faring in Assessing Professional Knowledge

**Best Practice States** 

# \*

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

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

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

### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

**1**:1 ↔:49 ↓:1

### Area 1: Goal J Pennsylvania Analysis

State Meets a Small Part of Goal

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Progress Since 2009
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#### ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania only requires all new elementary teachers to pass a popular content test from the Praxis series that combines both subject-matter knowledge and pedagogy in order to attain licensure.

Supporting Research http://www.ets.org/praxis/pa/requirements

#### RECOMMENDATION

Require that all new teachers pass a pedagogy test.

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

Verify that commercially available tests of pedagogy actually align with state standards.
Depresent the standards that its calented test of professional knowledge measures the knowledge measures that its calented test of professional knowledge measures the knowledge standards.

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

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania asserted that all candidates seeking certification must pass pedagogy and content tests, which align with both the certificate Framework Guidelines and the academic standards. The state added that testing will be completed in a modular format, and that new testing designs are currently being developed by Pearson for the basic skills, PK-4 and special education certificates. ETS is developing the test for the 4-8 certificate.

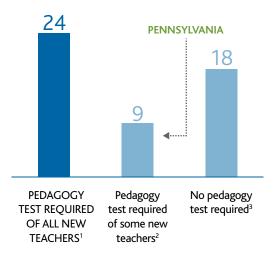


### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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?



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

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

### Goal K – Student Teaching

rating for the goal.)

Background

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

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



### Area 1: Goal K Pennsylvania Analysis



### State Partly Meets Goal

# Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Commendably, Pennsylvania requires candidates to complete at least 12 weeks of full-time student teaching "under the supervision of program faculty with knowledge and experience in the area of certification."

Although the state does outline a number of criteria in selecting cooperating teachers—such as the appropriate professional educator certification, at least three years of satisfactory certificated teaching experience and at least one year of certificated teaching experience in the school entity where the student teacher is placed—it does not specifically address cooperating teachers' effectiveness as measured by student learning.

Supporting Research Pennsylvania Code Title 22, Chapters 354.25

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Although Pennsylvania articulates some requirements for cooperating teachers, the state does not address the most essential: cooperating teachers' classroom effectiveness. 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.

**PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

#### Figure 37

Figure 37		\$ 25
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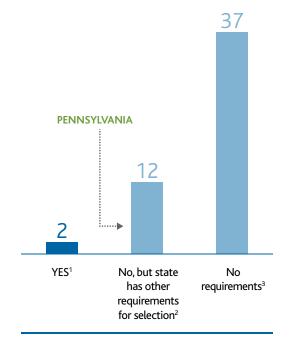
### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

#### Figure 38

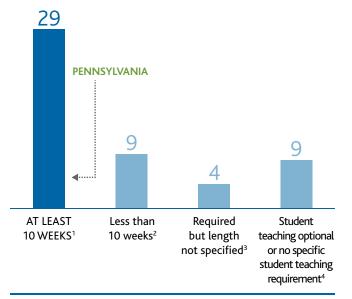
# *Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?*



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

#### Figure 39

# *Is the summative student teaching experience of sufficient length?*



 Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia<sup>5</sup>, Wisconsin

2. Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Virginia, Wyoming

- 3. Illinois, Maine, New Mexico, Utah
- 4. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Maryland, Montana
- 5. Candidates can student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

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

# Goal L – Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Background

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

#### Figure 40

How States are Faring in Teacher Preparation Program Accountability **Best Practice State** Florida State Meets Goal Louisiana States Nearly Meet Goal 5 Alabama, Colorado 1, Georgia 1, Tennessee, Texas States Partly Meet Goal 6 Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina 16 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Illinois<sup>1</sup>, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, PENNSYLVANIA, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia 1 22 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

1:4 ↔:44 ↓:3

### Area 1: Goal L Pennsylvania Analysis



#### ANALYSIS

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

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

The state does rely on some other objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of its traditional teacher preparation programs. Pennsylvania requires that programs "demonstrate how information from systematic evaluations of their programs, including students and educator evaluators, and achievement levels of candidates for certification in the Department-designed assessment program are used for continual program improvement." However, these data are not collected for alternate route programs.

The state also collects programs' annual summary licensure test pass rates (80 percent of program completers must pass their licensure exams). Regrettably, the 80 percent pass-rate standard, while common among many states, sets the bar quite low and is not a meaningful measure of program performance.

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

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

Supporting Research Pennsylvania Code Title 22 Chapter 49.14 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, Pennsylvania should consider 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.

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



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

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

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

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

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 41			DITIONAL PARATION	/		NATIVE RATION
Do states hold teach preparation progran accountable?		MINIMUN STANDARDS FOR PERCENNIS FOR		OBJECTIVE PROGRAM	MININUM STAINDARDS FOO	1
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i asimigeon						
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 Reported institutional data do not distinguish between candidates in the traditional and alternate route programs.

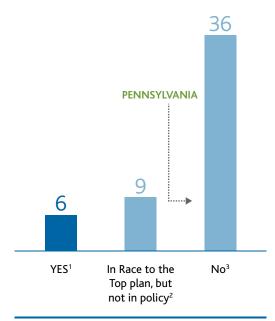
 The posted data do not allow the public to review and compare program performance because data are not disaggregated by program provider.

# **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

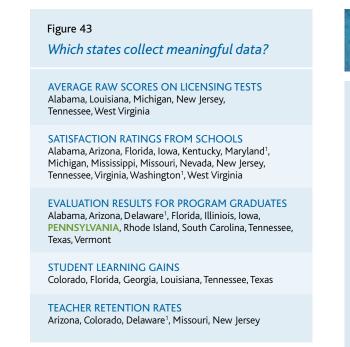
Florida connects student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs. The state also relies on other objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs, and it applies transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval. Florida also posts an annual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

#### Figure 42

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



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



1. For alternate route only

#### Figure 44

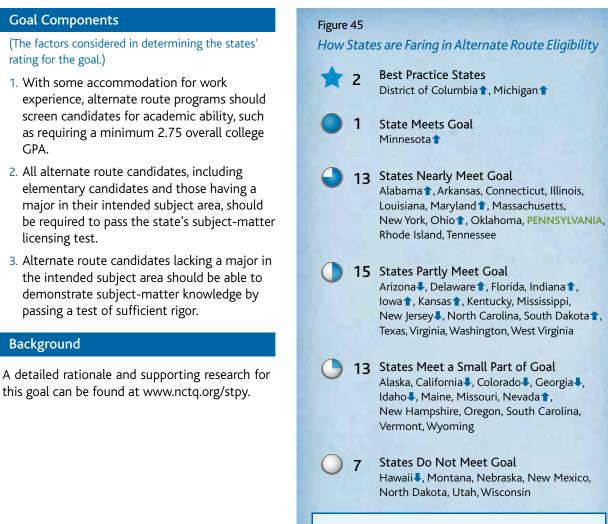
Figure 44		/	/	\$ ~ / S	While not technial from a contraction there is some one and the one	ſeď
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Virginia						
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West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
	23	10	4	8	6	
					-	

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

# Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

# Goal A – Alternate Route Eligibility

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



Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

★:12 ↔:32 ↓:7



### Area 2: Goal A **Pennsylvania** Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal

#### Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

The admissions requirements for Pennsylvania's alternate routes exceed those of traditional programs but lack flexibility for nontraditional candidates.

Pennsylvania classifies Pennsylvania Teacher Intern Certification and the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) as its alternate routes to certification.

Candidates for Pennsylvania Teacher Intern Certification must have a minimum 3.0 GPA. The state allows those who have passed the required content test to be accepted with a 2.8 GPA. Since the test is required for admission, it appears that 2.8 is in fact the program standard.

Candidates must have a bachelor's degree in the subject area they plan to teach, as well as six credits of college level mathematics and six credits of college-level English literature and Composition.

Teacher Intern Certification candidates must also pass a subject-matter test. This test cannot be used to test out of the coursework requirements.

#### **Supporting Research**

http://www.pde.state.pa.us/teaching/cwp/view.asp?a=6&q=32343 http://www.teaching.state.pa.us/teaching/cwp/view.asp?a=6&Q=32343&teachingNav=|542|&teachingNav=|93|102

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Consider accommodations for meeting minimum GPA requirements

While the state is commended for requiring applicants to provide evidence of past academic performance, Pennsylvania should consider whether some accommodation in this standard might be appropriate for career changers with relevant work experience. 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.

#### Offer flexibility in fulfilling coursework requirements.

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

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania contended that it has a GPA policy that aligns the GPA with test scores so that those who do exceptionally well on the test may be accepted with a lower GPA and, conversely, the candidate with a high GPA can receive accommodation on the required test score. Further, the state allows those who do not meet the required GPA in their undergraduate program to demonstrate a 3.0 in 12 credits at the graduate level for admittance into a program. The six credits of English and Mathematics are not required for post-baccalaureate candidates.

The state also asserted that under new legislation it mandates the programs offered by IHEs and non-IHEs to be flexible and include accelerated programs. The law creates residency certificates for shortage areas either statewide or in geographic areas. Candidates for both the residency and intern certificates must pass their

content test and then are able to teach while completing a program that focuses on pedagogy and child development. New guidelines are being developed to stress that candidates are to be given credit for previous experience and education and opening all postbacc programs to non-IHE providers.

#### **Supporting Research**

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pa\_certification/8635/important\_certification\_regulations/506743

http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?syear=2011&sind=0&body=H&type=B&BN=1352

#### LAST WORD

A sliding scale that allows candidates flexibility in meeting the GPA requirements for admission based on other measures of academic standing is sound policy. Unfortunately, it does not appear that Pennsylvania offers such flexibility in its admissions criteria. According to an FAQ on the state's website: "The Praxis Qualifying Score policy does not impact program admission GPA...and is applied only for purposes of recommendation for certification."

