# 2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

# Florida





## Acknowledgments

## **STATES**

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

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

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National Council on Teacher Quality

# **Executive Summary**

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

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

# Florida at a Glance

# Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade:

Overall 2009 Yearbook Grade: C Area Grades

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

## **Overall Progress**



## Highlights from recent progress in Florida include:

- Evidence of student learning in teacher evaluations
- Tenure decisions connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness
- Dismissal for classroom ineffectiveness
- Middle school teacher preparation
- Pay scales connected to teacher performance

# How is Florida Faring?

## Area 1 Delivering Well Prepared Teachers

## **Policy Strengths**

- Middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.
- All new teachers must pass a pedagogy test.
- Requirements support a high-quality student teaching experience.
- The teacher preparation program approval process holds programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce, most notably by connecting student achievement gains to preparation programs.

**B-**

**B**-

## **Policy Weaknesses**

- Not all teacher candidates are 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.
- Although preparation programs are required to address the science of reading, candidates are not required to pass an adequate test to ensure knowledge.
- The state does not ensure that new elementary teachers have sufficient knowledge of the mathematics content taught in elementary grades.
- Although most secondary teachers must pass a content test to teach a core subject area, some secondary 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.

# Area 2 Expanding the Pool of Teachers

## **Policy Strengths**

- Admission requirements for alternate routes to certification include evidence of subject-matter knowledge and offer flexibility for nontraditional candidates.
- Although more could be done to meet the immediate needs of new teachers, requirements for alternate route preparation are appropriately streamlined.

## **Policy Weaknesses**

Out-of-state teachers are not required to meet the state's testing requirements, and there may be additional obstacles that do not support licensure reciprocity.

- There are no restrictions on alternate route usage or providers.
- The state offers a license with minimal requirements that would allow content experts to teach part time.

# How is Florida Faring?

## Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers

## **Policy Strengths**

- The state data system has the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Objective evidence of student learning is the

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

 Licensure advancement and renewal are not based on teacher effectiveness. preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.

- All teachers must be evaluated annually.
- Tenure decisions are connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

В

**B**-

B+

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

## **Area 4** Retaining Effective Teachers

## **Policy Strengths**

- Professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.
- Districts are given authority to develop salary schedules, which must be primarily based on teacher effectiveness.
- Teachers can receive performance pay and additional compensation for working in high-need schools or shortage subject areas.

## **Policy Weaknesses**

- All new teachers do not receive mentoring or other induction support.
- The state does not support additional compensation for relevant prior work experience.

- Teachers are offered a choice between a defined benefit and a defined contribution pension plan.
- Both pension plans are well funded and do not require excessive contributions.
- The defined benefit pension plan is not portable, flexible or fair to all teachers, and retirement benefits in this plan are determined by a formula that is not neutral, meaning that pension wealth does not accumulate uniformly for each year a teacher works.

## **Area 5** Exiting Ineffective Teachers

## **Policy Strengths**

- Teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations are required to go on improvement plans and, if they do not improve, are eligible for dismissal.
- Ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal; teachers' annual contracts will not be renewed if evaluations are unsatisfactory.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Teachers can teach for up to three years before having to pass required subject-matter tests.
- Performance is the top criterion for districts to consider when determining which teachers to lay off during reductions in force, and a last hired, first fired layoff policy is prohibited.

# Florida Goal Summary

Goal Breakdown	
🔶 Best Practice	4
Fully Meets	14
Nearly Meets	4
Partially Meets	5
Only Meets a Small Part	5
O Does Not Meet	4
Progress on Goals Since 2009	
Area 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	
1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs	٩
1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation	٢
1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction	٩
1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	0
1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation	•
1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation	٠
1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	•
1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies	
1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation	0
1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge	•
1-K: Student Teaching	•
1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability	*
Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers	
2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility	0
2-B: Alternate Route Preparation	•
2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers	
2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses	•
2-E: Licensure Reciprocity	0

Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers		
3-A: State Data Systems	•	
3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness	•	
3-C: Frequency of Evaluations	•	
3-D: Tenure	•	
3-E: Licensure Advancement	0	
3-F: Equitable Distribution	١	
Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers		
4-A: Induction	٩	
4-B: Professional Development	•	
4-C: Pay Scales	*	
4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience	0	
4-E: Differential Pay	•	
4-F: Performance Pay	*	
4-G: Pension Flexibility	0	
4-H: Pension Sustainability		
4-I: Pension Neutrality		
Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers		
5-A: Licensure Loopholes	$\bigcirc$	
5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations		
5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance	•	
5-D: Reductions in Force	•	

# About the Yearbook

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

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

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

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

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

# How to Read the Yearbook

NCTQ rates state teacher policy in several ways.

