# 2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Nevada

OVERALL GRADA



### Acknowledgments

#### **STATES**

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

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

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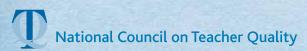
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### **Executive Summary**

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

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

### Nevada at a Glance

### Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade:



Overall 2009 Yearbook Grade: D-

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

### **Overall Progress**



### Highlights from recent progress in Nevada include:

- Evidence of student learning in teacher evaluations
- Tenure decisions connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness
- Consequences for unsatisfactory evaluations
- Alternative certification

### How is Nevada Faring?

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



### **Policy Strengths**

All new teachers must pass a pedagogy test.

### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Teacher candidates are not required to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- Elementary teachers are not adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with the Common Core Standards.
- Teacher preparation programs are not required to address the science of reading, and candidates are not required to pass a test to ensure knowledge.
- Neither teacher preparation program nor licensure test requirements ensure that new elementary teachers are adequately prepared to teach mathematics.

- Middle school teachers are allowed to teach on a K-8 generalist license.
- 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.
- The state offers a K-12 special education certification.
- Requirements for teacher preparation do not ensure a high-quality student teaching experience.
- The teacher preparation program approval process does not hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

### **Area 2** Expanding the Pool of Teachers



### **Policy Strengths**

There are no restrictions on alternate route usage or providers.

### **Policy Weaknesses**

- The state has taken steps toward setting selective admission requirements and streamlined program guidelines for the alternate route, although specific requirements have not yet been outlined.
- A license with minimal requirements that would allow content experts to teach part time is not offered.
- Out-of-state teachers are not required to meet the state's testing requirements, and there are additional obstacles that do not support licensure reciprocity.

### How is Nevada Faring?

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



### **Policy Strengths**

- Objective evidence of student learning is the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.
- All teachers must be evaluated annually.
- Tenure decisions are connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

### **Policy Weaknesses**

- The state data system does not have the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Licensure advancement and renewal are not based on teacher effectiveness.
- Little school-level data are reported that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

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



### **Policy Strengths**

- Districts are given full authority for how teachers are paid, although they are not discouraged from basing salary schedules solely on years of experience and advanced degrees.
- Teachers can receive additional pay for working in high-need schools or shortage subject areas, and performance pay will be available starting in 2014.

### **Policy Weaknesses**

- All new teachers do not receive mentoring or other induction support.
- Professional development is not aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.
- The state does not support additional compensation for relevant prior work experience.
- 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 underfunded.
- 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**

- All teachers of core-subject areas must pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure.
- A last hired, first fired layoff policy during reductions in force is prohibited.

### **Policy Weaknesses**

Though consequences are tied to multiple unsatisfactory evaluations—teachers will return to probationary status for two consecutive years of below-average ratings—the state could do more to ensure that ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal for any teacher.

## **Nevada Goal Summary**

F	Goal Breakdown		
	Best Practice	0	Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers
	Fully Meets	6	3-A: State Data Systems
	Nearly Meets	2	3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness
	Partially Meets	12	3-C: Frequency of Evaluations
	Only Meets a Small Part	5	
H	O Does Not Meet	11	3-D: Tenure
	Progress on Goals Since 2009		3-E: Licensure Advancement
ä			3-F: Equitable Distribution
	Area 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers		Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers
	1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs	0	4-A: Induction
	1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation	0	4-B: Professional Development
	1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	0	4-C: Pay Scales
	1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	0	4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience
	1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation	•	4-E: Differential Pay
	1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation		4-F: Performance Pay
	1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	•	4-G: Pension Flexibility
	1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies	•	4-H: Pension Sustainability
	1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation	0	4-I: Pension Neutrality
	1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge		Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers
	1-K: Student Teaching	0	5-A: Licensure Loopholes
	1-L: Teacher Preparation Program		5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations
H	Accountability  Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers		5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance
	2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility	0	5-D: Reductions in Force
	2-B: Alternate Route Preparation	•	
	2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers		
	2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses	0	
	2-E: Licensure Reciprocity	0	

### About the Yearbook

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

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

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

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

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

### How to Read the Yearbook

NCTQ rates state teacher policy in several ways.

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









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





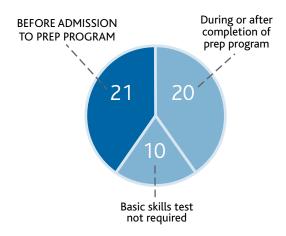


Some goals are marked with this symbol , which indicates that the bar has been raised for this goal since the 2009 *Yearbook*. With many states making considerable progress in advancing teacher effectiveness policy, NCTQ raised the standards for some goals where the bar had been quite low. As this may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

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

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

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



### Goals

### AREA 1: DELIVERING WELL PREPARED TEACHERS

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### 1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs

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

### 1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

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

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

### 1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

### 1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

### 1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

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

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

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

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

### 1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

#### 1-I: Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

### 1-K: Student Teaching

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

### 1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

### AREA 2: EXPANDING THE POOL OF TEACHERS

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#### 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.

#### **AREA 3: IDENTIFYING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS**

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#### 3-A: State Data Systems

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

### 3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

### 3-C: Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

#### 3-D: Tenure

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

### 3-E: Licensure Advancement

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

#### 3-F: Equitable Distribution

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

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

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#### 4-A: Induction

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

#### 4-B: Professional Development

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

### 4-C: Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

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

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

### 4-E: Differential Pay

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

#### 4-F: Performance Pay

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

### 4-G: Pension Flexibility

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

### 4-H: Pension Sustainability

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

#### 4-I: Pension Neutrality

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

#### **AREA 5: EXITING INEFFECTIVE TEACHERS**

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### 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.

### Goal A – Admission into Preparation Programs

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

### **Background**

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



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



State Does Not Meet Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2009



#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada 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**

Nevada Administrative Code 391.036

#### RECOMMENDATION

 Require teacher candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.

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

Require preparation programs to use a common test normed to the general college-bound population.

The basic skills tests in use in most states largely assess middle school-level skills. To improve the selectivity of teacher candidates—a common characteristic in countries whose students consistently outperform ours in international comparisons—Nevada 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.

Nevada 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.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

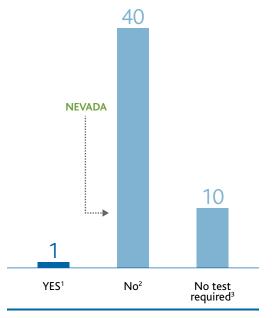
Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



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

Figure 2

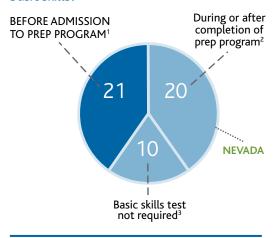
Do states require a test of academic proficiency that is normed to the general college-going population?



### 1. Strong Practice: Texas

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

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

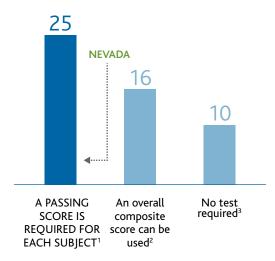


- Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- Alabama, Alaska, California, Delaware, District of 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 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
- 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.
- 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.)

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

### **Background**

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



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



State Does Not Meet Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Although Nevada 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.

Nevada now requires candidates to pass the Praxis II "Elementary Education: Instructional Practice and Applications" test. Regrettably, this is not an adequate assessment of content knowledge. The description of topics assessed and sample questions focus almost exclusively on methods and instructional strategies, and although it is a sound approach to assess pedagogical knowledge in the context of specific content areas, that does not mean that such a test measures content knowledge.

In addition, Nevada does not specify any coursework requirements for general education or elementary teacher candidates, except for ones related to content methodology. The state requires eight semester hours in student teaching, nine semester hours in methods of teaching elementary subjects, nine semester hours in the teaching of literacy or language arts, and six semester hours of professional education coursework in areas such as classroom management and child development.

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

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Administrative Code 391.095 Praxis II www.ets.org

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Nevada is urged to require an elementary assessment that adequately tests subject-matter knowledge, rather than its current selection, which is more a test of pedagogy.

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

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

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

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

### Require at least an academic concentration.

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

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

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

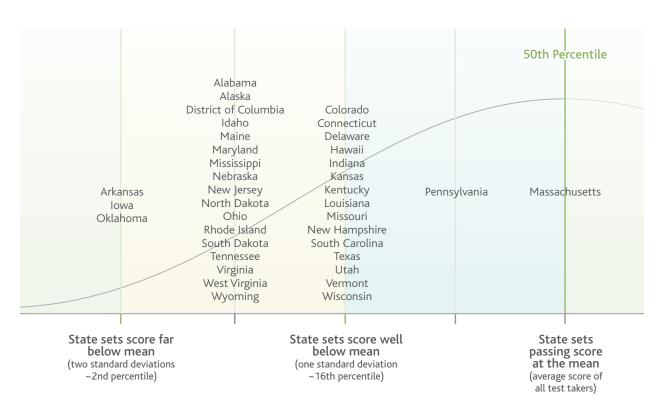
### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. However, this analysis was updated subsequent to the state's review.



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.

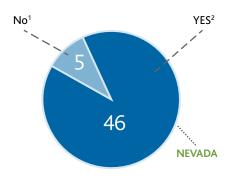
Figure 7
Where do states set the passing score on elementary content licensure tests<sup>1</sup>?



<sup>1</sup> 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.