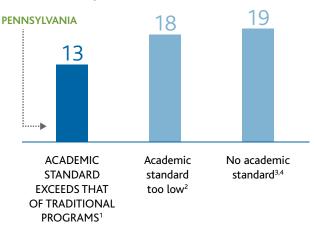
#### NO VAJOR REDURED OR Figure 46 JADEMIC STANDARD FOR Are states' alternate ALBRECTMATTER TEST routes selective yet flexible in admissions? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California $\square$ Colorado Connecticut Delaware D Fl G Н lc III In lo K Κ Lo Ν Μ Μ Μ Μ Μ Μ

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West Virginia		
Wisconsin		

Wyoming

### Figure 47

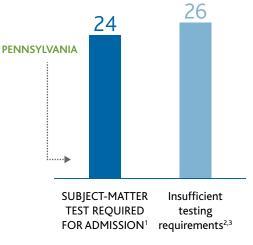
Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



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

#### Figure 48

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



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

#### Figure 46

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

 $\square$ 

13

24

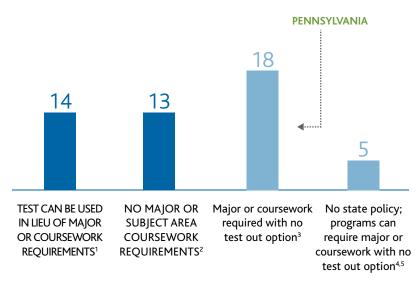
27

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 49

# Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



 Strong Practice: Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut<sup>6</sup>, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas

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

# Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

### Goal B – Alternate Route Preparation

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

### Figure 50

How States are Faring in Alternate Route Preparation

1 Best Practice State

4 States Meet Goal Arkansas, Delaware ↑, Georgia, New Jersey

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

#### 11 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska, California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada 1, New Mexico, New York, Ohio 1, South Dakota, West Virginia