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



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

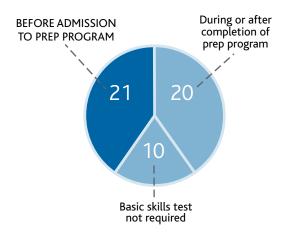


Some goals are marked with this symbol , which indicates that the bar has been raised for this goal since the 2009 *Yearbook*. With many states making considerable progress in advancing teacher effectiveness policy, NCTQ raised the standards for some goals where the bar had been quite low. As this may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

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

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

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



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## Goals

## AREA 1: DELIVERING WELL PREPARED TEACHERS

## 1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs

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

## 1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

## 1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

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

## 1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

## 1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

## 1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

## 1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

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

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

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

## 1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

## 1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

## 1-K: Student Teaching

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

## 1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

## AREA 2: EXPANDING THE POOL OF TEACHERS

## 2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility

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

## 2-B: Alternate Route Preparation

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

## 2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers

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

## 2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses

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

## 2-E: Licensure Reciprocity

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

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## PAGE 55

## Goals

## AREA 3: IDENTIFYING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

## 3-A: State Data Systems

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

## 3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

## 3-C: Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

## 3-D: Tenure

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

## 3-E: Licensure Advancement

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

## 3-F: Equitable Distribution

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

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

## 4-A: Induction

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

## 4-B: Professional Development

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

## 4-C: Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

## 4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

## 4-E: Differential Pay

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

## 4-F: Performance Pay

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

## 4-G: Pension Flexibility

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

## 4-H: Pension Sustainability

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

## 4-1: Pension Neutrality

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

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

## 5-A: Licensure Loopholes

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

## 5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations

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

## 5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

## 5-D: Reductions in Force

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

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# Goal A – Admission into Preparation Programs

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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

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

## Background

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

## Figure 1

How States are Faring in Admission Requirements **Best Practice State** 1 Texas States Meet Goal 11 States Nearly Meet Goal Connecticut, Georgia 1, Hawaii 1, Indiana<sup>1</sup>, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Rhode Island 1, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia 6 States Partly Meet Goal Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa<sup>1</sup>, Missouri, Nebraska, Washington States Meet a Small Part of Goal 2 **FLORIDA**, Wisconsin 31 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

**1**:6 ↔:45 ↓:0

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

# 🕒 State Meets a Small Part of Goal 🛛 💦 Bar Raised for this Goal 🕞 Progress Since 2009

## **ANALYSIS**

Florida requires that approved undergraduate teacher preparation programs only accept teacher candidates who have passed a basic skills test. Applicants must pass either the General Knowledge Test of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination, the Praxis I or a similar test identified by the state. Although the state sets the minimum score for these tests, they are normed just to the prospective teacher population.

Unfortunately, the policy has one particularly glaring loophole. Programs have the option of accepting up to 10 percent of an entering class who have not passed a basic skills test. These individuals must pass the basic skills test prior to program completion.

Florida has set a minimum score for the GRE as an appropriate basic skills alternative for admission into graduate-level teacher preparation programs.

## Supporting Research

Florida Statutes 1004.04 FTCE/FELE Passing Requirements http://www.fldoe.org/asp/ftce/pdf/percentpass.pdf

## RECOMMENDATION

## Require all 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—Florida 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, such as the College-Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST), 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.

Although the GRE is an acceptable alternative to the basic skills test, Florida should also waive the basic skills test requirement for candidates whose SAT or ACT scores demonstrate that they are in the top half of their class.

## FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

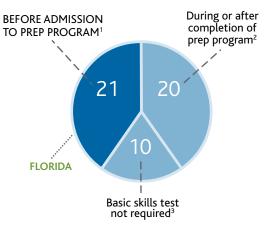
Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

## Figure 3

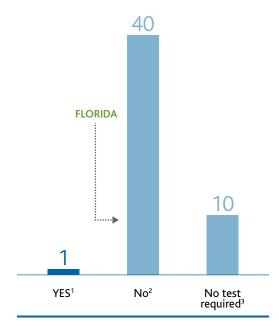
# When do states test teacher candidates' basic skills?



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

#### Figure 2

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



1. Strong Practice: Texas

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

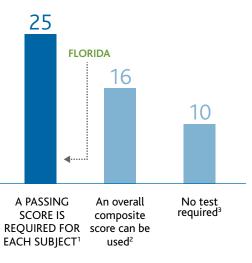
3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

## Figure 4

Figure 4 Do states appropriately test teacher candidates' academic proficiency?	ST NORMED TO CO.	Test normed only to Rep Pro 41 Test normed only to Rep Pro 410 to Prep Proc.	Text normed only to tex.	No test tequined	
,	ADA ADA	to prince	Te Comp	×01	
Alabama					
AldSKd					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware District of Columbia					
FLORIDA					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana					
lowa					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland					
Massachusetts					
Michigan					
Minnesota					
Mississippi					
Missouri					
Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York	Ц				
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio Oklahoma					
Oregon					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	1	20	20	10	

## Figure 5

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



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

# Goal B – Elementary Teacher Preparation

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

## Goal Components

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

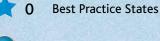
- The state should require that its approved teacher preparation programs deliver a comprehensive program of study in broad liberal arts coursework. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours to ensure appropriate depth in the core subject areas of English, science, social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

## Background

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

## Figure 6

*How States are Faring in Elementary Teacher Preparation* 



0 States Meet Goal

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



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

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

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

## Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

**1**:3 ↔:44 ↓:4



## State Meets Small Part of Goal 🛛 🕞 Progress Since 2009

## ANALYSIS

Although Florida 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.

Florida requires candidates to pass the Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) general elementary content test, which does not report teacher performance in each subject area, meaning that it may be possible to pass the test and still perform poorly in some subject areas.

In addition, all teacher candidates in Florida must complete 36 semester hours of general education courses in the subject areas of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities and natural sciences. These are good requirements, but they are defined too broadly to guarantee that the courses used to meet them will be relevant to the topics taught in the PK-6 classroom.

Additionally, Florida requires elementary teacher candidates to complete a major in elementary education and stipulates that preparation programs must provide instruction in all subject-matter competencies tested on the state's subject-area examination. These include language arts; social science; science and technology; and music, visual arts, physical education and health.