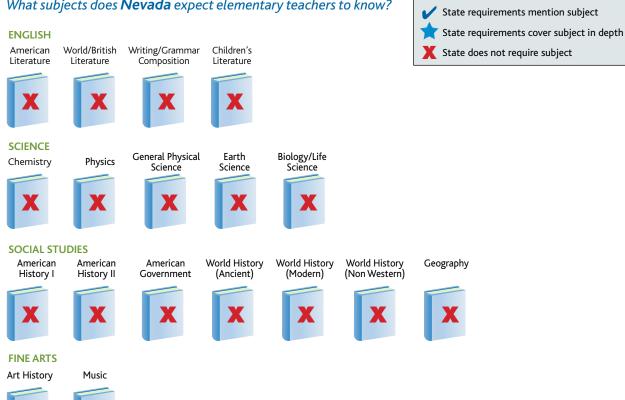
Figure 8

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

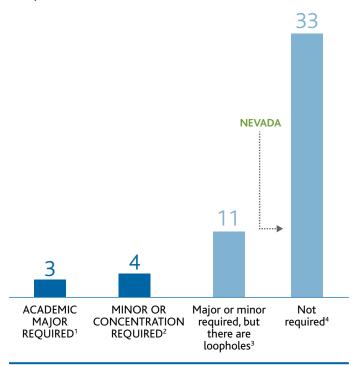
Figure 9
What subjects does **Nevada** expect elementary teachers to know?



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Do states expect		World/British / it	الله /	/ /		General pr.	/ e	/ /	/		/	World His	/	World Hist	\	/ /		/ /
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■ Subject mentioned ★ Subject covered in depth

Figure 11 Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



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

### Goal C – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



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



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada does not require that teacher preparation programs for elementary teacher candidates address the science of reading. The state has neither coursework requirements nor standards related to this critical area. Nevada does require that elementary teacher candidates complete nine credit hours in the teaching of literacy or language arts; however, this coursework does not explicitly require that teachers receive training in the five essential components of reading instruction. Nevada also does not require teacher candidates to pass an assessment that measures knowledge of scientifically based reading instruction prior to certification or at any point thereafter.

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 391.095

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Nevada should ensure that teacher preparation programs adequately prepare elementary teacher candidates in the science of reading by requiring that these programs train candidates in the five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

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

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

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

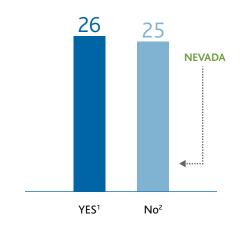
Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



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

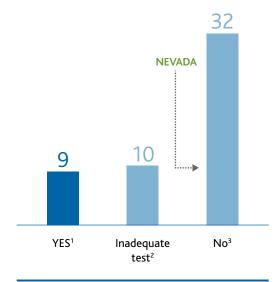
Eight states meet this goal by requiring that preparation programs for elementary teacher candidates address the science of reading and requiring that candidates pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and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

Figure 13 Do states require preparation for elementary teachers in the science of reading?



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

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



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

Figure 15	DE	REPARATIC QUIREMEN	/	TEST! REQUIRE	
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Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	26	25	9	10	32

<sup>1.</sup> Based on the limited information available about the test on the state's website.

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.



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



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada has not articulated requirements to ensure that elementary teacher candidates have sufficient mathematics content knowledge.

The state neither specifies any coursework requirements regarding mathematics content nor outlines teaching standards that its approved teacher preparation programs must use to frame instruction in elementary mathematics content.

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

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Administrative Code 391.095

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.

Nevada should explicitly articulate its expectations for the knowledge and skills it expects elementary mathematics teachers to possess and 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.

Nevada 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.

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

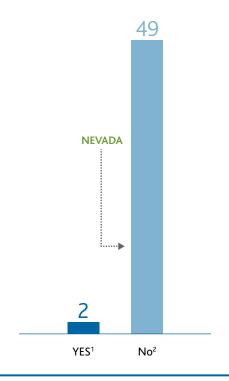
Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



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

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

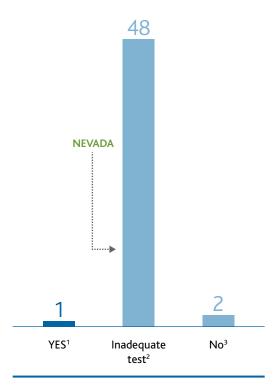
Figure 17 Do states articulate appropriate mathematics preparation for elementary teachers?



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

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

Figure 18 Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



### 1. Strong Practice: Massachusetts

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

### Goal E - Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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



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



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada offers a middle school license for middle school teachers; candidates must earn 24 semester hours in a major field of endorsement or area of concentration. Teachers with secondary certificates are allowed to teach single subjects in middle school. Those candidates must complete either a major (36 credit hours) or a minor (24 credit hours) in their intended teaching field. Regrettably, Nevada also allows middle school teachers to teach on a generalist K-8 license.

All new middle school teachers in Nevada are also required to pass a Praxis II subject-matter test to attain licensure. However, only secondary and middle school candidates are required to pass a single-subject Praxis II content test to attain licensure. Those seeking the elementary license are only required to pass the general content test for elementary education, in which subscores are not provided; therefore, there is no assurance that these middle school teachers will have sufficient knowledge in each subject they teach.

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Administrative Code 391.090, -111, -120 www.ets.org/praxis

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

### ■ Prepare middle school teachers to teach middle school.

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

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

Nevada should encourage middle school teachers who plan to teach multiple subjects to earn two minors in two core academic areas, rather than a single major. However, the state should retain its requirement for a subject-area major for middle school candidates who intend to teach a single subject.

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

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

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada asserted that although the K-8 license allows teachers to teach in grades 7-8 in middle school, the NCLB "highly qualified" requirements mandate that these teachers must demonstrate competency in all subjects by either passing the Praxis II subject assessment or completing an academic major in the subject.

### **Supporting Research**

http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Accountability/NCLB/HQTR(10-9-07).pdf

#### **LAST WORD**

Nevada should ensure that all middle school teachers possess adequate subject-matter knowledge as a condition of initial licensure.



### **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.

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<sup>1.</sup> California offers a K-12 generalist license for self-contained classrooms.

<sup>2.</sup> Illinois offers K-9 license.

<sup>3.</sup> With the exception of mathematics.

<sup>4.</sup> Oregon offers 3-8 license.

<sup>5.</sup> Wisconsin offers 1-8 license.

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State does not explicitly require two minors, but it has equivalent requirements.

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

### Goal F – Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background

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

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

### Area 1: Goal F **Nevada** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Nevada requires that its secondary teacher candidates pass a Praxis II content test to teach any core secondary subjects. Unfortunately, Nevada 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).

To add an endorsement to an existing secondary license, teachers in Nevada must submit transcripts to verify the minimum credits required.

### Supporting Research

Nevada Administrative Code 391.036

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

Nevada 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).

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

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

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

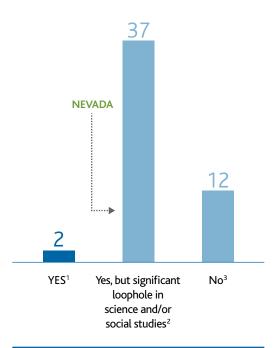
Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



### **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).

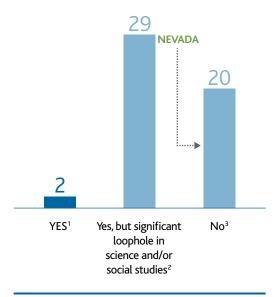
Figure 23 Do all secondary teachers have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



### 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, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin. (For more on loopholes, see Goals 1-G and 1-H.)
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Wyoming

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



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

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

### Goal G – Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada offers an endorsement in general science. Candidates must complete either a major (36 credit hours) or a minor (24 credit hours) in general science. Requirements for the major include at least three semester hours in each of the following: biology; chemistry; physics; and earth science, space science, electronics or engineering. Requirements for the minor include at least three semester hours in chemistry, physics and biology. Candidates must pass the Praxis II "General Science, Part 1" test and the "General Science: Content Essays" test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general science but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

Nevada also offers an endorsement in physical science. Requirements for this major include at least six semester hours each in chemistry and physics, and three semester hours each in geology, and earth science, electronics or engineering. Requirements for the minor include three semester hours in each of the following: chemistry; physics; geology; and earth science, space science, electronics or engineering. These candidates must pass the Praxis II "General Science, Part 1" test.

Middle school science teachers in Nevada have the option of a middle grades license. Coursework requirements include 24 semester hours in science and, commendably, candidates must pass the Praxis II "Middle School Science" test. Regrettably, however, Nevada also allows middle school teachers to teach on a generalist K-8 license (see Goal 1-E).

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Administrative Code 391.111; .125; .1301; .1304; .1305 **Praxis Testing Requirements** www.ets.org

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

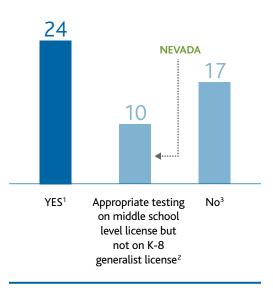
Figure 26		SCIENC TESTIN	Ses or	SWITT
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### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 27 Do states ensure that middle school teachers have adequate preparation to teach science?



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

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

## Goal H – Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background



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



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada offers an endorsement in general social studies. Coursework requirements include at least three semester hours each in economics, geography, psychology or sociology, and ethnic studies, with a combined total of 24 semester hours in political science, U.S. history and world history. Candidates must also pass the Praxis II "Social Studies" content test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general social studies but rather can teach any of the topical areas.