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

### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

**1**:8 ↔:42 ↓:1

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

#### State Meets a Small Part of Goal

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Progress Since 2009
```

#### ANALYSIS

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

The Pennsylvania Teacher Intern Certification program requires candidates to enroll in a university/college preparation program. Candidates must complete nine credits per year to maintain certification. Institutions of higher education must provide flexible and accelerated pedagogical training to teachers in the Intern program.

Once candidates in the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) program have earned the Passport to Teaching credential, they may apply for the Temporary Teaching Permit. Under this permit candidates complete two continuing education seminars/workshops and two graduate-level education pedagogy courses.

The state requires alternate route providers of a Teacher Intern Program to offer a minimum of one classroom observation each month. ABCTE candidates receive mentor support.

The intern certificate is valid for three years after which candidates are eligible for a standard license. ABCTE candidates complete the program in two years and may apply for a standard license.

**Supporting Research** 

http://www.pde.state.pa.us/teaching/cwp/view.asp?a=6&q=32343

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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. Appropriate coursework should include grade-level or subject-level seminars, methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction..

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

While ABCTE candidates qualify for standard certification in two years, Pennsylvania should consider shortening the length of time it takes a Teacher Intern to earn standard certification. The route should allow candidates to earn full certification no later than the end of the second year of teaching.

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

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

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of NCTQ's analysis but noted that legislative changes will provide more flexibility for second-career professionals to become teachers.

#### Supporting Research

http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?syear=2011&sind=0&body=H&type=B&BN=1352

Figure 51		RELEVANT COURSENORK	/	/	/
Do states' alternate rou	tes	RELEVANT COURSE WORK	ž /	PRACTICE TEACHING	
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California					
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Delaware					
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wyoning	12	12		10	12
	13	12	29	18	13

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

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

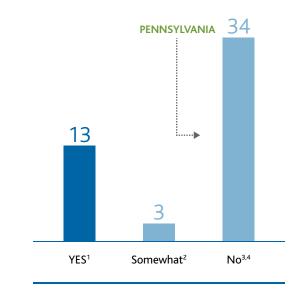


1. Florida requires practice teaching or intensive mentoring.

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

Figure 52

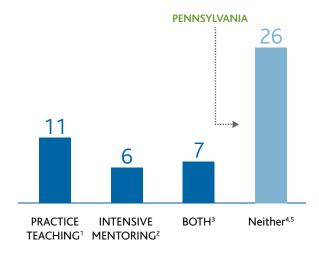
Do states curb excessive coursework requirements?



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

#### Figure 53

Do states require practice teaching or intensive mentoring?



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

# Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

## Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

- The state should not treat the alternate route as a program of last resort or restrict the availability of alternate routes to certain subjects, grades or geographic areas.
- 2. The state should allow districts and nonprofit organizations other than institutions of higher education to operate alternate route programs.
- 3. The state should ensure that its alternate route has no requirements that would be difficult to meet for a provider that is not an institution of higher education (e.g., an approval process based on institutional accreditation).

#### Background

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

#### Figure 54

How States are Faring in Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

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

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

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

Recent legislative changes now allow alternate route providers other than institutions of higher education to operate in Pennsylvania. The state is commended for restructuring 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 Administrative Code Chapter 22 49.14.1 House Bill 1352 Section 1207.1

PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

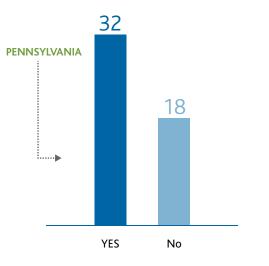
Figure 55         Are states' alternate routes free from limitations?         Alabama'         Alabama'         Alaska         Arizona         Arizona         Arkansas         California         Colorado         Connecticut         Delaware         District of Columbia         Florida         Georgia         Hawaii         Idaho         Ilmiana         Idaho         Indiana         Iwa         Indiana         Iwa         Indiana         Iwa	Figure 55		
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Arkansas         California         Colorado         Connecticut         Delaware         District of Columbia         Florida         Georgia         Hawaii         Idaho         Illinois         Indiana         Iowa         Kansas         Kentucky         Louisiana         Maine         Maryland         Mississippi         Mississippi         Mississippi         Nevada         New Hampshire         New Hampshire         New Mexico         New Mexico         New Mexico         New Mexico         New Mexico         New Jersey         New Mexico         New Jersey         North Dakota <sup>2</sup> Ohio         Oklahoma         Oregon         PENNSYLVANIA         Rhode Island         South Carolina         South Carolina         Vermont         Virginia         Washington         West Virginia         Wyorning <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			
California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Missouri Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota <sup>2</sup> Ohio Oklahoma Oregon PENNSYLVANIA Rhode Island South Carolina South Carolina Coregon PENNSYLVANIA Rhode Island South Carolina Coregon Cor			
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		32	29

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 56

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

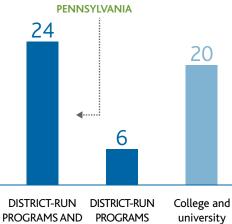


#### Figure 55 and 56

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

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

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



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

1. Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas,

providers only<sup>3,4</sup>

- 2. Strong Practice: California, Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina, Vermont⁵, West Virginia
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho<sup>6</sup>, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi<sup>6</sup>, Missouri<sup>6</sup>, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey<sup>7</sup>, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina<sup>6</sup>, South Dakota, Utah<sup>6</sup>, Wyoming
- 4. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 5. Districts can run Peer Review programs only.
- 6. ABCTE is also an approved provider.

Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin

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

Figure 58	GENUINE GENUINE OR NEADI.	14	Offered route is disingenuous
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New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota <sup>1</sup>			
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Oklahoma			
Oregon			
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South Dakota			
Tennessee			
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Virginia			
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West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
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#### Figure 58

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

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6.54

# Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

## Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

### Figure 60

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

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

State Does Not Meet Goal Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania 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.

Pennsylvania 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.

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania noted that the Temporary Permit for Resource Specialist is "issued at the request of the public school entity for competent, noncertified, people to provide supplemental instruction in their profession or area of expertise. The temporary permit is valid for 3 calendar years and is not transferable to another public school entity."

Further, Pennsylvania asserted that the "the intern certificate requires college experience. But, the Residency Certificate allows career professionals to demonstrate content knowledge with the Praxis exam and earn pedagogy skills in the classroom."

#### **Supporting Research**

http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/certification\_staffing\_policies\_%28cspgs%29/8626/ancil-lary\_staffing\_information

#### LAST WORD

The Resource Specialist Permit does not meet the intent of this goal, which is to allow content experts to teach part time in K-12 classrooms. The Resource Specialist Permit is designed to provide supplemental instruction. According to the state website, "examples of the use of such persons would be a renowned chef who demonstrates culinary arts to students in a home economics class, a famous sculptor in an art education class, or an outstanding musician in a music education class." Although the license is part time, the candidate can only provide instruction "under the direct supervision of a certificated teacher and cannot be listed as professional staff."

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

	YES	No
Alabama		
Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California	1	
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia	_	
Hawaii		
Idaho		
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lowa	2	
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Minnesota		
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Missouri		
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Nebraska		
Nevada		
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico		
New York	2	
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio	1	
Oklahoma		
Oregon		
PENNSYLVANIA		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington	2	
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
5. 6	16	35
	10	22

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

1. License has restrictions.

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

# Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

## Goal E – Licensure Reciprocity

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

### Figure 62



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



Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

Commendably, Pennsylvania provides testing waivers only to teachers who have attained National Board Certification. All other out-of-state teachers, no matter how many years of experience they have, must meet Pennsylvania's passing scores on licensing tests.

However, other aspects of the state's policy create obstacles for teachers from other states seeking licensure in Pennsylvania. Teachers with comparable out-of-state certificates may be eligible for Pennsylvania's Level I Certificate. The state's new legislation allows out-of-state teachers to be eligible for comparable certification if the candidate has at least two years of successful classroom experience, in addition to holding a bachelor's degree; has demonstrated subject-matter competency in the applicable area; and has satisfied statutory requirements related to his or her criminal background check, medical history and good moral character.

Further, Pennsylvania routinely reviews the college transcripts of licensed out-of-state teachers, an exercise that often leads the state to require additional coursework before it will offer an equivalent license. States that reach a determination about an applicant's licensure status on the basis of the course titles listed on the applicant's transcript may end up mistakenly equating the amount of required coursework with the teacher's qualification.

Pennsylvania 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

Pennsylvania Code 22-49.171 http://pa.gov/portal/server.pt/community/out-of-state\_prepared/8821 http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=507102&mode=2 http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?syear=2011&sind=0&body=H&type=B&BN=1352

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Pennsylvania should reconsider its policy of transcript reviews. Transcript reviews are not a particularly meaningful or efficient exercise and are 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 Pennsylvania. Accord the same license to out-of-state alternate route teachers as would be accorded to traditionally prepared teachers.

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

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

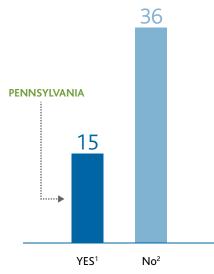


### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 63

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



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

#### Figure 64

1. For traditionally prepared teachers only.

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

Figure 64	UCENSE RECIPROCITY WITH	/	/	
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Ohio				
Oklahoma				
Oregon				
PENNSYLVANIA				
Rhode Island	1			
South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee				
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington	2			
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming	1			
	9	41	12	

Figure 65			9.5
Do states treat out-of-stat	STATE REATS TEACHERS	State specifies different louire teachers for alternate	Date has policies with the for alternate route teachers for alternate route teachers actes bisacles
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Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	6	6	39

# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

## Goal A – State Data Systems

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

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

## Area 3: Goal A **Pennsylvania** Analysis

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

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

Supporting Research Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

A definition of teacher of record is necessary in order to use the student-teacher data link for the purpose of providing value-added evidence of teacher effectiveness. Pennsylvania defines the teacher of record as any public school teacher with primary responsibilities for direct instruction, including the assignment of grades in one or more of the following core subjects: English, reading/language arts, math, science, foreign language, arts and social studies. However, to ensure that data provided through the state data system are actionable and reliable, Pennsylvania should articulate a more distinct definition of teacher of record and require its consistent use throughout the state.

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania asserted that it uses the NCLB definition of teacher of record.

#### LAST WORD

The state should consider whether its NCLB definition will be appropriate and suitable for performancebased teacher evaluations. The indication from states that are ahead in bringing these systems online is that their NCLB definitions need to be reconsidered for this purpose.

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



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Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	50	35	50

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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



Key

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

# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

## Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

#### Background

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

### Figure 68

How States are Faring in Evaluating Teacher Effectiveness n **Best Practice States** 10 States Meet Goal Colorado 1, Delaware 1, Florida 1, Maryland<sup>1</sup>, Michigan<sup>1</sup>, Nevada<sup>1</sup>, Ohio<sup>1</sup>, Oklahoma 1, Rhode Island 1, Tennessee 1 States Nearly Meet Goal Arizona<sup>1</sup>, Idaho<sup>1</sup>, Louisiana<sup>1</sup>, New York<sup>1</sup> States Partly Meet Goal 9 Arkansas<sup>1</sup>, Connecticut<sup>1</sup>, Georgia<sup>1</sup>, Illinois<sup>1</sup>, Indiana<sup>1</sup>, Massachusetts<sup>1</sup>, Minnesota<sup>1</sup>, Utah<sup>1</sup>, Washington<sup>1</sup> 18 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alabama, Alaska, California, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina<sup>1</sup>, Oregon<sup>1</sup>, PENNSYLVANIA, South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming 10 States Do Not Meet Goal District of Columbia, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia Progress on this Goal Since 2009: ★:26 ↔:25 **!**:0

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

State Meets a Small Part of Goal

ਨ Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 🧲

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

The state requires local school districts to conduct teacher evaluations using a uniform, state-designed rating form that assesses teachers in four domains: personality, preparation, technique and pupil reaction. Although the evaluation tool would appear to necessitate observation of teacher effectiveness, there is no requirement that objective evidence of student learning be included.

Supporting Research Pennsylvania Code 351.21

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

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

To ensure that the evaluation instrument accurately differentiates among levels of teacher performance, Pennsylvania 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. In its application for Race to the Top, the state suggests titles of overall performance rating categories for its model system: entry, emerging, achieving, highly effective I and highly effective II. These are inadequate because none denotes a level of poor performance.

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that legislation has been proposed that would support student learning counting for 50 percent of teacher evaluations. The pilot for the new evaluation will take place in the 2011-2012 school year. Proposed full implementation would take place in 2012-2013.

Figure 69	CURES THAT STUDENT THE PREFONDERT STUDENT THE PREFONDERT STUDENT	Teacher evaluations Semficanty, informations student actions are to be	Teacher evaluations must		
Do states consider	UDEN WTH I	ckiller are to	Power Tower	Student achievement data	
classroom effectiveness	AV ST	tions	Pent/s trions e evia	emen,	
as part of teacher	S TH	valua V info	ven Pratua iectiv	diev	
evaluations?	PURE REPO	cher ficant nt ach	cher e de ob 11 lea	tent a	
	E P	sign Sign	Tes indu	Stuc Not r	
Alabama					
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia <sup>1</sup>					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana Iowa					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland					
Massachusetts					
Michigan					
Minnesota					
Mississippi Missouri					
Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina North Dakota					
Ohio					
Oklahoma					
Oregon					
PENNSYLVANIA					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	12	5	7	27	
					-

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 70

Using state data in teacher evaluations

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

Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Michigan, Nevada

#### States with Data System Capacity but No Student Achievement Requirements

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

#### Figure 69

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

# *Sources of objective evidence of student learning*

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

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

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

Examples of typical assignments, assessed for their quality and rigor

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

#### Figure 72

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



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

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

Figure 73		State-designed teacher evaluation with diacher	.ų	District-designed Syster.	lit.	
Do states direct how	Single statewide teacher		District designed system		te an	
teachers should be	toea;	ache	d sys	3/34	<sup>1</sup> sta	
	Vide	the dr	ith s	lteri;	ð þ	
evaluated?	tater n sys	esign In wi	t des	desi	Poli	
	gle <sub>Si</sub> Latio	ite-d uatic	istric Isiste Pewo	trict. imal	No state policy	
	Sin	Sta eval		Dis	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	
Alabama						
Alaska						
Arizona						
Arkansas						
California						
Colorado						
Connecticut						
Delaware						
District of Columbia						
Florida			1			
Georgia						
Hawaii						
Idaho			<b>1</b>			
Illinois						
Indiana						
lowa						
Kansas						
Kentucky			1			
Louisiana						
Maine						
Maryland			1			
Massachusetts						
Michigan		2				
Minnesota						
Mississippi						
Missouri						
Montana						
Nebraska			1			
Nevada						
New Hampshire						
New Jersey						
New Mexico						
New York						
North Carolina						
North Dakota						
Ohio						
Oklahoma						
Oregon						
PENNSYLVANIA						
Rhode Island		2				
South Carolina		2				
South Dakota						
Tennessee		2				
Texas		2 <sup>2</sup>				
Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
	9	10	24	5	3	

1. State approval required.

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

# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

# Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

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

## Area 3: Goal C Pennsylvania Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal

### Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Nonprobationary teachers must be evaluated once a year. New teachers in Pennsylvania 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**

Pennsylvania State Public School Code of 1949, Art. XI, 11-1123 Pennsylvania Code 351.24

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Base evaluations on multiple observations.

To guarantee that annual evaluations are based on an adequate collection of information, Pennsylvania 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. Pennsylvania 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 will not be feasible to issue a formal evaluation rating until applicable student data are available later in the year.

**PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



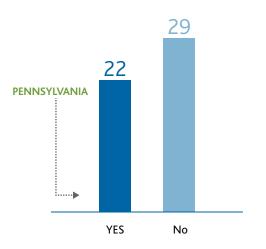
	OF A	OF A	
Alabama			
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware <sup>1</sup>			
District of Columbia <sup>2</sup>			
Florida			
Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine			
Maryland			
Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Mississippi			
Missouri			
Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
PENNSYLVANIA			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	22	43	

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 76

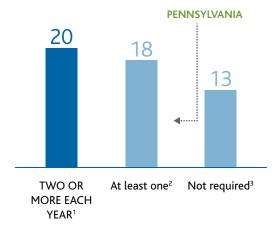
# Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



#### Figures 75 and 76

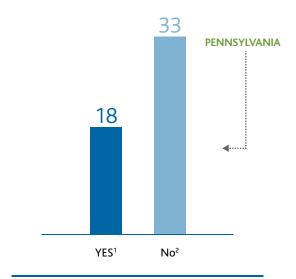
- Although highly effective teachers are only required to receive a summative evaluation once every two years, the student improvement component is evaluated annually.
- 2. All District of Columbia Public Schools teachers are evaluated at least annually.

Figure 77 *Do states require classroom observations?* 



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

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



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

# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

# Goal D – Tenure

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

- A teacher should be eligible for tenure after a certain number of years of service, but tenure should not be granted automatically at that juncture.
- 2. Evidence of effectiveness should be the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.
- 3. The state should articulate a process, such as a hearing, that local districts must administer in considering the evidence and deciding whether a teacher should receive tenure.
- 4. The minimum years of service needed to achieve tenure should allow sufficient data to be accumulated on which to base tenure decisions; five years is the ideal minimum.

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

#### Background

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

#### Figure 79 How States are Faring on Tenure **Best Practice State** 1 Michigan 1 States Meet Goal 2 Colorado 1. Florida 1 States Nearly Meet Goal 5 Delaware 1, Nevada 1, Oklahoma 1, Rhode Island 1, Tennessee 1 3 States Partly Meet Goal Illinois<sup>1</sup>, Indiana<sup>1</sup>, New York<sup>1</sup> States Meet a Small Part of Goal 9 Connecticut, Idaho 1, Kentucky, Massachusetts 1, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire 1, North Carolina, Ohio 31 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine 1, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, PENNSYLVANIA, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:15 + :36 1:0

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

State Does Not Meet Goal

### Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

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

#### Supporting Research

Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, Art. XI, 11-1108 (b)(2)

#### 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.** 

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

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

Pennsylvania 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.

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

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that proposed legislation will require 50 percent of the teacher evaluation to be based on evidence of student progress. Because tenure is associated with three years of a satisfactory teacher evaluation, tenure will be based on student performance.

### How long before a teacher earns tenure?

	No policy	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 YEARS	5 YEARS	STATE ONLY AWARDS ANNUAL CONTRACTS
Alabama							
Alaska							
Arizona							
Arkansas							
California							
Colorado							
Connecticut							
Delaware							
District of Columbia							
Florida							
Georgia							
Hawaii							
Idaho							
Illinois							
Indiana							
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Kansas							
Kentucky							
Louisiana							
Maine							
Maryland							
Massachusetts							
Michigan							
Minnesota							
Mississippi							
Missouri							
Montana							
Nebraska							
Nevada							
New Hampshire							
New Jersey							
New Mexico New York							
North Carolina							
North Dakota							
Ohio							
Oklahoma				1			
Oregon							
PENNSYLVANIA							
Rhode Island							2
South Carolina							
South Dakota							
Tennessee							
Texas							
Utah							
Vermont							
Virginia							
Washington							
West Virginia							
Wisconsin							
Wyoming							
, ,	1	1	5	32	4	5	3

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

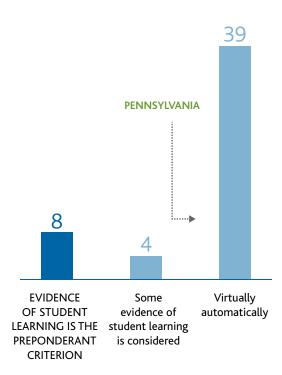
2. Teachers who receive two years of ineffective evaluations are dismissed.

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

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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





#### Figure 81

39

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

8

4

Wyoming

# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

## Goal E – Licensure Advancement

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

#### Background

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



## Area 3: Goal E **Pennsylvania** Analysis

### State Does Not Meet Goal

### ਨ Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 🧲

### Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

To advance from an Instructional I certification to an Instructional II certification, teachers are required to complete a department-approved induction program, three years of teaching and 24 credit hours of collegiate study.

Pennsylvania does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Once a teacher reaches Level II licensure, there appear to be no requirements for renewal.