While Florida does not indicate its subject-area expectations in standards, it does so through the framework of the FTCE content test. For example, in the area of social studies, teacher candidates are required to understand history, government, economics and geography. However, there are a few gaps in key areas such as American and world literature and art history.

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

### Supporting Research

Florida State Board of Education Administrative Rules 6A-4.0151 and 6A-5.066 Florida Statute 1007.25 Florida Teacher Certification Examinations http://www.fl.nesinc.com/

## RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Florida 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, Florida should ensure that these passing scores reflect high levels of performance.

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

Florida should either articulate a specific set of standards or establish more 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 Florida 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 that 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.

## FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it has begun work under its Race to the Top plan to revise its elementary education K-6 subject-area test, including: realignment of the exam to the Common Core Standards; realignment of the Uniform Core Curriculum in teacher preparation programs to the Common Core Standards, which is planned for 2013-2014; and the requirement for passing scores on each of the content areas within the test (language arts/reading, math, science, social science). Florida also noted that the new exam will be administered in 2013-2014, the year prior to the implementation of the Common Core Standards. The state is also considering an academic concentration for elementary education preparation programs.

## LAST WORD

NCTQ looks forward to reviewing the state's progress in future editions of the Yearbook.

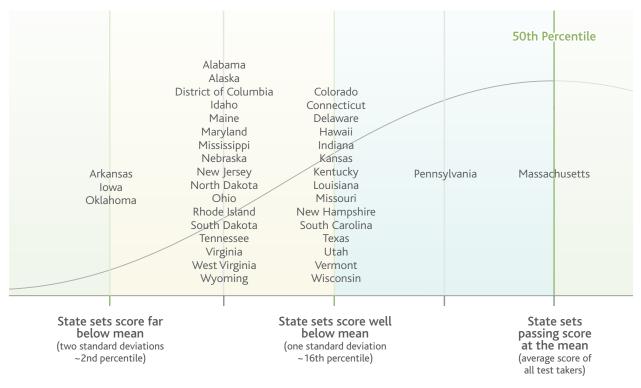


## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

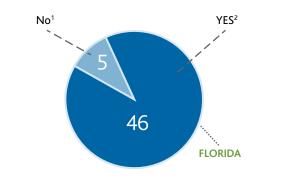
## Figure 7

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



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

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

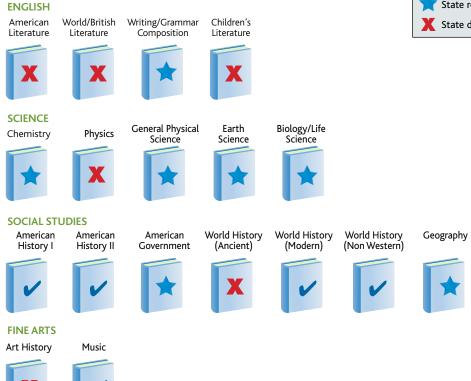


1. Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, Virginia

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

### Figure 9

## What subjects does Florida expect elementary teachers to know?



State requirements mention subject

- State requirements cover subject in depth
- X State does not require subject

Figure 10				GLISH		/		SCIE							UDIES			FINE / ARTS
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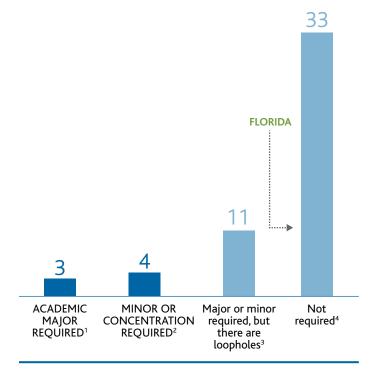
18 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 FLORIDA

## ★ Subject covered in depth

Subject mentioned

## Figure 11

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



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



Goal C – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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

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

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

## State Nearly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

## ANALYSIS

In its standards and competencies for elementary teacher preparation, Florida requires teacher preparation programs to address the science of reading. Programs must provide training in the five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

All new elementary teacher candidates are also required to take the Florida Teacher Certification Exam, which includes items on reading instruction. Although the items related to reading instruction include the science of reading, the state does not provide a subscore for this specific area; therefore, it is possible to pass the test without adequate knowledge of the science of reading.

#### **Supporting Research**

http://www.fldoe.org/asp/ftce/pdf/35Reading.pdf http://www.justreadflorida.com/docs/Reading-Endorsement-Competencies.pdf

## RECOMMENDATION

# Ensure that the state's reading assessment adequately measures skills related to the science of reading instruction.

Florida is commended for requiring teacher preparation programs to address the science of reading and for administering an assessment to measure teachers' preparation to teach reading. However, Florida's assessment should clearly test knowledge and skills related to the science of reading and 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.

## FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is currently working on revisions that would result in the reporting of a reading subscore on the elementary education K-6 subject-area exam.

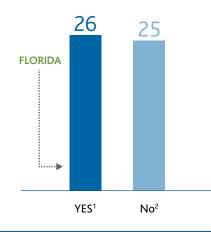


## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

## Figure 13

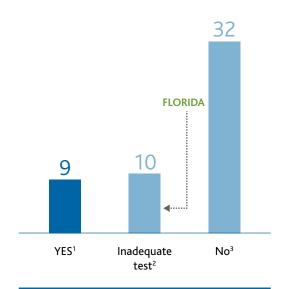
# Do states require preparation for elementary teachers in the science of reading?