Middle school social studies teachers in Nevada have the option of a middle grades license. Coursework requirements include 24 semester hours in the social sciences, and, commendably, candidates must pass the Praxis II "Middle School Social Studies" test. Unfortunately, Nevada also allows middle school teachers to teach on a generalist K-8 license (see Goal 1-E).

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Administrative Code 391.111; .1306 **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 do not require content tests for each area—are not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. Nevada'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 history questions, for example, incorrectly, yet still be licensed to teach history to high school students.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

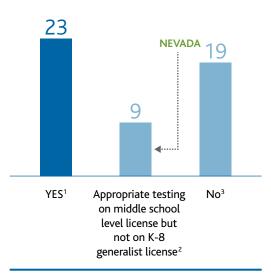
Figure 29	*	OFFERS ONLY SINGLE UCENSES SOCIAL STUDIES	Offers Beneral social studies testing without adequate
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### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 30 Do states ensure that middle school teachers have adequate preparation to teach social studies?



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

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

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

# Goal I – Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

### **Background**



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



State Does Not Meet Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

#### Supporting Research

Nevada Administrative Code 391.343

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

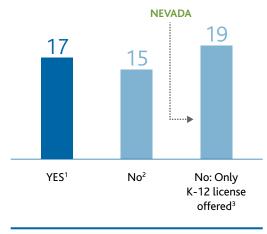




### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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?



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

Figure 32

1. Beginning January 1, 2013

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

# Goal J – Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

### **Background**



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



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada requires all new teachers to pass a popular pedagogy test from the Praxis series in order to attain licensure.

## **Supporting Research**

http://www.ets.org/praxis/nv

### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ Verify that commercially available tests of pedagogy actually align with state standards.

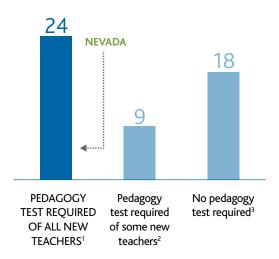
Nevada should ensure that its selected test of professional knowledge measures the knowledge and skills the state expects new teachers to have.

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**



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

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



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

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

## Goal K - Student Teaching

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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

### **Background**



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



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada requires eight semester credits of supervised student teaching. The state does not articulate any requirements for cooperating teachers.

### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Administrative Code 391.095, -.111, -.120

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Figure 37		4 / 525
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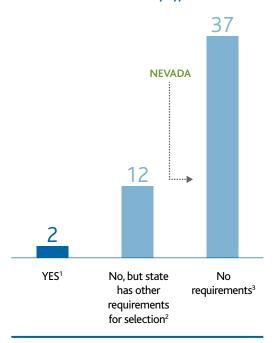


## **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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

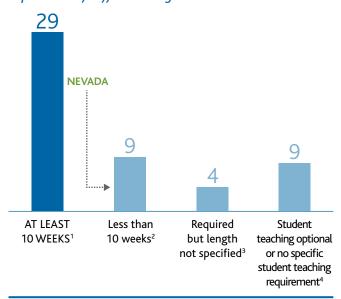
Figure 38 Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?



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

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

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



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

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

## Goal L – Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

### Background

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

## Figure 40 How States are Faring in Teacher Preparation **Program Accountability Best Practice State** Florida State Meets Goal Louisiana States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama, Colorado 1, Georgia 1, Tennessee, Texas States Partly Meet Goal Kentucky, Michigan, NEVADA, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina 16 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Illinois , Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia 1 22 States Do Not Meet Goal 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 **Nevada** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Most importantly, Nevada 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. Nevada has set minimum standards for traditional program performance; failure to meet those standards precipitates action by the Board of Education that may result in a program losing state approval. The Board reviews any program that reports fewer than 95 percent of its teacher candidates passing their licensure tests, or if school districts report that more than 5 percent of program graduates newly hired by districts are dismissed or not rehired. This 95 percent standard is among the highest in the nation, with most states setting the pass-rate standard at 80 percent.

Nevada also requires each teacher preparation program to submit an annual report, although it is not clear how the information gained from these reports contributes to the program approval process. The report must include:

- The annual accountability report submitted by the institution to the federal government;
- Information regarding the types of teaching positions program graduates have attained;
- A satisfaction survey that asks program graduates and principals to give their view on the quality of a program's preparation; and
- A plan for improvement based upon these findings.

However, the state does not collect this data for its alternate route. Further, there is no evidence that the state's standards for program approval are resulting in greater accountability. In the past three years, no programs in Nevada have been identified in required federal reporting as low performing.

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

#### Supporting Research

Nevada Administrative Code 391.558, -.560 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, Nevada 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, Nevada 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.

### 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, Nevada should present all the data it collects on individual teacher preparation programs.

## Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data for all teacher preparation programs.

Nevada is commended for setting standards for performance for its traditional teacher preparation programs. The state should apply such standards to its alternate route programs, which should also be held accountable for meeting established standards and face articulated consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval after appropriate due process.

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

Nevada has taken more steps than many states to develop an accountability system for teacher preparation programs. The state should ensure that its system is sufficient to differentiate program performance and that follow-up actions are taken as warranted.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Figure 41			ADITIONAL	. /	DDED	NATIVE
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Reported institutional data do not distinguish between candidates in the traditional and alternate route programs.

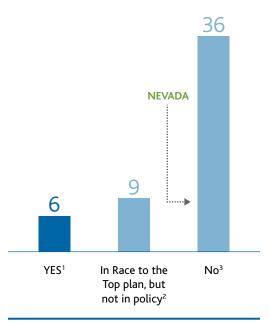
The posted data do not allow the public to review and compare program performance because data are not disaggregated by program provider.



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

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

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



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

Figure 43

## Which states collect meaningful data?

#### **AVERAGE RAW SCORES ON LICENSING TESTS**

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

#### SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

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

#### **EVALUATION RESULTS FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES**

Alabama, Arizona, Delaware<sup>1</sup>, Florida, Illiniois, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont

#### STUDENT LEARNING GAINS

Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas

#### **TEACHER RETENTION RATES**

Arizona, Colorado, Delaware<sup>1</sup>, Missouri, New Jersey

1. For alternate route only

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According to information posted on NCATE's website.

## **Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers**

## Goal A – Alternate Route Eligibility

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background



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



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

New legislation recently passed in Nevada changes the requirements for the state's alternate route. The Nevada Commission on Professional Standards is charged with setting new guidelines for the eligibility requirements to alternate routes as well as the program standards. The legislation requires these standards to be in place by December 31, 2011.

The new legislation requires alternate route providers "to be selective in its acceptance of students" but does not offer specifics that can presently affect the rating of this goal.

The state is commended for revising alternate route policies and is encouraged to develop admission standards that screen applicants for academic ability and content knowledge while being flexible regarding the needs of nontraditional candidates.

#### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Assembly Bill 230

#### RECOMMENDATION

### Screen candidates for academic ability.

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

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

Nevada should keep its requirement that applicants pass a subject-test for admission to an alternate route program. The concept behind alternate routes is that the nontraditional candidate is able to concentrate on acquiring professional knowledge and skills because he or she has strong subject-area knowledge. Teachers without sufficient subject-matter knowledge place students at risk.

## Allow flexibility in demonstrating subject-matter knowledge.

Nevada should not require that applicants have a major in the subject area they will teach; a rigorous subject-matter test can provide sufficient evidence of content knowledge. Rigid coursework requirements could dissuade talented individuals who lack precisely the right courses from pursuing a career in teaching.

### Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

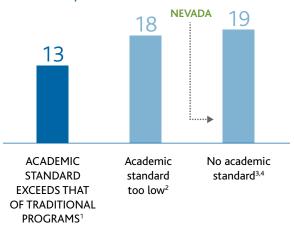
Previously, guidelines required alternate route candidates to pass a basic skills test; in developing its new guidelines the state should bear in mind that this policy is impractical and ineffectual. Basic skills tests measure minimum competency—essentially those skills that a person should have acquired in middle school—and are inappropriate for candidates who have already earned a bachelor's degree. Passage of a basic skills test provides no assurance that the candidate has the appropriate subject-matter knowledge needed for the classroom.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**



Figure 47

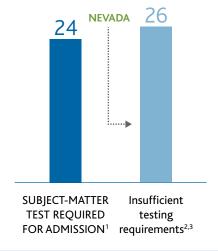
Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



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

Figure 48

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



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

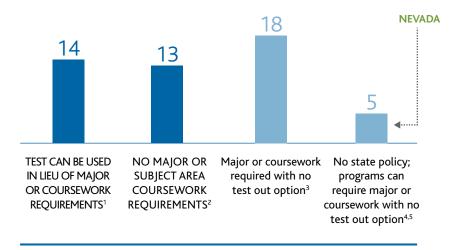
#### Figure 46

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



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
- 3. Alaska, Delaware, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Wisconsin
- 5. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 6. Test out option available to candidates in shortage areas only.

60 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 NEVADA

## **Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers**

## Goal B – Alternate Route Preparation

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background



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



State Partly Meets Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

New legislation recently passed in Nevada changes the requirements for the state's alternate route. The Nevada Commission on Professional Standards is charged with setting specific guidelines for alternate route programs by December 31, 2011.

New regulations will require providers to "significantly limit the amount of coursework required." The state also indicates that a waiver should be granted for coursework to candidates who achieve a certain score on a test.