#### Supporting Research

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pa\_certification/8635/level\_i\_to\_level\_ii/608790

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Pennsylvania should require evidence of teacher effectiveness to be a factor in determining whether teachers can renew their licenses or advance to a higher-level license. The state's current policy is further compromised by the issuance of lifetime Level II licenses, with no requirements for renewal. While most states fail to connect evidence of teacher effectiveness to licensure renewal, Pennsylvania is exceptional in not requiring any renewal at all.

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

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

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that its policies in this area will also change in school year 2012-2013 when the new teacher evaluation system is fully implemented.

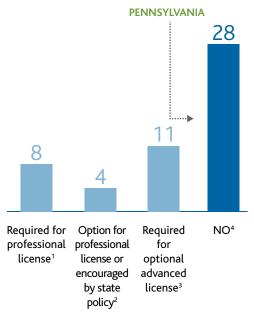
Figure 84	OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE OF	_ /	Consideration Biven to teacher performance biven to teacher not tied to dasmo-benonmaacher	eis Pess
Do states require teacher	rs ő j	Some objective evidence of effectiveness is considered	teach	Performance not considered
to show evidence of	PEO.	idenc Sidere	Ven to	'n eff
effectiveness before	EVIDI SS IS	ive et is con	ion Bi	lot c
conferring professional	VEN	object <sup>eness</sup>	iderat Thance to cli	lance
licensure?	BIECT	some fectiv	Cons Perfor Pittieo	uo <sub>jii</sub>
Alabama		ຳ 🗧 🖊	42	4
Alabama Alaska				
Alaska Arizona				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut				
Delaware				
District of Columbia				
Florida				
Georgia				
Hawaii				
Idaho				
Illinois <sup>1</sup>				
Indiana				
lowa				
Kansas				
Kentucky				
Louisiana				
Maine				
Maryland <sup>2</sup>				
Massachusetts				
Michigan				
Minnesota Mississippi				
Missouri				
Montana				
Nebraska				
Nevada				
New Hampshire				
New Jersey				
New Mexico				
New York				
North Carolina				
North Dakota				
Ohio				
Oklahoma				
Oregon				
PENNSYLVANIA				
Rhode Island				
South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee				
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				34
	3	3	11	

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 85

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



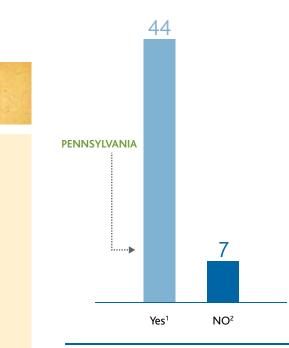
- Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New York and Oregon all require a master's degree or coursework equivalent to a master's degree
- 2. Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, U tah,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

#### Figure 84

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

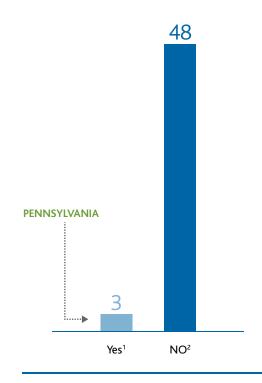
#### NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 : 99 PENNSYLVANIA

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





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, Newada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, U tah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

## Goal F – Equitable Distribution

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

Goal Components	Figure 88
(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)	How States are Faring on Equitable Distribution
The state should make the following data publicly available:	★ 0 Best Practice States
<ol> <li>An "Academic Quality" index for each school that includes factors research has found to be associated with teacher effectiveness, such as:</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>0 States Meet Goal</li> <li>0 States Nearly Meet Goal</li> </ul>
a. percentage of new teachers; b. percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once;	6 States Partly Meet Goal Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina
c. percentage of teachers on emergency credentials;	<b>36</b> States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado,
d. average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions; and	Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho 🕇 , Indiana, Kansas,
e. teachers' average ACT or SAT scores;	Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi,
2. The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area;	Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, PENNSYLVANIA <sup>↑</sup> , South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah <sup>↑</sup> , Vermont <sup>↑</sup> , Virginia, Washington,
<ol> <li>The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school;</li> </ol>	West Virginia, Wisconsin
<ol> <li>The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school, by district and by reasons that teachers leave.</li> </ol>	Alabama, Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Wyoming
Background	Progress on this Goal Since 2009:
A detailed rationale and supporting research for	<b>↑</b> :4 ↔:47 <b>↓</b> :0

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

#### ANALYSIS

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

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

Pennsylvania does report on the percentage of highly qualified teachers for each school and each school is identified as either high- or low-poverty or neither. The state is commended for comparing the average percent of highly qualified teachers in high- and low-poverty schools. Pennsylvania also reports on the percentage of teachers with emergency certification statewide.

#### **Supporting Research**

Pennsylvania's 2008-2009 Highly Qualified Teacher Data Results http://www.portal.state.pa.us/HQT%20data%202008-09%20with%20Poverty%20Quartile.xls PA's 2008-2009 Highly Qualified Teacher Data Results http://www.portal.state.pa.us/PAs2008-2009HQTDataResults\_4\_10.pdf 2009-2010 State Report Card http://www.portal.state.pa.us/Report\_Card\_State\_2009\_2010.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania does with highly qualified teachers, providing comparative data for schools with similar poverty and minority populations would yield an even more comprehensive picture of gaps in the equitable distribution of teachers.

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania disagreed with the statement that is reports little school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent. Pennsylvania asserted that its report card reflects the percentage of highly qualified teachers/not highly qualified teachers for the state, district, and school level but not by teaching area.

#### LAST WORD

NCTQ's analysis acknowledges that Pennsylvania reports school-level data about highly qualified teachers. In terms of the data NCTQ recommends that states report, this is comparatively little.

Figure 89	AN MOEX FOR EACH SCHOOL	Precentacy Process	PERCENTAGE OF N.	`s /	/	/	ц.
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	~ <del>~</del> ~ ~		FE /	PERCENTAGE OF HIGH.	ANNUAL TURNOUS	TEACHER ABSENT	
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#### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

# **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers**

# Goal A – Induction

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

#### **Goal Components**

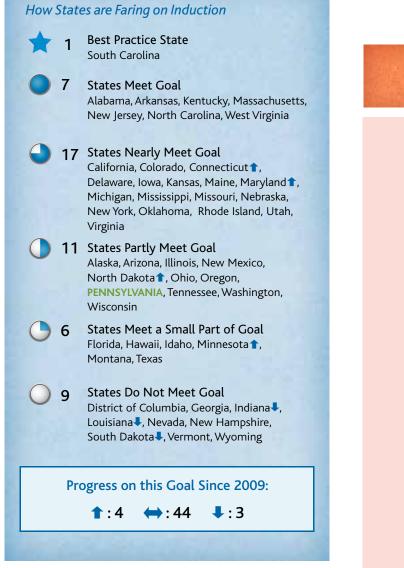
(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

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

#### Background

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

### Figure 90



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

### State Partly Meets Goal

#### Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Pennsylvania requires that all new teachers receive mentoring. New teachers are required to participate in an induction program, which must include the assignment of a mentor. Local districts are required to formulate programs and submit them for approval by the state. "Criteria for approval of induction plans... must include induction activities that focus on teaching diverse learners in inclusive settings."

#### **Supporting Research**

Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949: Title 22, 49-16 Mentor/Protege Program Policies and Procedures http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Set more specific parameters.

To ensure that all teachers receive high-quality mentoring, Pennsylvania should set a timeline in which mentors are assigned to all new teachers throughout the state, soon after the commencing of teaching, to offer support during those first critical weeks of school. Mentors should be required to be trained in a content area or grade level similar to that of the new teacher, and the state should mandate a method for performance evaluation.

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

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

**PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

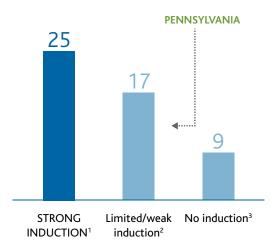
Figure 91       Image: states have policies       Image: state	UNATEORES
Alabama   Alaska   Arizona   Arkansas   California   Colorado	J RATEC
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Alabama   Alaska   Arizona   Arkansas   California   Colorado	
Alabama   Alaska   Arizona   Arkansas   California   Colorado	
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Arkansas    California    Colorado	
California	
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Wisconsin	
Wyoming   Image: Constraint of the second	
30 18 9 17 28 12 21 17	

#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 92

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



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

## Goal B – Professional Development

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

#### **Goal Components** Figure 93 (The factors considered in determining the states' How States are Faring on Professional rating for the goal.) Development 1. The state should require that evaluation **Best Practice State** 0 systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance. 10 States Meet Goal 2. The state should direct districts to align Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, professional development activities with Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wyoming findings from teachers' evaluations. States Nearly Meet Goal 7 Background Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, New Mexico, New York, Texas A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy. **10** States Partly Meet Goal Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia 12 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah 12 States Do Not Meet Goal District of Columbia, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, PENNSYLVANIA, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

New Goal

## Area 4: Goal B **Pennsylvania** Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania makes a teacher's evaluation ratings available upon the teacher's request. The state does not have policy that connects professional development to teachers' evaluations.

Supporting Research Pennsylvania Code 351.21

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

In order to increase their effectiveness in the classroom, teachers need to receive feedback on strengths and areas that need improvement identified in their evaluations. As such, Pennsylvania should require that evaluation systems provide all teachers with feedback about their classroom performance, whether or not such information has been requested.

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

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state noted that the proposed teacher evaluation system will be linked to the state's Standards Aligned System Portal, which links teacher evaluation responses to professional development opportunities.

In addition, the state pointed out that data collected indicates that 72 percent of districts report using teacher evaluations to determine professional development needs

#### LAST WORD

The fact that only 72 percent of districts indicate that they connect teacher evaluations to professional development needs is evidence that a statewide policy is necessary.

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

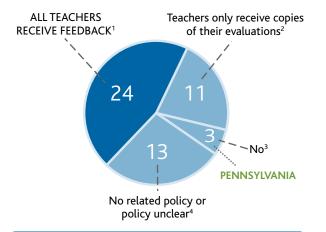
ALL TEACHERS RECEIVE FEEDBAG Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana lowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska  $\square$ Nevada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

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

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

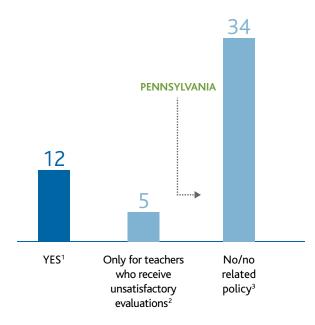
#### Figure 94

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



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

# Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wyoming
- 2. Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Texas
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi<sup>4</sup>, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 4. Mississippi requires professional development based on evaluation results only for teachers in need of improvement in school identified as at-risk.

## Goal C – Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

#### **Goal Components**

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

- While the state may find it appropriate to articulate teachers' starting salaries, it should not require districts to adhere to a state-dictated salary schedule that defines steps and lanes and sets minimum pay at each level.
- 2. The state should discourage districts from tying additional compensation to advanced degrees. The state should eliminate salary schedules that establish higher minimum salaries or other requirements to pay more to teachers with advanced degrees.
- 3. The state should discourage salary schedules that imply that teachers with the most experience are the most effective. The state should eliminate salary schedules that require that the highest steps on the pay scale be determined solely be seniority.

#### Background

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



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

#### State Partly Meets Goal

#### Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania does not address salary requirements, seemingly giving local districts the authority for pay scales and eliminating barriers such as state salary schedules and other regulations that control how districts pay teachers.

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

While still leaving districts the flexibility to establish their own pay scale, Pennsylvania 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, Pennsylvania should articulate policies that discourage districts from determining the highest steps on the pay scale solely by seniority.