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

## Figure 14

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



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

Figure 15		REPARATION	/	TEST	
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reading?	LOK V C	scie	PRIA	uate	ding
reading:		o no ading	PRO	adeq	<sup>rea</sup>
	FULLY ADDRESS R	Do not address reading science	APPROPRIATE TE	Inadequate test	$\Box \qquad (ho_{reading test})$
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Arizona					
Arkansas					
California	_				
Colorado					
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Delaware					
District of Columbia					
FLORIDA					
Georgia					
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lowa					
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Maryland					
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Nevada					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico			2		
New York					
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio					
Oklahoma					
Oregon					
Pennsylvania			2		
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South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
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Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington	Ξ.				
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	26	25	9	10	32
	20	25	5	10	52

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

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

# Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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

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

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

## State Partly Meets Goal 🤇 (🚍)

## Progress Since 2009



Florida relies on both coursework and subject-matter testing requirements as the basis for articulating its requirements for the mathematics content knowledge of elementary teacher candidates.

The state requires preparation programs to instruct teacher candidates in all competencies, including mathematics, that are tested on the state's subject-area examination, the Florida Teacher Certification Examination. The test's standards appropriately address content in mathematics foundations, but although the standards outline areas such as algebra, geometry and data analysis, the standards are not specifically geared to meet the needs of the elementary teacher.

The mathematics content of Florida's general subject-matter test appears more rigorous than the Praxis II, which is used by most states. However, the state's test still does not ensure that candidates have appropriate mathematics knowledge. While all new elementary teachers must pass this test, it lacks a specific mathematics passing score, so one may fail the mathematics portion and still pass the test.

#### **Supporting Research**

Florida State Board of Education Administrative Rules 6A-4.0151 and 6A-5.066 http://www.fldoe.org/asp/ftce/ftcecomp.asp

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

## RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

Florida should ensure that its math assessment evaluates candidates' knowledge beyond an elementary school level, challenges their understanding of underlying concepts and requires candidates to apply knowledge in nonroutine, multistep procedures. The state should also require a passing score specifically in math for its content assessments to ensure that teacher candidates have adequate mathematics knowledge. Such a score could be used to allow candidates to test out of coursework requirements. Teacher candidates who lack minimum mathematics knowledge should not be eligible for licensure.

## FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is currently working on revisions that would require a passing score on the mathematics section of the elementary education K-6 subject-area examination. In addition, preparation programs are currently realigning and redesigning their programs to the mathematics Common Core Standards.

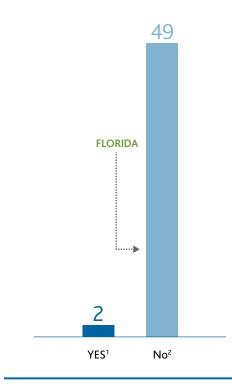


## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 17

Do states articulate appropriate mathematics preparation for elementary teachers?

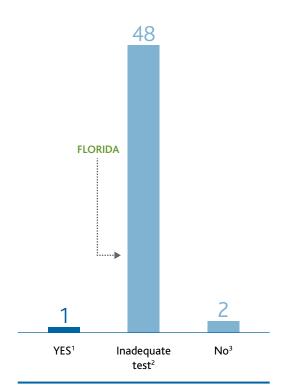


1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Massachusetts

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

## Figure 18

Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



#### 1. Strong Practice: Massachusetts

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

3. Montana, Nebraska

# Goal E – Middle School Teacher Preparation

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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

## Figure 19

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



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



State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

## **ANALYSIS**

Florida requires middle grades certification (grades 5-9) for all middle school teachers. The state offers middle grades certification for four specific subject areas: English, math, science and social science. Candidates must earn a major or complete 18 credit hours in their intended teaching field.

All new middle school teachers are required to pass a specific subject-area test, one of the "Florida Teacher Certification Examination" tests, to attain licensure.

Florida has approved the repeal of its middle grades integrated curriculum certification, which will now ensure specific content certification rather than an integrated model.

## **Supporting Research**

Florida State Board of Education Administrative Rules 6A-4 http://www.fl.nesinc.com/FL\_testselection.asp Repeal Approval http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2011\_09\_20/40233.pdf

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

## Figure 20

Figure 20	k <sup>-8</sup> LICENSE NOT OFFERED	Contained for contained for contained classrooms				
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elementary preparation?	ENC	ed G	offer			
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Figure 21		/	/	Less than a major on	No requirement of content
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New Jersey					
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<sup>1.</sup> State does not explicitly require two minors, but it has equivalent requirements.

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

# Goal F – Secondary Teacher Preparation

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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

Figure	Figure 22						
	How States are Faring in Secondary Teacher Preparation						
	2						
•	29	States Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, FLORIDA, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin					
•	0	States Nearly Meet Goal					
•	8	States Partly Meet Goal District of Columbia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico					
0	0	States Meet a Small Part of Goal					
0	12	States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Wyoming					
	Pro	ogress on this Goal Since 2009:					
		New Goal					
122.05	1220						



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



State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

## **ANALYSIS**

Florida requires that its secondary teacher candidates pass a content test (Florida Teacher Certification Examinations, or FTCE) to teach any core secondary subjects. Unfortunately, Florida permits a significant loophole to this important policy by allowing a general social studies license, without requiring subject-matter testing for each subject area within this discipline (see Goal 1-H).