The Commission on Professional Standards will also have to require providers to offer supervised, school-based experiences and ongoing support for candidates, such as mentoring or coaching.

The state asserts that programs should be completed in two or fewer years and that candidates will be eligible for standard certification upon completion.

### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Assembly Bill 230

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Nevada is commended for its intention to limit the amount of coursework alternate route candidates will be required to take. As it moves forward, Nevada should articulate guidelines regarding the nature and amount of coursework required of candidates. Requirements should be manageable and contribute to the immediate needs of new teachers. Appropriate coursework should include grade-level or subject-level seminars, methodology in the content area, classroom management, assessment and scientifically based early reading instruction.

### ■ Ensure that new teachers are supported in the first year of teaching.

While Nevada is commended for requiring programs to provide coaching and mentoring support, the state should offer detailed mentoring guidelines to ensure that new teachers will receive the support they need to facilitate their success in the classroom. Effective 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 relief time to allow new teachers to observe experienced teachers during each school day.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

62 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011

Figure 51		RELEVANT COURSEIN.	/	/	/
Do states' alternate rout	tes	□ RELEVANT COURSEU.	X /	PRACTICE TEACHING	
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## **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

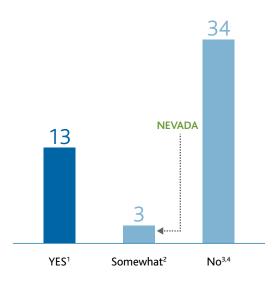
Connecticut ensures that its alternate route provides streamlined preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. The state requires a manageable number of credit hours, relevant coursework, a field placement and intensive mentoring. Other notable states include Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia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

<sup>1.</sup> Florida requires practice teaching or intensive mentoring.

<sup>2.</sup> North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

Figure 52

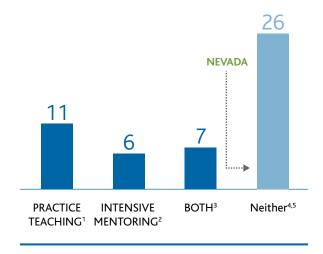
Do states curb excessive coursework requirements?



- 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
- 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
- Alabama, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- $5.\ North$  Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 6. Candidates are required to have one or the other, not both.

## **Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers**

## Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

### **Background**



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



State Meets Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

New legislation in Nevada removes restrictions on the usage and providers of the state's alternate route.

Although specific guidelines have yet to be developed by the Commission on Professional Standards, Nevada now articulates that "education and training may be provided by any qualified provider including, without limitation, institutions of higher education and other providers that operate independently of an institution of higher education."

Further, the new legislation does not appear to place any subject-area, grade-level or geographic restrictions on the usage of Nevada's alternate route.

### **Supporting Research**

Assembly Bill 230 with Senate amendment No 727

NAC 391.019

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

66 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 NEVADA

Figure 55		DIVERSITY OF PROVIDERS
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South Carolina		
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Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
114		
Wyoming		



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

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

Figure 56 Can alternate route teachers teach any subject or grade anywhere in the state?

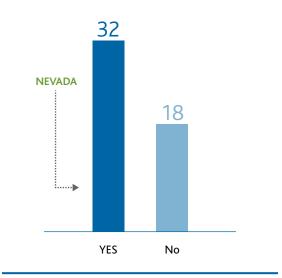
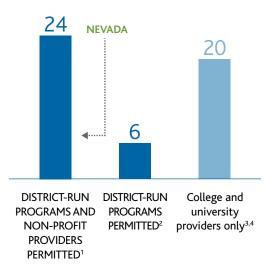


Figure 55 and 56

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

Figure 57

Do states permit providers other than colleges or universities?



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

GENUINE OR NEARLY
GENUINE ALTERNATE ROUTE ∫ Offered route is disingenuous Figure 58 Alternate oote that need significant improvements Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification? Alabama П Alaska Arizona П Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia П Florida Georgia П П Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois П Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana Maine Maryland П П Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi П Missouri Montana Nebraska **NEVADA** New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico П П New York North Carolina North Dakota<sup>1</sup> П П Ohio П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina П South Dakota Tennessee П П Texas Utah Vermont Virginia П Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 7 25 18

Figure 58

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

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## **Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers**

## Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### **Background**



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



State Does Not Meet Goal Progress Since 2009



### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada 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.

Nevada 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.

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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



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

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

<sup>1.</sup> License has restrictions.

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

## **Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers**

## Goal E – Licensure Reciprocity

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### **Background**



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



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

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

Regrettably, Nevada grants a waiver for its licensing tests to any out-of-state teacher with a valid standard license from a state other than Iowa, Maine, Montana, Nebraska or Rhode Island, and who also has one year of experience.

Teachers with valid out-of-state certificates may be eligible for Nevada's initial teaching license. Applicants must have three years of teaching experience, a requirement for which there is no apparent justification. Furthermore, Nevada routinely reviews the college transcripts of licensed out-of-state teachers. States that reach a determination about an applicant's licensure status on the basis of the course titles listed on the applicant's transcript may end up mistakenly equating the amount of required coursework with the teacher's qualifications.

Nevada also requires all out-of-state teachers to either take coursework or pass examinations pertaining to Nevada school law, the Nevada Constitution and the U.S. Constitution.

Nevada 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**

Reciprocity

http://nvteachers.doe.nv.gov/Reciprocity.htm

Testing Exception Bulletin

http://nvteachers.doe.nv.gov/TestingExceptionBulletin.htm

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Nevada takes considerable risk by granting a waiver for its licensing tests to certain out-of-state teachers with a standard license and one year of experience. The state should not provide any waivers of its teacher tests unless an applicant can provide evidence of a passing score under its own standards. The negative impact on student learning stemming from a teacher's inadequate subject-matter knowledge is not mitigated by the teacher's having a license and experience.

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

Nevada should consider adopting a more flexible policy regarding portability and offer out-of-state teachers comparable licensure. It should also reconsider its experience requirement because if the state is willing to hire its own inexperienced teachers, it is not clear why it is unwilling to hire inexperienced teachers from other states, unless the state has too great a supply of teachers and needs to discourage applicants.

Also, transcript reviews are not a particularly meaningful or efficient exercise, and the state should consider discontinuing its requirement for the submission of transcripts for all teachers. Transcript analysis is likely to result in additional coursework requirements, even for traditionally prepared teachers; alternate route teachers, on the other hand, may have to virtually begin anew, repeating some, most or all of a teacher preparation program in Nevada.

In addition, Nevada's policy requiring all out-of-state teachers to demonstrate knowledge via courses or tests of Nevada school law, the Nevada Constitution, and the U.S. Constitution is sensible. However, the state allows teachers up to three years to meet this requirement, which would imply that it does not view this knowledge as essential to a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom.

### 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.

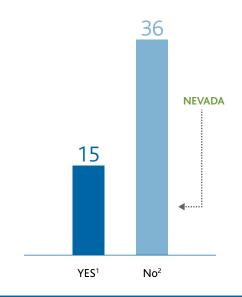
### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**



### **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.



igure 65 Do states treat out-of-s	tate her State te	State specifies different Oute beather, for alf-ent	State has policies with the for alternate route teachers
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## Goal A – State Data Systems

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### **Background**



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



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

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

However, Nevada does have two of three necessary elements that would allow for the development of a student- and teacher-level longitudinal data system. The state has assigned unique student identifiers that connect student data across key databases across years. It also has the capacity to match student test records from year to year in order to measure student academic growth.

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

### **Supporting Research**

Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Develop capacity of state data system.

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

Develop a clear definition of "teacher of record."

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Figure 67	■ UNQUESTUBATION	THER THE	/
Do state data systems			/ *
have the capacity to	Š	# \ #\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	8 \ <u>\$</u>
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	<u>\$</u>	7 5 7	TEST RECORDS MATCH
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New Mexico			
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Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	50	35	50



## **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Key

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

### Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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



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

### **Background**



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



State Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2009



### **ANALYSIS**

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

Nevada recently passed legislation requiring that student achievement data count for at least 50 percent of teacher evaluations. The state also articulated multiple rating categories: highly effective, effective, minimally effective and ineffective. Classroom observations are required.

### **Supporting Research**

A.B. 229, amending Nevada Revised Statutes 391.3125

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Figure 69		<i>≥</i> / .	/	/
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		<u> </u>		



### **\*\*** 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

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

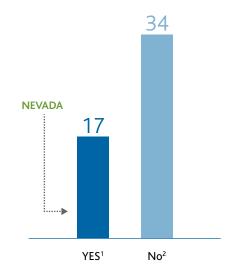
Figure 71
Sources of objective evidence of student learning

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

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

Figure 72

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



- 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

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New Mexico					
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Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	9	10	24	5	3

<sup>1.</sup> State approval required.

<sup>2.</sup> The state model is presumptive; districts need state approval to opt out.

## Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background



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



State Meets Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

### **ANALYSIS**

Commendably, all teachers in Nevada must be evaluated annually.

Nonprobationary teachers must be evaluated at least once a year. New teachers in Nevada must be evaluated three times a year. A conference and written evaluation for a probationary teacher must be concluded no later than December 1, February 1 and April 1 of each school year of the probationary period. Each evaluation must consist of at least one observation.

### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Statute 391.3125

### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ Base evaluations on multiple observations.

To guarantee that annual evaluations are based on an adequate collection of information, Nevada should require multiple observations for all teachers, even those who have nonprobationary status. Further, as evaluation instruments become more data driven, it may not be feasible to issue multiple formal evaluation ratings during a single year. Applicable student data will likely not be available to support multiple ratings.