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. Pennsylvania commented that in proposed budget and education reform statements, the governor has discouraged automatic pay increases based on master's degree attainment.

#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 98 What role does the state		Sets minimum salary	DISTRICTS SET SALARY
play in deciding teacher	5.0	<sup>1</sup> Sal	L'S
pay rates?	edu	հոր	F 22
pay rates:	<sup>5</sup> ch	<sup>ninii</sup>	
	lary .	tsn	CHE
	<ul> <li>Sets minimum</li> <li>salary schedule</li> </ul>	ഗ് / 	25
Alaska			
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Delaware			
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Illinois			
Indiana Iowa			
Kansas			
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Rhode Island <sup>2</sup>			
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South Carolina South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia Washington			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	16	8	27

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

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

Figure 99	COURS PERFORMANCE ADLANCED DECORTANCE	. ,	for advanced degrees
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Tennessee			
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Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	3	32	16

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.

#### 116 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 PENNSYLVANIA

## Goal D – Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

1. The state should encourage districts to compensate new teachers with relevant prior work experience through mechanisms such as starting these teachers at an advanced step on the pay scale. Further, the state should not have regulatory language that blocks such strategies.

#### Background

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

#### Figure 100

How States are Faring in Compensation for Prior Work Experience **Best Practice State** North Carolina State Meets Goal California States Nearly Meet Goal 4 States Partly Meet Goal Delaware, Georgia, Texas, Washington States Meet a Small Part of Goal 45 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, PENNSYLVANIA, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:0 ↔:51 4:0

## Area 4: Goal D Pennsylvania Analysis

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania 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, Pennsylvania 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.

PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

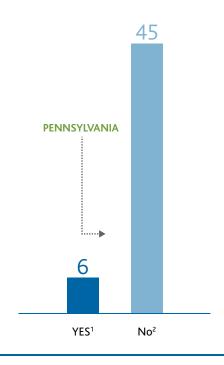
Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

**North Carolina** compensates new teachers with relevant prior-work experience by awarding them one year of experience credit for every year of full-time work after earning a bachelor's degree that is related to their area of licensure and work assignment. One year of credit is awarded for every two years of work experience completed prior to earning a bachelor's degree.

#### Figure 101

# Do states direct districts to compensate teachers for related prior work experience?



1. Strong Practice: California, Delaware, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, Washington

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

## Goal E – Differential Pay

**Goal Components** 

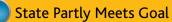
# The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in shortage and high-need areas.

# (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.

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



## Area 4: Goal E Pennsylvania Analysis



#### Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. Mathematics and science teachers can receive stipends between \$1,500 and \$5,000 and are eligible for a loan-forgiveness program.

Pennsylvania no longer supports the Urban and Rural Forgiveness Program, which provided loan forgiveness for those teaching in high-needs schools.

Supporting Research Pennsylvania Code 121.152

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

Do States provide       AREAS         incentives to teach in       incentives to teach in         high-need schools       incentives to teach in         areas?       incentives to teach in         Alaska       Image: Imag	Figure 103		HIGH NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT	= /
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Alaska	incentives to teach in	7	53		53	
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Alaska	or shortage subject	<sup>E</sup> ERE	Fors	<sup>E</sup> ERE	Forg	dan
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Alaska	Alabama					
Arizona       Image: Colorado       Image: Colorado         Colorado       Image: Colorado       Image: Colorado         Delaware       Image: Colorado       Image: Colorado         District of Columbia       Image: Colorado       Image: Colorado         District of Columbia       Image: Colorado       Image: Colorado         Georgia       Image: Colorado       Image: Colorado         Hawaii       Image: Colorado       Image: Colorado         Idaho       Image: Colorado       Image: Colorado         Maryland <sup>2</sup> Image: Colorado       Image: Colorado         Misissippi       Image: Colorado       Image: Colorado         Newtora       Im						
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Hawaii       Image: Section of the sectio	Georgia					
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Michigan       Image: Ima	-					
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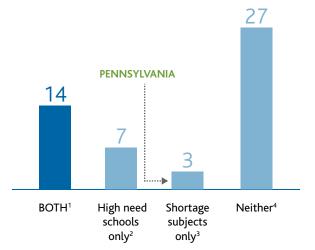
- Connecticut offers mortgage assistance and incentives to retired teachers working in shortage subject areas.
- Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 3. South Dakota offers signing bonuses and scholarships to fill shortages in high-need schools.
- Shortage subject area differential pay is limited to the Middle School Teacher Corps program.

## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

**Georgia** supports differential pay by which teachers can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. The state is especially commended for its new compensation strategy for math and science teachers, which moves teachers along the salary schedule rather than just providing a bonus or stipend. The state also supports differential pay initiatives to link compensation more closely with district needs and to achieve a more equitable distribution of teachers. Georgia's efforts to provide incentives for National Board Certification teachers to work in high-need schools are also noteworthy.

#### Figure 104

# Do states support differential pay for teaching in high need schools and shortage subjects?



 Strong Practice: Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia

2. Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, North Carolina, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

3. Idaho, Pennsylvania, Utah

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

## Goal F – Performance Pay

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



## Area 4: Goal F Pennsylvania Analysis

#### State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania does not support performance pay. The state does not have any policies in place that offer teachers additional compensation based on evidence of effectiveness.

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

**PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



**T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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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.)

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

#### Background

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



## Area 4: Goal G **Pennsylvania** Analysis

#### State Meets a Small Part of Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania only offers a defined benefit pension plan to its teachers as their mandatory pension plan. This plan is not fully portable, does not vest until year 10, and does not provide any employer contribution for teachers who choose to withdraw their account balances when leaving the system. It also limits flexibility by restricting the ability to purchase years of service. Pennsylvania does offer a choice of "classes" within its defined benefit system. The only differences between the classes are the contribution and benefit rates; the class with a higher mandatory employee contribution rate has a higher benefit multiplier. While offering choices within a retirement system is commended, Pennsylvania still only provides a defined benefit plan with high contribution rates (see Goal 4-H).

Teachers in Pennsylvania 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. Teachers in Pennsylvania hired prior to July 1, 2011 vest at five years; vesting has been raised for teachers hired after that date to year 10. Teachers who leave the system prior to these points have limited options.

Many teachers in Pennsylvania will leave the system before they reach 10 years of service. Non-vested teachers with less than five years of service who choose to withdraw their contributions upon leaving only receive their own employee contributions. Nonvested teachers with at least five years of service receive their employee contributions plus accumulated interest. This means that those who withdraw their funds accrue fewer or at most 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. In addition, vested teachers may not withdraw their accounts at all when they leave the system; they must wait until retirement age and receive their monthly defined benefit pension payments. This severely limits the flexibility and portability of this pension plan for teachers who need to leave the system after vesting but before retirement age.

Pennsylvania limits teachers' flexibility to purchase years of service. The ability to purchase time is important because defined benefit plans' retirement eligibility and benefit payments are often tied to the number of years a teacher has worked. Pennsylvania's plan allows teachers with one year of service to purchase time for previous teaching experience, up to 12 years. While better than not allowing any purchase at all, this provision disadvantages teachers who move to Pennsylvania with more teaching experience. In addition, the mandatory one year of service before purchasing previous service makes the purchase cost slightly more expensive. The state's plan does not allow for the purchase of maternity or paternity leaves, which is a severe disadvantage to any teacher who needs to take leave for parental care or for other personal reasons.

#### Supporting Research

Pennsylvania Public Employees' Retirement System, Active Member Handbook http://www.psers.state.pa.us/publications/active/activehandbook.htmhttp://www.rsa-al.gov/TRS/Pubs%20and%20 forms/TRS%20Pubs/TRS%20Member%20Handbook%202011.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Figure 100		Defined benefit plan win	Pa		Q-	
Figure 109	Defined benefit	-	defin, I plan	CHOICE OF DEFINED BAN	DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN	2 1
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	25	17	4	4	1	

#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

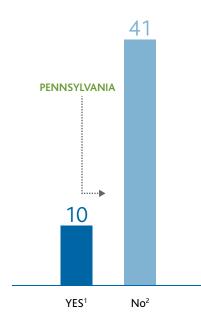
Alaska provides a fair and flexible defined contribution pension plan for all teachers. This plan is also highly portable, as teachers are entitled to 100 percent of employer contributions after five years of service. South Dakota's defined benefit plan has some creative provisions, which makes it more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

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

#### How many years before teachers vest?

#### Figure 110

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



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

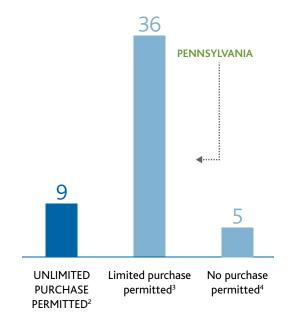
- 1. For teachers who join the system on or after January 1, 2012.
- Florida's defined benefit plan does not vest until year eight; teachers vest in the state's defined contribution plan after one year.
- 3. For teachers who join the system on or after July 1, 2012.
- 4. Ohio's defined benefit plan does not vest until year five; teachers vest in the state's defined contribution plan after one year.
- 5. Oregon offers a hybrid plan in which teachers vest immediately in the defined contribution component and vest in the defined benefit component after five years.
- South Carolina's defined benefit plan does not vest until year five; teachers vest immediately in the state's defined contribution plan.
- Based on Washington's Plan 2. The state also offers a hybrid plan in which teachers vest immediately in the defined contribution component and vest in the defined benefit component after 10 years.

	3 YEARS OR LESS	4 to 5 years	6 to 9 years	10 years
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Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut				
Delaware <sup>1</sup>				
District of Columbia				
Florida <sup>2</sup>				
Georgia				
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Idaho				
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South Dakota				
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Figure 112		Only their own	8 /	Their own contribution	THER OWN CONTRIENT THER OWN CONTRIENT AND FLUL WINY CONTRIENT PLUS INTERTION OF ER BUTTON	
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West Virginia Wisconsin						
West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming						

- States' withdrawal policies may vary depending on a teacher's years of service. Year five is used as a common point of comparision.
- As of July 1, 2006, Alaska only offers a defined contribution plan to new members, which allows teachers leaving the system after five years to withdraw 100 percent of the employer contribution.
- 3. California has a defined benefit plan with a small cash balance component, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw their contributions and any employer contributions plus earnings from their cash balance component, regardless of their actions regarding their defined benefit account.
- 4. Once vested, Iowa teachers may withdraw an employer match equal to one-thirtieth of their years of service. Effective July 1, 2012 teachers vest at seven years of service, so a teacher leaving at year five would not be entitled to any employer contribution.
- 5. Michigan only offers a hybrid plan. Exiting teachers may withdraw their own contributions and accrued earnings immediately and the employer contributions to the defined contribution component once vested at year four. Michigan teachers may withdraw their own contributions and accrued interest from the defined benefit component but may not withdraw the employer contribution.