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

## Supporting Research

2010 Florida Statutes, Title XLVIII, Chapter 1012.56, -.586

## RECOMMENDATION

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

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

## FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

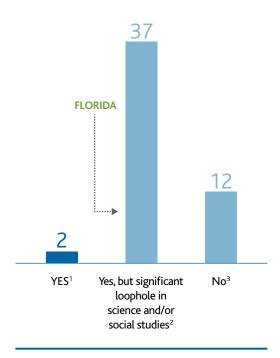
Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

## **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?



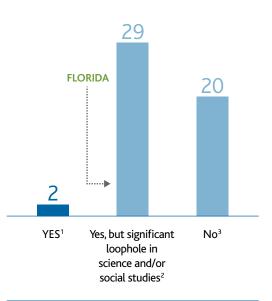
1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

- 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

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

# Goal G – Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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

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

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009



#### ANALYSIS

Commendably, Florida does not offer a certification in general science for secondary teachers.

Middle school science teachers in Florida must earn at least a bachelor's degree in general science or middle grades general science or a bachelor's degree with 18 semester hours in science that includes credit in biological science, chemistry or physics, and earth-space science or earth science. They must also pass the FTCE "Middle Grades General Science" exam.

Florida has approved the repeal of its middle grades integrated curriculum certification, which will now ensure specific content certification rather than an integrated model.

#### **Supporting Research**

Florida State Board of Education Administrative Rules 6A-4.0322; 6A-4.0321; 6A-4.0233 Florida Teacher Certification Examinations www.fl.nesinc.com Repeal Approval http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2011\_09\_20/40233.pdf

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

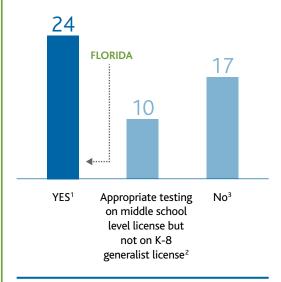
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### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 27

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

### Figure 28 How States are Faring in Preparation to Teach Social Studies 1 **Best Practice State** Indiana 2 States Meet Goal Georgia, South Dakota States Nearly Meet Goal 2 Minnesota, Oklahoma 32 States Partly Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, FLORIDA, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming State Meets a Small Part of Goal Illinois 13 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas Progress on this Goal Since 2009: New Goal



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



State Partly Meets Goal

#### ANALYSIS

Florida only offers secondary certification in general social science. Candidates must either earn at least a bachelor's degree with a major in social science, social studies, history, political science, geography, sociology, economics or psychology or at least a bachelor's degree with 30 semester hours in social science or social studies that include six semester hours in U.S. history, along with coursework in the following: Western civilization or European, Asian, African, Latin American or Middle Eastern history; economics; the U.S. government; geography; and sociology or psychology. Candidates must also pass the FTCE "Social Science" 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 Florida must earn at least a bachelor's degree with a major in social science, middle grades social science or middle grades social studies or a bachelor's degree with 18 semester hours in social science or social studies that include six semester hours in U.S. history, along with coursework in the following: Western civilization or European, Asian, African, Latin American or Middle Eastern history; economics; U.S. government; and geography. Candidates must also pass the FTCE "Middle Grades Social Science" test.

Florida has approved the repeal of its middle grades integrated curriculum certification, which will now ensure specific content certification rather than an integrated model.

Supporting Research Florida State Board of Education Administrative Rules 6A-4.03321; 6A-4.0331; 6A-4.0233 Florida Teacher Certification Examinations www.fl.nesinc.com Repeal Approval http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2011\_09\_20/40233.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

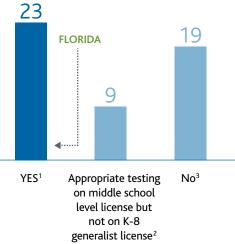
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### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 30

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



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

#### Figure 29

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

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

### Goal I – Special Education Teacher Preparation

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

#### Background

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

### 

) 1 S ∾

State Nearly Meets Goal Massachusetts

15 States Partly Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey ↑. New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania ↑, Rhode Island, Texas ↑, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin

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

### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

**1**:3 ↔:48 ↓:0

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

State Does Not Meet Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

Supporting Research Florida Administrative Code 6A-4.01795

#### 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 Florida 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.

Florida 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, Florida 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).

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida asserted that it does require candidates to pass the elementary K-6 subject-area test, or the appropriate content test for the courses taught, in order to be considered highly qualified in elementary special education.

#### LAST WORD

To ensure that all special education students are being taught by teachers who have the requisite subject-matter knowledge, passage of a content test should be a condition of initial licensure.

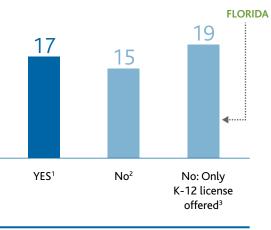
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### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 33

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



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

Figure 32 1. Beginning January 1, 2013

42 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 **FLORIDA** 

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

### Goal J – Assessing Professional Knowledge

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

#### Figure 34

How States are Faring in Assessing Professional Knowledge



**Best Practice States** 



0

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

States Nearly Meet Goal 2

Maryland, Rhode Island

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

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

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

1:1 😝 : 49 ↓:1



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



State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Florida requires teachers who are applying for the professional certificate to pass its Professional Education test, a pedagogy test that is part of the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations.