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

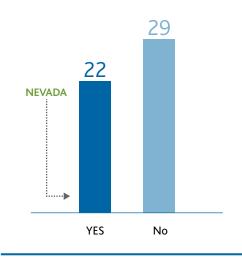
Figure 75		ERS /
Do states require	Ž	\$\\\ \\\ \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
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all teachers each year?	¥.7.7.7.	\ \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
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Wyoming		
	22	43



### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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

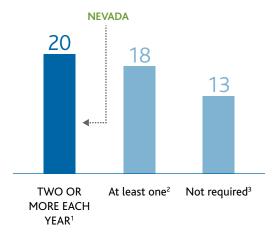


Figures 75 and 76

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

Figure 77

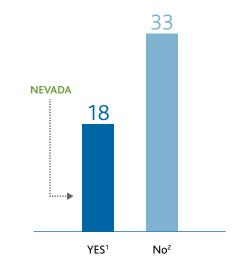
Do states require classroom observations?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, 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
- 3. District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. For new teachers.

Figure 78

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



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

### Goal D - Tenure

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

### **Goal Components**

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

- 1. 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



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



State Nearly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2009



### **ANALYSIS**

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

The state now requires that probationary teachers show two years of satisfactory performance on each teacher evaluation within a three-year period before they earn tenure. Because Nevada's teacher evaluation ratings are centered primarily on evidence of student learning (see Goal 3-B), basing tenure decisions on these evaluation ratings ensures that classroom effectiveness is appropriately considered.

### **Supporting Research**

A.B. 225, 229

### RECOMMENDATION

Ensure the probationary period is adequate.

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

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

	No policy	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 YEARS	5 YEARS	STATE ONLY AWARDS ANNUAL CONTRACTS
Alabama							
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Wyoming							
) -······8	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.

<sup>2.</sup> Teachers who receive two years of ineffective evaluations are dismissed.

Figure 81		~ /	/
How are tenure	ENDENCE OF STUDENT	Some evidence of student	/
decisions made?	Jan	**************************************	Virtually automatically
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Vermont			
Virginia			_
Washington			
West Virginia			_
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
		4	39



### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 82

How are tenure decisions made?

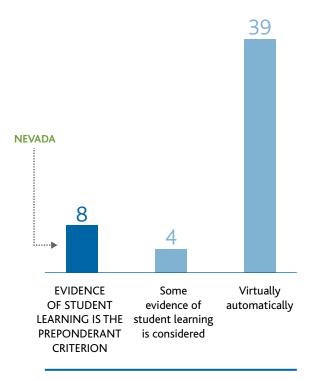


Figure 81

- 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.

## 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.
- The state should not require teachers to have an advanced degree as a condition of professional licensure.
- 4. Evidence of effectiveness should be a factor in the renewal of a professional license.



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

### **Background**



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



State Does Not Meet Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2009



### **ANALYSIS**

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

Nevada employs a single-tier certification, so new teachers apply for the appropriate certificate (generally either Elementary or Secondary), and then, rather than advancing to another level, they renew. The requirement for renewal is completion of six credits.

Nevada does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Standard and Professional licenses must be renewed every five years by completing six semester hours at the graduate or undergraduate level, or by completing 90 contact hours of professional development from an approved vender.

### **Supporting Research**

http://nvteachers.doe.nv.gov/GuidelinesRequirements\_Renewals.htm http://nvteachers.doe.nv.gov/

#### RECOMMENDATION

- Require evidence of effectiveness as a part of teacher licensing policy.
  - Nevada should require evidence of teacher effectiveness to be a factor in determining whether teachers can renew their licenses or advance to a higher-level license.
- Discontinue licensure requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

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

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

igure 84 Do states require teache	OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE OF	Some objective evidence of	Consideration Performance Selven to teacher	Performance not considered
to show evidence of			en to	n effe
effectiveness before	SSS	, con ,	on gir	φ <sub>α</sub> / φ
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icensure?	BJEC, FCT		Consil erform t tied	
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Wyoming				
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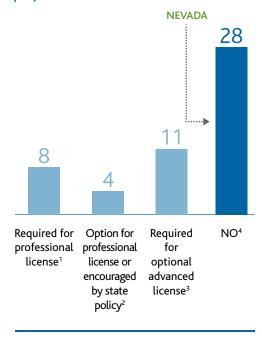


### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 85

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

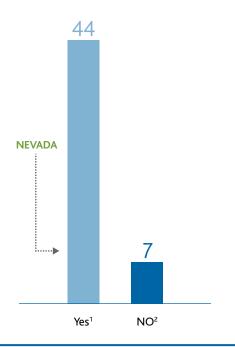


- 1. Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New York and Oregon all require a master's degree or coursework equivalent to a master's degree
- 2. Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio. South Carolina, Utah,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

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

Figure 86

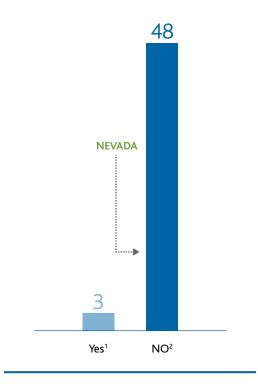
Do states require teachers to take additional, nonspecific coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



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

Figure 87

Do states award lifetime professional licenses?



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

## Goal F – Equitable Distribution

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

### **Goal Components**

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

The state should make the following data publicly available:

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

### Background



## Area 3: Goal F **Nevada** Analysis



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. Nevada reports little school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

Nevada 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. Nevada also does not report on teacher turnover rates.

Nevada does report on the percentage of highly qualified teachers and the average teacher attendance rate. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. The state compares highly qualified teacher data at high- and low-poverty schools and Nevada's Equity Plan for 2009-2010 includes data comparing teacher experience at high- and low-poverty schools.

### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Annual Reports of Accountability 2009-2010 http://www.nevadareportcard.com/ 2009-2010 Nevada Plan for Equitable Distribution of Teachers http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Accountability/NCLB/2010-10-01\_NV\_EDT\_Plan.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. Nevada 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.

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

### Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

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

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

100 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011

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

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

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

### Goal A - Induction

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background



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



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada does not require a mentoring program or any other induction support for its new teachers.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Nevada should ensure that all new teachers—and especially any teacher in a low-performing school—receive mentoring support, especially in the first critical weeks of school.

Set specific parameters.

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

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

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

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

104 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 NEVADA

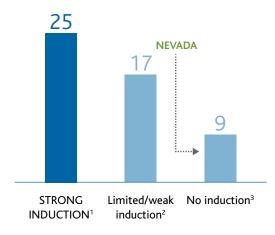
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### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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



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

106: NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 **NEVADA** 

## Goal B - Professional Development

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background



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



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada requires that the evaluated teacher receive a copy of each evaluation not later than 15 days after the evaluation. The state does not specify that professional development activities must be aligned with findings from teacher evaluations.

## **Supporting Research**

NRS 391.298; NRS 391.3125

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

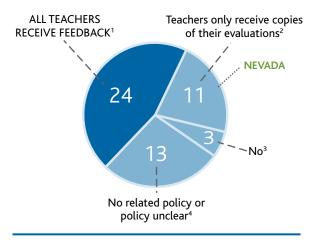
108: NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 **NEVADA** 



## **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

Figure 94 Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?

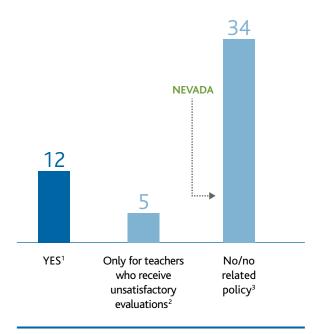


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska,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



Figure 96

Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



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

## Goal C - Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### **Background**



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



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada gives local districts the authority for pay scales, eliminating barriers such as state salary schedules and other regulations that control how districts pay teachers. Salaries are determined by local districts based on "the character of the service required."

### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Revised Statutes 391.160

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

## **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

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

 $<sup>{\</sup>bf 2}.$  Rhode Island requires that local district salary schedules are based on years of service, experience and training.

Figure 99	REQUIRES PERFORMANCE	, <b>\$</b> \	Requires compensation
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<sup>1.</sup> Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training".

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

## Goal D - Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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



## Area 4: Goal D **Nevada** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada 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, Nevada 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.

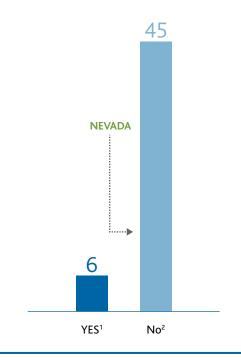
### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



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

Figure 101 Do states direct districts to compensate teachers for related prior work experience?



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

## Goal E - Differential Pay

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

### **Goal Components**

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

- 1. The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 2. The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in high-need schools.
- 3. The state should not have regulatory language that would block differential pay.

### Background



## Area 4: Goal E **Nevada** Analysis



State Meets Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. The state provides that those teaching mathematics, science, special education, English as a second language or those in "other areas of need" may be compensated up to an additional \$3,500 annually if the state superintendent has deemed the subject to be an area of need in the school district.

Nevada also supports differential pay for those teaching in high-needs schools. Teachers in "at-risk" schools, as determined by the department, are eligible for an additional \$3,500 per year.

In addition, teachers who are National Board Certified are eligible to receive an annual 5-percent salary increase. However, this differential pay is not tied to high-needs schools or subject-area shortages.