- 6. Most teachers in Nevada fund the system by salary reductions or forgoing pay raises and thus do not have direct contributions to withdraw. The small mintority that are in a contributory system may withdraw their contributions plus interest.
- 7. Ohio has two other pension plans. Ohio's defined contribution plan allows teachers with at least one year of service who are leaving the system to withdraw 100 percent of the employer contribution. Exiting teachers with at least five years of experience in Ohio's combination plan may withdraw their employee-funded defined contribution component and the present value of the benefits offered in the defined benefit component.
- Oregon only has a hybrid retirement plan, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw their contributions plus earnings from their defined contribution component; they still receive the employer-funded defined benefit payments at retirement age.
- South Carolina also has a defined contribution plan, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw 100 percent of their contributions and employer contributions, plus earnings.
- 10. Utah offers a hybrid pension plan, which only has employee contributions when the costs exceed the guaranteed employer contribution. When costs are less than the employer contribution, the excess is contributed to the employee account and refundable after vesting.
- 11. Washington also has a hybrid plan, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw their contributions plus earnings from their defined contribution component; they still receive the employer-funded defined benefit payments at retirement age.

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



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

#### Figure 114

# Do states permit teachers to purchase time for leaves of absence?<sup>1</sup>



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

## Goal H – Pension Sustainability

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

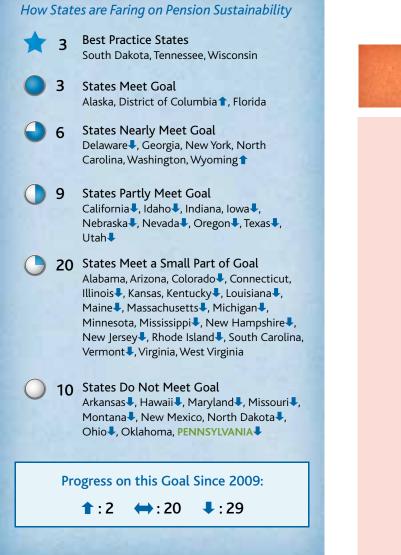
#### **Goal Components**

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

- 1. The state should ensure that its pension system is financially sustainable, without excessive unfunded liabilities or an inappropriately long amortization period.
- 2. Mandatory employer and employee contribution rates should not be unreasonably high, as they reduce teachers' paychecks and commit district resources that could otherwise be spent on salaries or incentives.

#### Background

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



## Area 4: Goal H **Pennsylvania** Analysis

#### State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

As of June 30, 2010, the most recent date for which an actuarial valuation is available, Pennsylvania's pension system for teachers is 75.1 percent funded and has an amortization period of over 30 years. This means that if the plan earns its assumed rate of return and maintains current contribution rates, it would take the state more than 30 years to pay off its unfunded liabilities. Neither the state's funding ratio nor its amortization period meets conventional standards, and the state's system is not financially sustainable according to actuarial benchmarks.

Pennsylvania will soon be making excessive contributions toward its teachers' retirement system. The current contribution rate for employers of 5.64 percent is reasonable, but due to recent legislation that rate is set to increase. The rate will increase by a maximum of 3 percent for fiscal year 2012, 3.5 percent for fiscal year 2013, and 4.5 percent for fiscal year 2014 and years thereafter until increases in the employer rate are no longer needed to appropriately fund the system. These rates are excessive in light of the fact that districts must also contribute 6.2 percent to Social Security.

However, the state pays the districts for their pension obligation for all employees hired after June 30, 1995. While this rate allows the state to pay off its liabilities within regulatory limits, it does so at great cost, precluding Pennsylvania from spending those funds on other, more immediate means to retain talented teachers. The employee rate for new employees hired after July 1, 2011, ranges from 7.5 to 9.5 percent for class T-E and 10.3 to 12.3 percent for class T-F depending on how the system performs (teachers choose their class depending on what benefit multiplier they prefer; see Goal 4-I). Member contribution rates increase within each range if the fund does not meet its assumed rate of return over a 10-year period. The 7.5 percent employee contribution rate is not unreasonable, although it is very close to what is considered excessive, and other rates in the range and the entire T-F class range are excessive in light of the fact that teachers must also contribute 6.2 percent to Social Security.

#### **Supporting Research**

Pennsylvania Public Employees' Retirement System, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010

http://www.psers.state.pa.us/publications/general/cafr.htm

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

The state would be better off if its system was over 95 percent funded and had an amortization period of 30 years or less to allow more protection during financial downturns. However, Pennsylvania should consider ways to improve its funding level without raising the contributions of school districts and teachers. 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.

In addition, the state may want to reconsider its planned structure for teachers' contribution rates. Recent changes mandating a variable contribution rate shifted some of the risk to teachers' without transferring any of the control.

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Do state pension systems meet standard benchmarks for financial health?

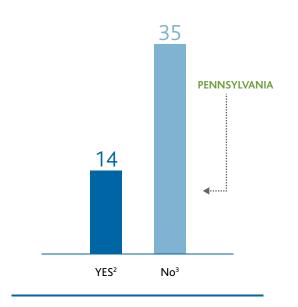
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#### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 117 Are state pension systems financially sustainable?<sup>1</sup>



1. Cannot be determined for Michigan or Utah, which recently opened new systems.

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

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

#### Figure 118 *Real Rate of Return*

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

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

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

#### Figure 119

1. Alaska has only a defined contribution pension system.

Figure 119

How well funded are state pension systems?

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

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

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

Employer contribution rate

Social Security (+6.2%)	0%	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%
Alabama	10	-				l		
Alaska	12.6							
Arizona	10.1							
Arkansas	14							
California	10.3							
Colorado	14.8							
Connecticut	19.2							
Delaware	9.3							
District of Columbia	0							
Florida	3.8							
Georgia <sup>2</sup>	10.3							
Hawaii <sup>3</sup>	15							
Idaho	10.4							
Illinois <sup>3</sup>	12.7							
Indiana	7.5							
lowa	8.1							
Kansas	9.4							
Kentucky								
Louisiana	17.8							
Maine	23.7							
	17.3							
Maryland	15.5							
Massachusetts <sup>3</sup>	22.6							
Michigan⁴	N/A							
Minnesota <sup>3</sup>	6.2							
Mississippi	12							
Missouri	14.5							
Montana	10							
Nebraska	8.9							
Nevada	11.9							
New Hampshire	10.7							
New Jersey <sup>5</sup>	N/A							
New Mexico	9.9							
New York	11.1							
North Carolina	13.1							
North Dakota	8.8							
Ohio	14							
Oklahoma	14.5							
Oregon	13.9							
PENNSYLVANIA <sup>3</sup>	5.6							
Rhode Island <sup>6</sup>	22.3							
South Carolina	9.2							
South Dakota	6							
Tennessee	6.4							
Texas <sup>7</sup>	6.6							
Utah	10							
Vermont	7.4							
Virginia	8.8							
Washington	9.2							
West Virginia	29.2							
Wisconsin	4.8							
Wyoming	7.1							
,								

#### Figure 120

What is a reasonable rate for pension contributions?

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

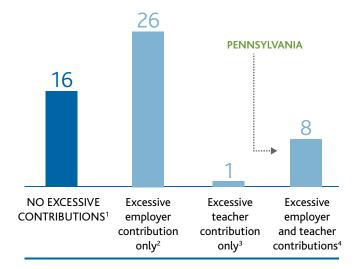
Analysts generally agree that workers in their 20's with no previous retirement savings should save, in addition to Social Security contributions, about 10-15 percent of their gross income in order to be able to live during retirement on 80 percent of the salary they were earning when they retired. While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

#### Sources:

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

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

# Do states require excessive contributions to their pension systems?



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

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

#### Figure 123

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

#### Figure 123

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

Teacher contribution rate

leacher contribution rate						
Social Security (+6.2%)	C	)%	5%	10%	15%	20%
Al. L		1	1	1		I
Alabama <sup>1</sup>	7.3					
Alaska Arizona	8		_			
	11.4					
Arkansas California	6	_				
	8	_				
Colorado Connecticut	8			•		
Delaware <sup>1</sup>	7.3			_		
District of Columbia	3	_				
Florida	8					
	3		_			
Georgia <sup>1</sup> Hawaii <sup>1</sup>	5.5					
Idaho	6	_	_			
Illinois	6.2					
Indiana	9.4			_		
	3					
lowa	5.4			_		
Kansas	6			_		
Kentucky	10.9					
Louisiana	8					
Maine	7.7	_				
Maryland	7			_		
Massachusetts	11		_			
Michigan <sup>2</sup>	11.4	_		_		
Minnesota <sup>1</sup>	6					
Mississippi Missouri	9	_				
Montana	14.5	_	_			
Nebraska <sup>3</sup>	7.2					
Nevada <sup>4</sup>	8.8					
New Hampshire	11.9					
New Jersey <sup>1</sup>	7 6 F					
New Mexico	6.5 11.2					
New York	3.5					
North Carolina	5.5 6					
North Dakota <sup>1</sup>						
Ohio	7.8 10					
Oklahoma	7		_			
Oregon	6					
PENNSYLVANIA <sup>5</sup>	7.5	_				
Rhode Island	9.5					
South Carolina	6.5				_	
South Dakota	6					
Tennessee	5					
Texas	6.4	_				
Utah <sup>6</sup>	0.4					
Vermont	5					
Virginia	5					
Washington <sup>7</sup>	4.8	_				
West Virginia	6	_				
Wisconsin	6.2					
Wyoming	7					

## **Area 4: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

## Goal I – Pension Neutrality

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

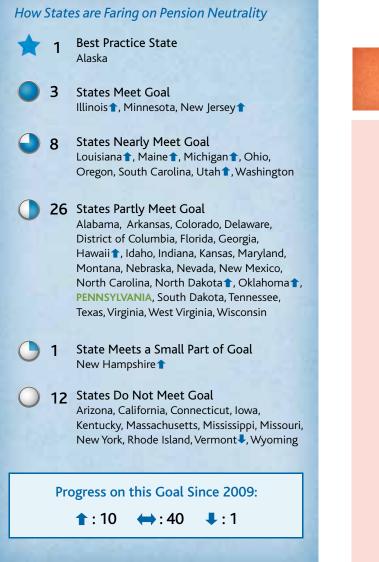
#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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



#### State Partly Meets Goal

#### Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania'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.

Pennsylvania's pension plan is commended for utilizing a constant benefit multiplier of 2 or 2.5 percent, depending on the teacher's chosen class; however, teachers may retire before standard retirement age based on years of service without a reduction in benefits. Teachers may retire according to the "Rule of 92," meaning that age plus years of service equal 92, with a minimum of 35 years of service, while other vested teachers may not retire with unreduced benefits until age 65. Therefore, teachers who begin their careers at age 22 can reach the "Rule of 92" with 35 years of service by age 57, entitling them to nine additional years of unreduced retirement benefits beyond what other teachers would receive who may not retire until age 65. Not only are teachers being paid benefits by the state well before Social Security's retirement age, but these provisions, along with the state's early retirement with reduced benefits based on years of service, may also encourage effective teachers to retire earlier than they may otherwise, 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**

Pennsylvania Public Employees' Retirement System, Active Member Handbook http://www.psers.state.pa.us/publications/active/activehandbook.htm

#### RECOMMENDATION

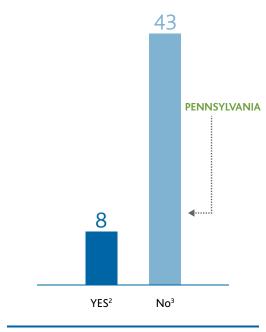
#### End retirement eligibility based on years of service.

Pennsylvania should change its practice of allowing teachers whose age and years of service equal 92 to retire at any age with full benefits. If retirement at an earlier age is offered to some teachers, benefits should be reduced accordingly to compensate for the longer duration they will be awarded.

Align eligibility for retirement with unreduced benefits with Social Security retirement age. Pennsylvania allows all teachers to retire before conventional retirement age, some as young as 57. 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).

**PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

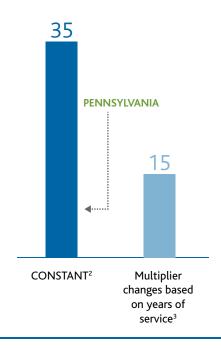
Do states base retirement eligibility on age, which is fair to all teachers?<sup>1</sup>



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

- 1. All calculations are based on a teacher who starts teaching at age 22, earns a starting salary of \$35,000 that increases 3 percent per year, and retires at the age s/he is first eligible for unreduced benefits. The calculations use states' current benefit formulas and do not include cost of living increases. The final average salary was calculated as the average of the highest three years of salary, even though a few states may vary from that standard. Age 65 was used as a point of comparision because it is the miminum eligibility for unreduced Social Security benefits.
- 2. Does not apply to Alaska's defined contribution plan.
- 3. Minnesota provides unreduced retirement benefits at the age of full Social Security benefits or age 66, whichever comes first.
- California's formula has many options for retirement. A teacher with 40 years of experience at age 62 would reach Califorina's maximum allowable multiplier of 2.4 percent.
- 5. Age 60 is the earlier teachers hired on or after July 1, 2012 may retire. Teachers hired prior to this point may retire at age 55.
- Massachusetts's formula has many options for retirement. A teacher with 35 years of experience at age 57 would reach Massachusetts's maximum allowable benefit of 80 percent.