Supporting Research http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/mast\_prof.asp

**FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

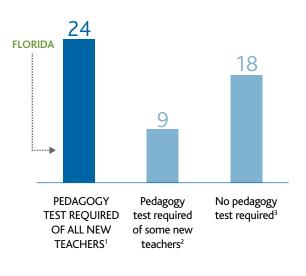
44 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 FLORIDA

### **★** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 35

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



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

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

## Goal K – Student Teaching

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

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

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

State Meets Goal

**ANALYSIS** 





Florida requires its preparation programs to provide "field experiences" for teacher candidates, which must include a culminating experience of no less than 10 weeks in duration. "Preservice field experience programs must provide specific guidance and demonstration of effective classroom management strategies, strategies for incorporating technology into classroom instruction, strategies for incorporating scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading literacy and computational skills acquisition into classroom instruction, and ways to link instructional plans to the Sunshine State Standards, as appropriate."

The state also requires cooperating teachers to show evidence of "clinical educator" training as well as successfully demonstrate effective classroom management strategies that consistently result in improved student performance.

Finally, teacher preparation programs must select the school sites for field experience activities. "These sites must represent the full spectrum of school communities, including, but not limited to, schools located in urban settings. In order to be selected, school sites must demonstrate commitment to the education of public school students and to the preparation of future teachers.".

#### Supporting Research

Florida Statute 1004.04(6) Florida State Board of Education Administration Rules 6A-5.066

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Although Florida's requirements are better than what is found in other states in terms of ensuring that cooperative teachers are effective, the state's requirements emphasize only classroom management strategies that result in improved student performance. Classroom management is certainly essential to the student teaching experience, but the instructional practice of cooperating teachers is also critical, and placements should be based on evidence of effectiveness.

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

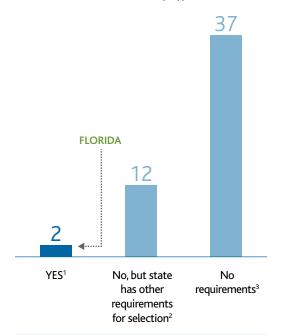
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### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

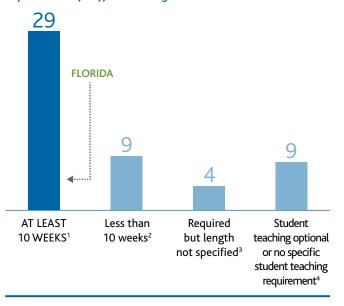
*Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?* 



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

#### Figure 39

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



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

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

### Goal L – Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Background

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

*	1	Best Practice State FLORIDA				
•	1	State Meets Goal Louisiana				
•	5	States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama, Colorado↑, Georgia↑, Tennessee, Texas				
•	6	States Partly Meet Goal Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina				
•	16	States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Illinois T, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia				
22 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arkansas , California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas , Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon , South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming						
	Pro	ogress on this Goal Since 2009:				
		<b>1</b> :4 ↔:44 ↓:3				

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

#### **Best Practice State**

Raised for this Goal

(=) Progress Since 2009



#### **ANALYSIS**

Florida's approval process for its traditional and alternate route teacher preparation programs holds programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

Most importantly, Florida requires that teacher preparation programs collect data that include completers' "impact on student learning."

The state also relies on other objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs. It requires satisfaction ratings from the schools that employ graduates of the program, and its program evaluations include "program graduates' satisfaction with instruction and the program's responsiveness to local school districts."

Florida also appears to apply transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval. In order to receive ongoing approval, programs must demonstrate that 90 percent of their graduates pass the state's basic skills test, pedagogy test and appropriate subject-matter test. Teacher preparation programs in Florida must also continue to offer support to their graduates even after they leave the classroom. Programs are expected to provide additional coursework, free of charge, if employing districts consider new teachers to be in need of remediation.

Finally, Florida posts an annual report on its website that include satisfaction data; completer, employer and mentor surveys; and demographic comparisons.

According to the state's winning Race to the Top application, it also plans to set outcome-based performance standards that will build on Florida's new student growth model to be used for the continued approval or denial of preparation programs.

#### **Supporting Research**

Florida State Board of Education Administration Rules 6A-5.066 Florida Statute Title XLVIII K-20 Education Code 1004.04, section 5(a) Educator Preparation www.teachinflorida.com/preparation Alternative Certification http://www.altcertflorida.org/ Report on State-Approved Teacher Preparation Programs http://www.fldoe.org/profdev/pdf/ProgramCompletersSurvey2011.pdf Race to the Top Application http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/phase2-applications/florida.pdf

FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 41				/		NATIVE
Do states hold teach preparation prograr accountable?	er Objective Procession		PARATION <sup>31/SB3/N</sup> NO 318 PN PARATINA 13 32/NP 15 32/N	VE PROCRAM	DEEDARATI	
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 Reported institutional data do not distinguish between candidates in the traditional and alternate route programs.

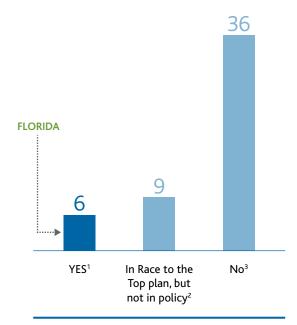
 The posted data do not allow the public to review and compare program performance because data are not disaggregated by program provider.