### **Supporting Research**

Nevada Revised Statutes 391.160; 391.166

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

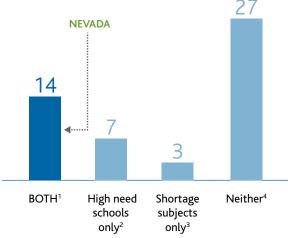
Figure 103		HIGH NEED	/	SHORTAGE	[ /
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- Connecticut offers mortgage assistance and incentives to retired teachers working in shortage subject areas.
- Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and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



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

Figure 104 Do states support differential pay for teaching in high need schools and shortage subjects?



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



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



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Starting in 2014, Nevada will implement a performance pay program with "its primary focus the improvement in the academic achievement of pupils." The program may also include the following components: career leadership advancement, professional development and multiple assessments.

### **Supporting Research**

Nevada AB 229 (2011)

http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/76th2011/Bills/AB/AB229\_EN.pdf

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ Ensure that the performance pay plan recognizes teachers for their effectiveness.

As Nevada moves forward with performance-based compensation, the state must ensure its 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.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



## **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

igure 106 Do states support performance pay?	PERCOMANCE FACTORES	PEROBYANCE BOLL	Performance pay Permis	J Resamed / State some state of state some of state some of state some of state of state some of state	Does not support Performance Pay.	,
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<sup>1.</sup> Nebraska's initiative does not go into effect until 2016.

## Goal G – Pension Flexibility

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

### Background



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



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Nevada offers two funding methods for its defined benefit plan: the Employer Pay Contribution Plan (ERPaid) and the Employee/Employer Contribution Plan (EES/ERS). Local districts choose between the two options, with most districts electing to participate in ERPaid. In the ERPaid plan, the employer pays the entire contribution to the retirement system, with teachers contributing through a salary reduction or in lieu of a pay increase. In the EES/ERS plan, teachers contribute half of the mandatory pension rate through a payroll deduction, and the employer pays the other half.

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. Nevada's vesting at five years of service limits the options of teachers who leave the system prior to this point.

Teachers in the ERPaid plan do not make direct contributions to the system, so they are not accumulating a personal account. Those teachers, therefore, may not withdraw any funds when they leave the system. Vested teachers will receive their benefit payments later, but nonvested teachers who leave are not entitled to any funds and will have accumulated no mandated retirement savings at all because they do not participate in Social Security. In addition, salary increases may have been diminished during their tenure to pay for the pension system.

Teachers in the EES/ERS plan who choose to withdraw their contributions upon leaving receive only their own contributions. This means that those who withdraw their funds accrue fewer benefits than they would have earned contributing to basic savings accounts. Therefore, teachers leaving the pension system would have saved only 12.25 percent of their salary (see Goal 4–H), which is below the level conventionally recommended by retirement advisers for individuals not also contributing to Social Security. While Nevada's mandatory contribution rate allows for flexibility in teachers' retirement savings, it also means that the state needs to educate teachers on what happens if they leave the system and encourage savings in other portable supplemental plans. Further, teachers who remain in the field of education but enter another pension plan (such as in another state) will find it difficult to purchase the time equivalent to their prior employment in the new system because they are not entitled to any employer contribution.

Nevada 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. Nevada's plan allows teachers with five years of service credit to purchase time for previous teaching experience, up to five years. While better than not allowing any purchase at all, this provision is less than most states' and disadvantages teachers who move to Nevada with more teaching experience. In addition, the state's plan does not allow for the purchase of approved leave of absence, which is a severe disadvantage for teachers who may need to take leaves for maternity and paternity care, or other personal reasons.

#### Supporting Research

Public Employees' Retirement System, Summary Plan Description for Regular Members Enrolled on or after January 1, 2010

http://www.nvpers.org/public/beneProgs/regPlan-EnrolAfter-1-1-2010.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

### Increase the portability of defined benefit plan.

If Nevada maintains its defined benefit plan, it should allow all teachers that leave the system to withdraw their employee contribution with full interest plus matching employer contributions. Teachers in the ERPaid plan should be credited with their portion of the contribution they make through salary reductions or other means. The state should also allow teachers to purchase their full amount of previous teaching experience and approved leaves of absence and decrease the vesting requirement to year three. A lack of portability is a disincentive to an increasingly mobile teaching force.

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

If Nevada 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.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

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

The state maintained that it actively supports additional retirement savings through supplemental programs sponsored by employers.

Nevada further asserted that the state created the cost sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan as an economical way to provide retirement benefits to public employees. When compared to other states' costs for retirement income security when combined with Social Security, Nevada trends to the lower cost end of the spectrum. Given the very small population of the state, all public employers were mandated to participate in a single plan (a fully consolidated system), and there is full in-state portability of benefits from school district to school district as well as to other governmental units. The purchase of service provisions were designed to be equal amongst all employees since all share equally in the cost of the benefit structure.

### LAST WORD

While commendable that individual employers may provide supplemental savings plans, it does not guarantee access to all teachers, as some employers may not participate. Being able to continue membership within the state of Nevada is valuable, but despite the access to multiple employers, it still does not aid educators who move out of the state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Figure 109		Defined benefit plan with	Paulined /	CHOICE OF DEFINED RE.	o <sup>®</sup>	_
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New Mexico						
New York						
North Carolina						
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Ohio⁴						
Oklahoma						
Oregon⁵						
Pennsylvania						
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South Dakota						
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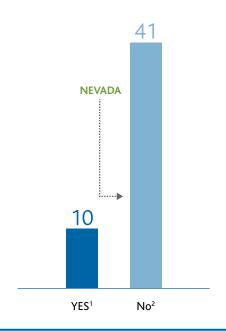
## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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.

Figure 110

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



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

Figure 111

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

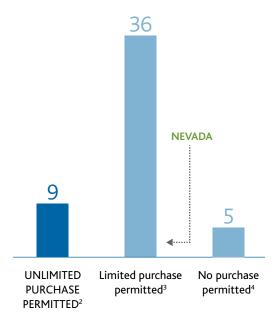
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Figure 112		Only their own	Their own contribution Plus interest	Their own contribution	THER OWN CONTRIBUTION	,
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- States' withdrawal policies may vary depending on a teacher's years of service. Year 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.
- California has a defined benefit plan with a small cash balance component, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw their contributions and any employer contributions plus earnings from their cash balance component, regardless of their actions regarding their defined benefit account.
- 4. Once vested, lowa teachers may withdraw an employer match equal to one-thirtieth of their years of service. Effective July 1, 2012 teachers vest at seven years of service, so a teacher leaving at year five would not be entitled to any employer contribution.
- 5. Michigan only offers a hybrid plan. Exiting teachers may withdraw their own contributions and accrued earnings immediately and the employer contributions to the defined contribution component once vested at year four. Michigan teachers may withdraw their own contributions and accrued interest from the defined benefit component but may not withdraw the employer contribution.
- 6. Most teachers in Nevada fund the system by salary reductions or forgoing pay raises and thus do not have direct contributions to withdraw. The small mintority that are in a contributory system may withdraw their contributions plus interest.
- 7. Ohio has two other pension plans. Ohio's defined contribution plan allows teachers with at least one year of service who are leaving the system to withdraw 100 percent of the employer contribution. Exiting teachers with at least five years of experience in Ohio's combination plan may withdraw their employee-funded defined contribution component and the present value of the benefits offered in the defined benefit component.
- Oregon only has a hybrid retirement plan, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw their contributions plus earnings from their defined contribution component; they still receive the employer-funded defined benefit payments at retirement age.
- South Carolina also has a defined contribution plan, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw 100 percent of their contributions and employer contributions, plus earnings.
- 10. Utah offers a hybrid pension plan, which only has employee contributions when the costs exceed the guaranteed employer contribution. When costs are less than the employer contribution, the excess is contributed to the employee account and refundable after vesting.
- 11. Washington also has a hybrid plan, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw their contributions plus earnings from their defined contribution component; they still receive the employer-funded defined benefit payments at retirement age.

Figure 113

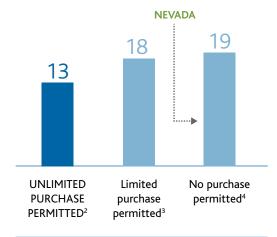
Do states permit teachers to purchase time for previous teaching experience?<sup>1</sup>



- 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
- ${\it 4.\ Hawaii,\ Michigan,\ Minnesota,\ New\ York,\ Oregon}$

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

## Goal H - Pension Sustainability

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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

### **Background**



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



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

As of June 30, 2010, the most recent date for which an actuarial valuation is available, Nevada's pension system for teachers is 71.2 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 over 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.

Nevada does not commit excessive resources toward its teachers' retirement system. Local districts choose between two funding options—the Employer Pay Contribution Plan (ERPaid) and the Employee/ Employer Contribution Plan (EES/ERS)—with most districts electing to participate in ERPaid. The current employer contribution to the ERPaid plan of 23.75 percent appears high. However, in place of a direct employee contribution, teachers share exactly one-half of the employer contribution rate through salary reduction or by foregoing an equivalent pay raise. Teachers and employing school districts negotiate which of the two cost-sharing mechanisms they will use in their contracts.

Within the EES/ERS, teachers and districts also share equally in the contribution, each contributing 12.25 percent. The rates for both the ERPaid and EES/ERS are reasonable rates, considering that neither districts nor teachers make additional contributions to Social Security. However, they are very close to excessive contributions.