- Total amount in banefits per teacher from the binefits paid retirement until age 65 me of Figure 126 Earliest retirement age th a teacher who started th 22 may unreduced bene How much do states pay for each teacher that retires with unreduced benefits at an early age?1 Alaska<sup>2</sup> \$0 Illinois 67 \$0 Maine 65 Minnesota<sup>3</sup> \$0 66 New Hampshire \$0 65 \$0 New Jersey 65 Washington \$0 65 Tennessee \$238,654 52 Michigan \$289,187 60 California<sup>4</sup> \$310,028 62 Indiana 55 \$317,728 Hawaii⁵ \$337,385 60 Kansas 60 \$337,385 Oregon \$361,536 58 North Dakota \$385,583 60 Oklahoma \$385,583 60 Maryland \$413,808 56 Wisconsin 57 \$416,007 Rhode Island \$430,013 59 New York \$440,819 57 Texas \$443,421 60 South Dakota 55 \$447,707 Virginia 56 \$468,982 Louisiana \$481,979 60 Florida \$485,257 55 Vermont \$486,832 56 Montana 47 \$518,228 Connecticut \$520,009 57 Utah 57 \$520,009 Iowa \$551,428 55 Idaho \$551,743 56 North Carolina \$568,555 52 South Carolina 50 \$577,142 Nebraska \$577,687 55 West Virginia 55 \$577,687 Delaware \$577,927 52 District of Columbia \$585,737 52 Massachusetts<sup>6</sup> 57 \$594.296 Georgia \$624,786 52 Mississippi \$624,786 52 Alabama \$625,747 47 Colorado \$650,011 57 **PENNSYLVANIA** 57 \$650,011 Wyoming \$655,506 54 Arizona \$664,340 55 Arkansas 50 \$681,789 Ohio \$687,265 52 New Mexico \$734,124 52 Nevada 52 \$780,983 Missouri \$789,343 51 Kentucky 49 \$791,679

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



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

## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Alaska offers a defined contribution pension plan that is neutral, with pension wealth accumulating in an equal way for all teachers for each year of work. In addition, Illinois, Minnesota and New Jersey offer a defined benefit plan with a formula multiplier that does not change relative to years of service and does not allow unreduced benefits for retirees below age 65. Illinois and New Jersey are further commended for ending their previous practices of allowing teachers to retire well before Social Security age without a reduction in benefits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Goal A – Licensure Loopholes

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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



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

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

## ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania allows individuals who have not met the state's minimum standards for licensure to teach on emergency permits that expire the last day of summer school in the year they were issued. The state will issue an emergency permit to individuals who hold a bachelor's degree if no qualified teachers can be found for the position. The permit may be renewed if the applicant has completed nine semester hours in a state-approved teacher preparation program. An emergency permit may be issued up to an additional two years to enable the individual to complete and pass all testing requirements for full state certification.

## 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. Pennsylvania should ensure that all teachers pass licensing tests—an important minimum benchmark for entering the profession—before 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. Pennsylvania's current policy puts students at risk by allowing teachers to teach on an emergency permits for up to three years without passing required licensing tests.

**PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

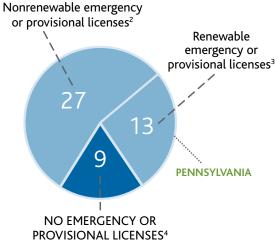
	Figure 131					
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	practice without passi	ng .	. /		J.e	
	licensing tests?	NO DEFERRAL	Up to 7 year	$t_{\rm b} t_{\rm b} z_{\rm years}$	<sup>3</sup> years or more for unspecified	,
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	Alaska					
	Arizona					
	Arkansas					
	California					
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	Connecticut					
	Delaware					
wable	District of Columbia					
ency or	Florida					
al licenses <sup>3</sup>	Georgia					
	Hawaii					
	Idaho					
	Illinois					
	Indiana					
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	Maine					
	Maryland					
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na,	Nebraska <sup>3</sup>					
Vermont,	Nevada					
nesota,	New Hampshire					
Visconsin	New Jersey					
ew Jersey,	New Mexico					
	New York					
d.	North Carolina					
	North Dakota					
	Ohio					
	Oklahoma					
	Oregon					
	PENNSYLVANIA					
	Rhode Island					
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ntary and			14	0	10	
		9	14	8	18	

**T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

### Figure 130

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



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

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

## Goal B – Unsatisfactory Evaluations

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

Goal Components	Figure 132			
(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)	How States are Faring on Consequences for Unsatisfactory Evaluations			
<ol> <li>The state should require that all teachers who receive a single unsatisfactory evaluation be placed on an improvement plan, whether or not they have tenure.</li> <li>The state should require that all teachers who receive two consecutive unsatisfactory</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>2 Best Practice States Illinois<sup>1</sup>, Oklahoma</li> <li>11 States Meet Goal Alaska, Arkansas<sup>1</sup>, Colorado<sup>1</sup>, Delaware<sup>1</sup>, Florida, Indiana<sup>1</sup>, Louisiana, New Mexico, New York<sup>1</sup>, Rhode Island<sup>1</sup>, Washington</li> </ul>			
evaluations or two unsatisfactory evaluations within five years be formally eligible for dismissal, whether or not they have tenure.	G States Nearly Meet Goal Georgia, Hawaii, Michigan ↑, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas			
Background A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.	13 States Partly Meet Goal California, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts 1, Minnesota 1, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada 1, Oregon, PENNSYLVANIA, Tennessee 1, Utah, West Virginia			
	<b>5</b> States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Idaho <b>↑</b> , Ohio <b>↑</b> , Virginia, Wyoming <b>↑</b>			
	● 14 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama↓, District of Columbia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin			
	Progress on this Goal Since 2009:			
	<b>1</b> :15 ↔:35 ↓:1			

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

## State Partly Meets Goal

## Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

Pennsylvania requires that teachers who receive two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations be formally eligible for dismissal. Although state policy indicates that "an opportunity for the professional employee to improve" should be available after the first negative rating, it does not address whether the teacher should be placed on a structured improvement plan.

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

Supporting Research Pennsylvania Code 351.26

### RECOMMENDATION

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

Pennsylvania should 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.

### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that there is currently no need to legislate this action because school districts build improvement plans to support layoff or firing decisions should they go to arbitration.

#### LAST WORD

The point of the recommendation is not that districts should have improvement plans in the event a dismissal decision goes to arbitration, but that teachers who are not meeting expectations receive a plan designed to identify and help them address their deficiencies.

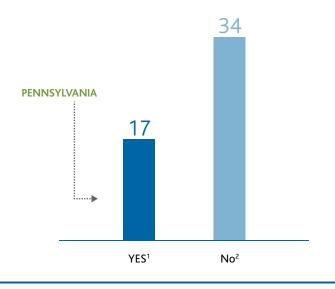
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- Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- While results of evaluations may be used in dismissal decisions, there are no specific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

## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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





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

## Goal C – Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

#### **Goal Components** Figure 135 (The factors considered in determining the states' How States are Faring in Dismissal for Poor rating for the goal.) Performance 1. The state should articulate that teachers **Best Practice State** may be dismissed for ineffective classroom Oklahoma 1 performance. 2. A teacher who is terminated for poor 2 States Meet Goal performance should have an opportunity to appeal. In the interest of both the teacher and the school district, the state should 6 ensure that this appeal occurs within a reasonable time frame. 3. There should be a clear distinction between 8 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

## Background

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

or morality violations or dereliction of duties.

## Florida<sup>1</sup>, Indiana<sup>1</sup> States Nearly Meet Goal Colorado 1, Illinois 1, Michigan 1, New York 1, Rhode Island 1. Tennessee 1 States Partly Meet Goal Arizona<sup>1</sup>, Delaware<sup>1</sup>, Hawaii<sup>1</sup>, Massachusetts 1, Nevada 1, Ohio 1, Wisconsin, Wyoming States Meet a Small Part of Goal Louisiana, New Hampshire, Virginia, West Virginia 30 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, PENNSYLVANIA, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:  $1:16 \iff :35 \qquad \downarrow:0$ 

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

State Does Not Meet Goal

**Progress Since 2009** 

### ANALYSIS

In Pennsylvania, tenured teachers who are terminated have multiple opportunities to appeal. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher may request a hearing within 30 days. The hearing officer must render a decision within 60 days after the hearing's conclusion. This decision may be appealed to the Pennsylvania Professional Standards and Practices Commission, which must issue its decision within 45 days.

Pennsylvania does not explicitly make teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal, nor does the state distinguish the due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance from those facing other charges commonly associated with license revocation, such as a felony and/or morality violations. In fact, Pennsylvania does not articulate specific grounds for termination of teachers' contracts.

### Supporting Research Pennsylvania Code Title 22, 233.115-118

#### RECOMMENDATION

### Specify that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

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

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

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

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

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

### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania asserted that "pursuant to statute, tenured teachers can only be dismissed for: immorality; incompetency; unsatisfactory teaching performance based on two consecutive ratings of the employee's teaching performance that are to include classroom observations, not less than four months apart, in which the employee's teaching performance is unsatisfactory; intemperance; cruelty; persistent negligence in the performance of duties; willful neglect of duties; physical or mental disability documented

by competent medical evidence; advocation of or participation in un-American or subversive doctrines; conviction of a felony or acceptance of a guilty plea or nolo contendere; persistent and willful violation of or failure to comply with school laws of this Commonwealth (including official directives and established policy of the board of directors."

The state added that "if a tenured teacher is recommended for dismissal, the teacher may request an arbitration hearing or a hearing before the school board. If, after a school board hearing the teacher is dismissed, the teacher can appeal to the Secretary within 30 days of receiving notice of the board's decision. There is no time period within which the Secretary must issue a decision. The Secretary's decision can be appealed to Commonwealth Court.

## LAST WORD

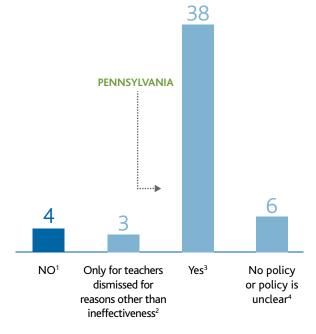
NCTQ recognizes that the language the state cites related to dismissal for unsatisfactory teaching performance does in fact exist, but it is not accessible in any of the locations where such language related to a state's dismissal policy for teachers is typically found (i.e., Department of Education's website, the state legislature's website and the state's code). NCTQ was only able to uncover such language on a third-party site. Without this policy being clear and accessible on an official state website or other places users might access the code, it seems highly unlikely that districts are using this language to inform their dismissal policies.



## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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





1. Strong Practice: Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Wisconsin

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

- 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.



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

State Does Not Meet Goal



## ANALYSIS

In Pennsylvania, seniority is the sole factor used to determine which teachers are laid off during reductions in force. When layoffs occur, they are made on the "inverse order of seniority within the school entity of current employment."

### Supporting Research

Sections 11-1124 and 11-1125 of the Public School Code of Pennsylvania

### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off. Although it may be useful the state to consider seniority among other criteria, Pennsylvania's current policy puts adult interests before student needs.

### PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state noted that the governor supports and has led efforts with legislators to make legislative changes that would support teacher effectiveness being used to determine reduction-in-force decisions.



Do states prevent districts from basing layoffs solely on "last in, first out"?



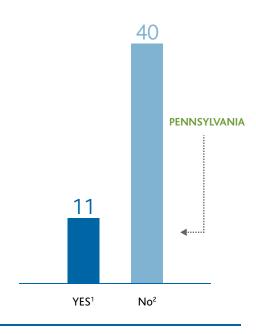
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## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 140

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

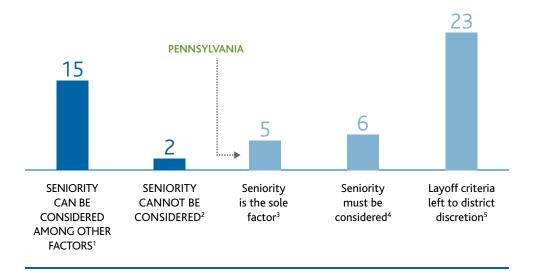


1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah

- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio<sup>3</sup>, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Tenure is considered first.

160 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 PENNSYLVANIA





1. Strong Practice: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Missouri<sup>6</sup>, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio<sup>6</sup>, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas

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

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