## **★** 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

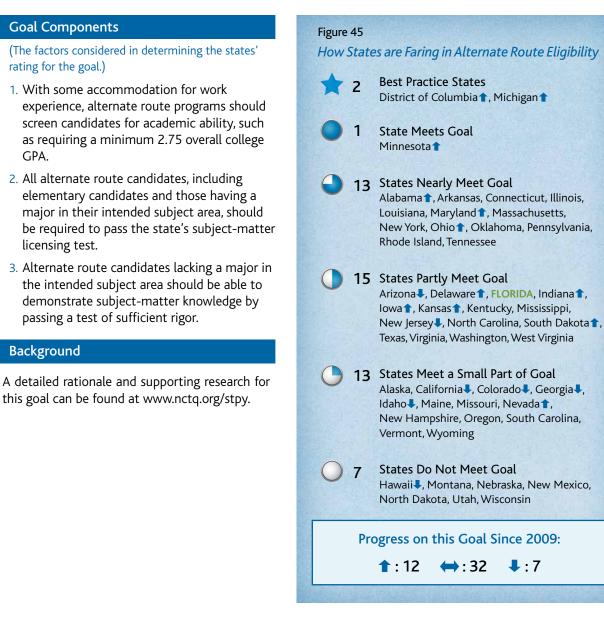
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	23	10	4	8	6	

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

## Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

## Goal A – Alternate Route Eligibility

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





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

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

#### ANALYSIS

While Florida's alternate routes do not exceed the admission requirements for traditional preparation programs, they do accommodate the needs of nontraditional candidates.

Florida has three alternate route programs: the Florida Alternate Certification Program (FACP), Educator Preparation Institutes (EPI), and the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) alternate route program. The state requires that all alternate route candidates obtain a Temporary Certificate statement of eligibility for admission to any program.

Candidates applying for the Temporary Certificate must have a minimum GPA of 2.5. Applicants must have a major in, or closely related to, the intended teaching field. The state will accept a passing score on a subject-matter exam in lieu of this requirement. All candidates are required to pass a test of basic skills and a subject-matter test.

#### Supporting Research

Florida Education Code 1012.56 http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/cert\_types.asp

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Increase academic requirements for admission.

While a minimum GPA requirement is a first step toward ensuring that candidates are of good academic standing, the current standard of 2.5 does not serve as a sufficient indicator of past academic performance. The standard should be higher than what is required of traditional teacher candidates, such as a GPA of 2.75 or higher. Some accommodation in this standard may be appropriate for career changers. Alternatively, the state could require one of the standardized tests of academic proficiency commonly used in higher education for graduate admissions, such as the GRE.

#### Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

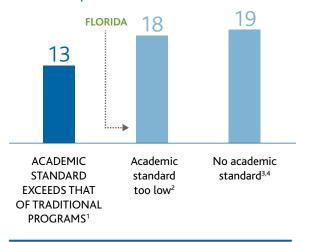
The state's requirement that alternate route candidates pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffectual. Basic skills tests measure minimum competency—essentially those skills that a person should have acquired in middle school—and are inappropriate for candidates who have already earned a bachelor's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

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 46	A CLUENIC STANDARD FOR IDMISSION EXCEDS CLUTTONAL PROCEDS	/	NO MAJOR RECURED OR TEST CHAVE EUSED URED OR OF MAJOR EUSED IN LIEU
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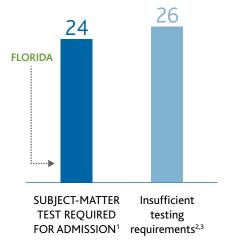
Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



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

#### Figure 48

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



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

#### Figure 46

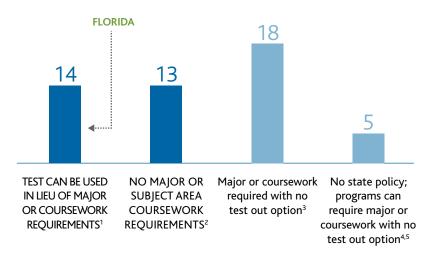
1. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 49

Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



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

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

## Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

### Goal B – Alternate Route Preparation

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

### Figure 50

How States are Faring in Alternate Route Preparation

- 1 Best Practice State
- 4 States Meet Goal Arkansas, Delaware ↑, Georgia, New Jersey
- 7 States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama, FLORIDA, Maryland<sup>1</sup>, Mississippi, Rhode Island<sup>1</sup>, South Carolina, Virginia

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

West Virginia

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

#### Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

**1**:8 ↔:42 ↓:1

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

State Nearly Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Florida offers alternate routes with streamlined preparation that meet the immediate needs of new teachers.

Florida's Alternative Certification Program (FACP) offers a preservice component known as "Survival Training." The specifics of this training are left up to individual school districts. New teachers complete a pre-assessment which then informs their individual action plan. Coursework requirements are based on this action plan. As needed, new teachers complete online professional development courses in the 12 Educator Accomplished Practices, including assessment, communication, continuous improvement, critical thinking, diversity, ethics, human development and learning, knowledge of subject matter, learning environments, planning, role of the teacher and technology.

Florida also prepares alternate route candidates through Educator Preparation Institutes (EPI). New teachers participating in an EPI must receive instruction in professional knowledge and subject-matter content; however, the state does not outline specific coursework for EPI programs.

FACP teachers do not have a practice-teaching requirement but are assigned a peer mentor. Individuals participating in an EPI program must complete a field experience but are not required to have mentor support during their first year. District Alternative Certification programs do not include a practice-teaching component, as candidates are teachers of record and receive on-the-job training from a mentor.

Florida's alternate routes make all candidates eligible to earn a Professional Certificate in two years.

Supporting Research Florida Statutes 1004.85 http://www.altcertflorida.org/programOverview.htm

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Florida is commended for both the amount and nature of coursework requirements for teachers in the FACP. Florida should establish similar guidelines for the Educator Preparation Institutes. Simply mandating coursework without specifying the purpose can inadvertently send the wrong message to program providers—that "anything goes" as long as credits are granted. However constructive, any course that is not fundamentally practical and immediately necessary should be eliminated as a requirement.