### **Supporting Research**

2010 CAFR for the Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

The state would be better off if its system was over 95 percent funded and had an amortization period of less than 30 years to allow more protection during financial downturns. However, Nevada should consider ways to improve its funding level without greatly increasing 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.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada indicated that the system is funded on an actuarially reserve basis with contribution rates that are calculated biennially to meet the funding policy of the Retirement Board. The Retirement Board's funding policy requires a 30-year layered closed amortization period to retire the unfunded accrued liability of the system. As of the 2010 actuarial valuation, the average funding period for the regular fund (in which teachers participate) is 25.7 years. All valuations and reports are performed in accordance with Actuarial Standards of Practice and Governmental Accounting Standards.

The state contended that all employers and employees continue to make full actuarially required contributions to meet the funding policy of the system, which is the most significant factor in measuring a pension fund's health. The system continues to work toward full financing in a measured, predictable manner designed to meet short-term fiscal issues and long-term goals. As with all defined benefit and defined contribution plans in the most recent period, funded ratios have declined. Recovery for both types of plans will be accomplished as long as commitment to financing is maintained.

Finally, Nevada contended that when compared to other state's costs for retirement income security when combined with Social Security, Nevada trends to the lower cost end of the spectrum. On a national basis, Nevada does require higher employee participation in the cost of their benefit because the employee rate is exactly matched to the employer's rate. The state noted that the comments in this section appear to be inconsistent with the comments under goal 4-G, which indicate that the savings rate equaling 12.25 percent does not meet recommended financing standards in a defined contribution plan (the mandatory employee contribution is too high in the DB plan but not high enough for a DC plan).

### **Supporting Research**

NRS 286.410, 286.421 and 286.450 2010 NVPERS Actuarial Valuation, p. 8

#### **LAST WORD**

According to the 2010 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Nevada has not met its annual required contribution (ARC) based on a 30-year amortization period since 2005. However, the state did raise the statutory contribution for 2011 to meet the 2010 ARC.

As stated in Goal 4-G, NCTQ maintains that 12.5 percent is a reasonable employee contribution rate to a pension plan for those not participating in Social Security. However, if withdrawn, the rate alone is lower than recommended for personal savings levels. If teachers were allowed to withdraw at least part of the employer contribution, their savings levels could meet or exceed the levels suggested by financial advisers for those who do not participate in Social Security.



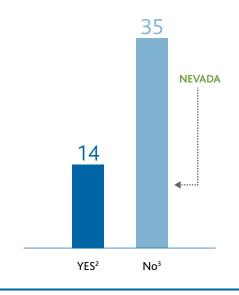


## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

**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>



- 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
- Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. Based on Indiana's current plan only.

Figure 116

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

Figure 118

Real Rate of Return

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

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

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

Figure 119

Figure 119

How well funded are state pension systems?

	Funding Level
Alaska <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	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%

<sup>1.</sup> Alaska has only a defined contribution pension system.

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

Figure 120
What is a reasonable rate for pension contributions?

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

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

#### Sources:

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

Figure 121

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

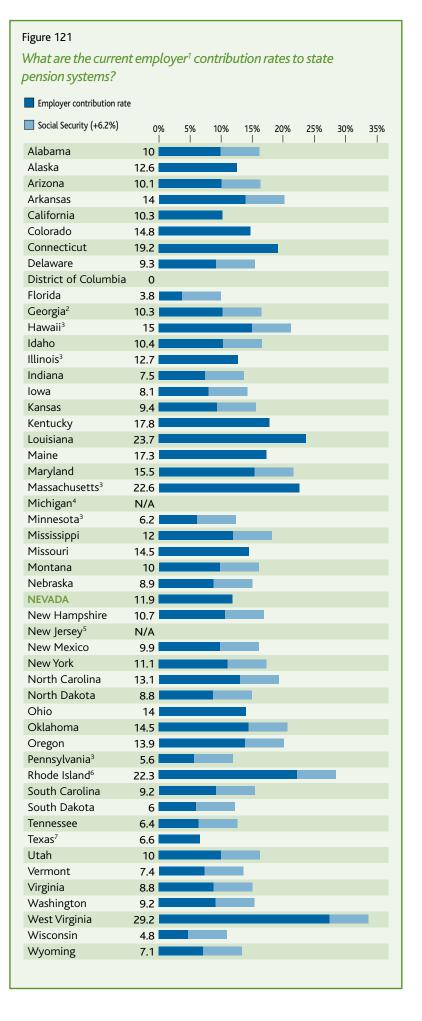
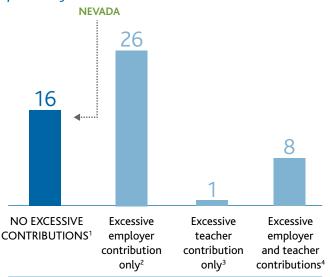


Figure 122 Do states require excessive contributions to their pension systems?



- 1. 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
- 2. 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.



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

## Goal I – Pension Neutrality

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

## **Background**



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



State Partly Meets Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada'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.

Nevada's pension plan is commended for utilizing a constant benefit multiplier of 2.5 percent; however, teachers may retire before standard retirement age based on years of service without a reduction in benefits. Teachers with 30 years of service may retire at any age, and those with 10 years of service may retire at age 62, while other vested teachers may not retire until age 65. Therefore, teachers who begin their careers at age 22 can reach 30 years of service by age 52, entitling them to 13 additional years of unreduced retirement benefits beyond what other teachers would receive who may not retire until age 65. These provisions may encourage effective teachers to retire earlier than they might otherwise, and they fail to treat equally those teachers who enter the system at a later age.

### **Supporting Research**

Public Employees' Retirement System, Summary Plan Description for Regular Members Enrolled on or after January 1,

http://www.nvpers.org/public/beneProgs/regPlan-EnrolAfter-1-1-2010.pdf

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Nevada should change its practice of allowing teachers with 30 years of service to retire at any age and teachers with 10 years of service to retire at age 62, both with full benefits. If retirement at an earlier age is offered to some teachers, benefits should be reduced accordingly to compensate for the longer duration they will be awarded.

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

Nevada allows all teachers to retire before conventional retirement age, some as young as 52. As life expectancies continue to increase, teachers may draw out of the system for many more years than they contributed. This is not compatible with a financially sustainable system (see Goal 4-H).

**NFVADA** 

### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

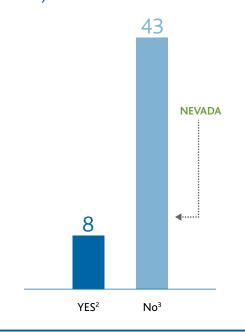
Nevada disagreed that service based retirement provisions are incompatible with "financially sustainable" pension systems. The state maintained that the normal cost of the benefit structure in Nevada (including service based provisions) has been steady for over a decade, and average retirement ages have been increasing, with the average member (including teachers) retiring at age 61 with approximately 20 years of service.

#### LAST WORD

NCTQ does not assert that service-based retirement provisions are incompatible with financially sustainable pension systems. Retirement eligibility based on years of service does not treat all teachers equally and allows those that start teaching at an earlier age to receive a pension of much greater total worth than a teacher who taught the same number of years but began their career later. In addition, it creates unnecessary peaks in pension wealth that may encourage effective teachers to retire earlier than otherwise planned.

Figure 125

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



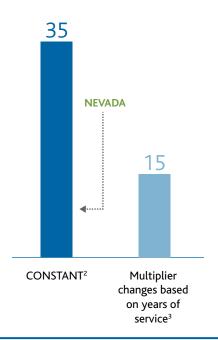
- 1. This only refers to determining retirement eligibility, not retirement benefits.
- 2. Strong Practice: Alaska, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey
- 3. Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia,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

Figure 126

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

Figure 126  How much do states  pay for each teacher  that retires with	Total amount in benefits paid retirente from the benefits paid mutil the time of	Fatfiest Petriement as tacking who started that technology as a started that the control of the
unreduced benefits at an early age?1	Total amount in Per teacher from retirement until ag	Farliess a teache teaching 'eceive un
Alaska²		
Illinois	\$0	67
Maine	\$0	65
Minnesota <sup>3</sup>	\$0	66
New Hampshire	\$0	65
New Jersey	\$0	65
Washington	\$0	65
Tennessee	\$238,654	52
Michigan	\$289,187	60
California⁴	\$310,028	62
Indiana	\$317,728	55
Hawaii <sup>5</sup>	\$337,385	60
Kansas	\$337,385	60
Oregon	\$361,536	58
North Dakota	\$385,583	60
Oklahoma	\$385,583	60
Maryland .	\$413,808	56
Wisconsin	\$416,007	57
Rhode Island	\$430,013	59
New York	\$440,819	57
Texas South Dakota	\$443,421	60
Virginia	\$447,707 \$468,982	55
Louisiana	\$481,979	56
Florida	\$485,257	60 55
Vermont	\$486,832	56
Montana	\$518,228	47
Connecticut	\$520,009	57
Utah	\$520,009	57
lowa	\$551,428	55
Idaho	\$551,743	56
North Carolina	\$568,555	52
South Carolina	\$577,142	50
Nebraska	\$577,687	55
West Virginia	\$577,687	55
Delaware	\$577,927	52
District of Columbia	\$585,737	52
Massachusetts <sup>6</sup>	\$594,296	57
Georgia	\$624,786	52
Mississippi	\$624,786	52
Alabama	\$625,747	47
Colorado	\$650,011	57
Pennsylvania	\$650,011	57
Wyoming	\$655,506	54
Arizona	\$664,340	55
Arkansas	\$681,789	50
Ohio	\$687,265	52
New Mexico	\$734,124	52
NEVADA	\$780,983	52
Missouri	\$789,343	51
Kentucky	\$791,679	49

Figure 127
What kind of multiplier do states use to calculate retirement benefits?<sup>1</sup>



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



#### TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 128

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 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**



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



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Nevada no longer permits provisional licenses to be issued to teachers who apply for the following certificates: elementary license; special teaching license in music, art or special education; or secondary license in art, biological science, chemistry, English, French, general science, history, mathematics, music, physical science, reading, social studies, Spanish, speech and drama.

#### **Supporting Research**

NAC 391.056

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

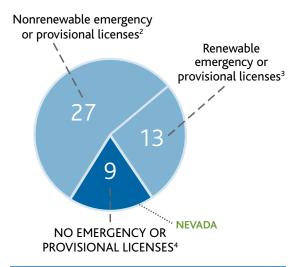
148 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 NEVADA



#### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 130 Do states still award emergency licenses?1



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

Figure 131

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

How long can new tea				
practice without passii	ng	/	/	J'ears or more (or unspecified)
licensing tests?	I   NO DEFERRAL	]  Up to 7 year	$\Box \cup \cup_{b^{D}_{\mathcal{L}} \neq e_{abs}} \Box$	r mc
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	\$ <sup>'</sup>	/ <del>3</del> 3	/ \$ ·	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
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Tennessee				
Texas				
Utah <sup>4</sup>				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming <sup>5</sup>				
	9	14	8	18

### Goal B – Unsatisfactory Evaluations

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

- The state should require that all teachers who receive a single unsatisfactory evaluation be placed on an improvement plan, whether or not they have tenure.
- The state should require that all teachers who receive two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations or two unsatisfactory evaluations within five years be formally eligible for dismissal, whether or not they have tenure.

#### **Background**



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



State Partly Meets Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

New legislation in Nevada specifies that a postprobationary teacher who receives an unsatisfactory evaluation will be evaluated three times in the following school year. The teacher may request assistance in correcting noted deficiencies. If a teacher's overall evaluation for two consecutive school years is deemed to be "below average," the teacher will return to probationary status.

#### Supporting Research

NRS 391.3125

AB 225

http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/76th2011/Bills/AB/AB225\_EN.pdf

http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/76th2011/Bills/AB/AB229\_EN.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

The state does not articulate policy that formal remediation plans will be utilized for teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations. The state should adopt a policy to require that teachers who receive a single unsatisfactory evaluation be placed on structured improvement plans. These plans should focus on performance areas that directly connect to student learning and should list noted deficiencies, define specific action steps necessary to address these deficiencies and describe how and when progress will be measured.

■ Make eligibility for dismissal a consequence of unsatisfactory evaluations.

Reverting a teacher back to probationary status for poor performance makes it easier to dismiss said teacher, but it is not equivalent to articulating that a teacher is eligible for dismissal for unsatisfactory evaluations. The state should consider articulating policy that makes teachers who receive two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations or have two unsatisfactory evaluations within five years formally eligible for dismissal, regardless of whether they have tenure.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 133	MAROVENENT PLAN A SINGLE UNSATIFED	EUGIBLE FOR DISMISSAL AFTER	ž /	No articulated consequences
What are the	VAFT	\$ \ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\	§ /	/ / <sub>e</sub> uce
consequences for	P. A.	SMS 727	] Other consequences	/ $/$ $/$ $/$ $/$ $/$ $/$ $/$ $/$ $/$
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unsatisfactory	% % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % %		) /er <sub>CC</sub>	drtic /
evaluations?	42	22	/ 6	/ %
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Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut				
Delaware				
District of Columbia				
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Montana				
Nebraska				
NEVADA			4	
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New Jersey				
New Mexico				
New York				
North Carolina		5		
North Dakota				
Ohio			6	
Oklahoma				
Oregon				
Pennsylvania				
Rhode Island				
South Carolina				
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Tennessee				
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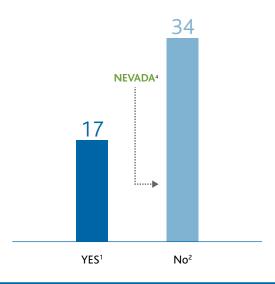
- Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- While results of evaluations may be used in dismissal decisions, there are no specific criteria for a teacher's eligibility for dismissal.
- 3. Improvement plans are only used for teachers in identified "Schools At Risk." Those same teachers are also eligible for dismissal for multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- 4. A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal.
- 5. Teachers in low performing schools can be dismissed after one negative rating.
- Local school boards must include procedures for using evaluation results for the removal of poorly performing teachers.



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

Figure 134

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



- Strong Practice: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington
- 2. Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, 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, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal.

### Goal C – Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background



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



State Partly Meets Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

New legislation in Nevada ensures that all post-probationary teachers will return to probationary status if they receive two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations (see Goal 3-D).

Although the state has attempted to address issues of due process and dismissal by reverting ineffective teachers to nonprobationary status, the state also retains other policy that does not distinguish the due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance from those facing other charges commonly associated with license revocation, such as a felony and/or morality violations. The process is the same regardless of the grounds for cancellation, which include inefficiency; immorality, unprofessional conduct; insubordination; neglect of duty; physical or mental incapacity; conviction of a felony or of a crime involving moral turpitude; inadequate performance; failure to show normal improvement and evidence of professional training and growth; advocating overthrow of the Government of the United States or of the State of Nevada by force, violence or other unlawful means, or the advocating or teaching of communism with the intent to indoctrinate pupils to subscribe to communistic philosophy; any cause which constitutes grounds for the revocation of a teacher's license; and dishonesty.

In addition, a post-probationary teacher deemed to be probationary due to unsatisfactory performance who faces dismissal may request an expedited hearing according to the procedures established by the American Arbitration Association.

#### **Supporting Research**

AB 225; AB 229

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Align dismissal law to support evaluation law.

In order to clearly articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal in Nevada, the state should reconcile its new legislation—which suggests that unsatisfactory evaluations would be grounds for dismissal—with the state's older dismissal policy—which alludes to "inadequate performance" as grounds for dismissal. In doing so, the state should make it clear that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal for any teacher, regardless of tenure status.

Ensure that the appeal process occurs within a reasonable time frame and that due process rights are distinguished between dismissal for classroom ineffectiveness and dismissal for morality violations, felonies, or dereliction of duty.

Nevada has taken commendable steps to expedite the dismissal process for teachers deemed to be ineffective. However, it remains unclear as to how the appeal process will work for teachers involved in expedited hearings and whether the state has set a reasonable time frame for this process. In addition, the state could do more to distinguish due process rights for teachers dismissed for ineffective performance from those facing license revocation for dereliction of duty or felony and/or morality violations.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

**NFVADA** 

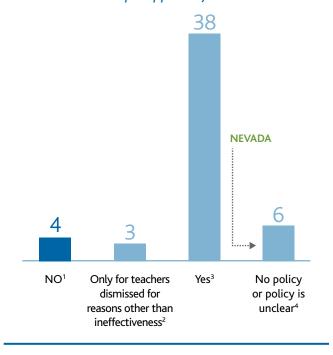




#### TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 137 Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



- 1. Strong Practice: Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Wisconsin
- 2. Teachers in these states revert to probationary status following ineffective evaluation ratings, meaning that they no longer have the due process right to multiple appeals: Colorado, Indiana, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, 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.
- 6. 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**



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



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

In Nevada, new legislation requires that seniority is not the sole factor in determining which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force. The following factors may also be considered: 1) whether the teacher is employed in a "hard to fill" position, 2) whether a teacher has earned national board certification, 3) the teacher's performance evaluations, 4) the teacher's disciplinary and criminal record, 5) which type of license the teacher has earned, and 6) the degree earned by the teacher (including whether it relates to the subject area in which he or she teaches).

#### **Supporting Research**

AB 229

NRS Sec. 19.6. Chapter 288

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Nevada is commended for taking steps to ensure that seniority is no longer the sole factor in determining which teachers are laid off and for making it possible for teachers' performance evaluations to be considered during reductions in force. The state could strengthen this new policy by making the consideration of classroom performance a requirement rather than an option.

#### **NEVADA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS**

Nevada recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

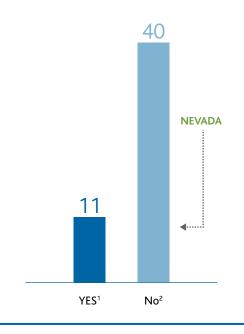
Figure 139  Do states prevent districts from basing layoffs solely on "last in, first out"?  Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska NEVADA New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Dakota			
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#### **TEXAMPLES 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.

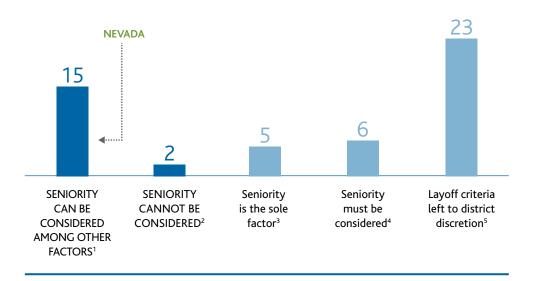
Figure 140 Do districts have to consider performance in determining which teachers are laid off?



- 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.

Figure 141

Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?



- 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
- 5. 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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