#### Provide induction support to all alternate route teachers.

While Florida is commended for requiring FACP teachers to work with a mentor, new teachers in an EPI program should also receive this support. In addition, the state should consider providing sufficient guidelines to ensure that the induction program is structured for new teacher success. 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 release time to allow new teachers to observe experienced teachers during each school day.

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state reiterated that the EPI route must provide professional knowledge and subject-matter content that includes the educator accomplished practices and competencies specified in State Board Rule and that meets subject-matter content requirements, professional competency testing requirements, and competencies associated with teaching scientifically based reading instruction and strategies, which research has shown to be successful in improving reading among low-performing readers. Florida stated that the courses must be approved by the Department of Education prior to implementation and must include a field experience.

State Response Citation Florida Statutes 1004.85 Rule 6A-5.065, FAC



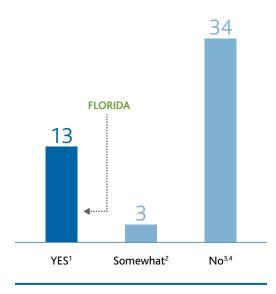
Figure 51		<u> </u>	,	,	
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### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Florida requires practice teaching or intensive mentoring.
 North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

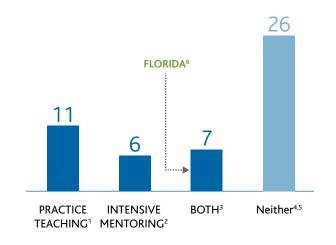
## Do states curb excessive coursework requirements?



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

#### Figure 53

Do states require practice teaching or intensive mentoring?



1. Strong Practice: Arizona, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia

- 2. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia
- 3. Strong Practice: Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida<sup>6</sup>, Maryland, Massachusetts
- 4. Alabama, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, 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.
- 2. The state should allow districts and nonprofit organizations other than institutions of higher education to operate alternate route programs.
- 3. The state should ensure that its alternate route has no requirements that would be difficult to meet for a provider that is not an institution of higher education (e.g., an approval process based on institutional accreditation).

#### Background

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

### Figure 54

How States are Faring in Alternate Route Usage and Providers



States Partly Meet Goal Alabama 1, Indiana, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, West Virginia,

States Meet a Small Part of Goal Idaho<sup>1</sup>, Mississippi, South Carolina, Vermont

10 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Wyoming

Progress on this Goal Since 2009:

+ : 39

4:0

1:12

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

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

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

All Florida school districts are required to offer an alternate route program. These programs are prohibited from requiring college coursework. Private providers, like the American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE), are also permitted. In addition, Florida offers Educator Preparation Institutes that are created by a postsecondary institution and approved by the Department of Education to offer alternative certification programs.

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

Supporting Research Florida Statutes 6A-5.066 Florida Administrative Code 1004.85

**FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

## Figure 55 Are states' alternate routes free from

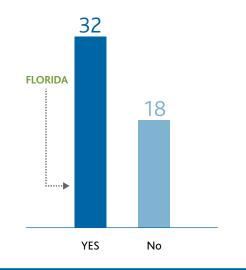
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	West Virginia		
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### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 56

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



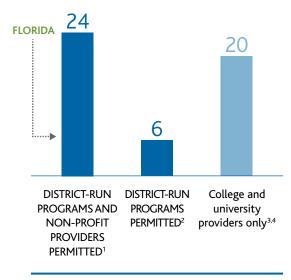
#### Figure 55 and 56

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

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

Do states permit providers other than colleges or universities?

Figure 58



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

Do states provide real alternative pathways	EARLY	NATE ROUT hat needs ements	is disingenuo <sub>us</sub>
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## Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

### Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

#### Figure 60

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

New Goal

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

State Meets Goal State Meets Goal

#### ANALYSIS

Florida offers an Adjunct Certification as a part-time license. Candidates must demonstrate expertise in a subject area by passing a subject matter test.

Supporting Research Florida Statute 1012.57

**FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS** Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

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

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### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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



1. License has restrictions.

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

# Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers

# Goal E – Licensure Reciprocity

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

### Figure 62 How States are Faring in Licensure Reciprocity **Best Practice States** 2 Alabama, Texas States Meet Goal 3 States Nearly Meet Goal Idaho, Ohio, Washington 13 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska, Delaware, Illinois<sup>1</sup>, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin 15 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Colorado, FLORIDA, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon 1, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Wyoming 18 States Do Not Meet Goal Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Carolina, Vermont Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:2 + : 49 4:0

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

### State Meets a Small Part of Goal

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Progress Since 2009
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#### ANALYSIS

Regrettably, Florida grants a waiver for its licensing tests to any out-of-state teacher with a comparable standard certificate.

Teachers with comparable out-of-state certificates are eligible for Florida's professional certificate. There is no state-mandated recency requirement; however, transcripts are required for all applicants. It is not clear whether the state analyzes these transcripts to determine whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route or whether additional coursework will be required.

Based on statutory language, it also appears that Florida will issue a comparable license to an out-ofstate teacher who was prepared under an alternate route.

Florida 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 Florida Statute, Title XLVIII, 1012.56

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Florida takes considerable risk by granting a waiver for its licensing tests to any out-of-state teacher with a standard certificate. 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 certificate from another state.

# Accord the same license to out-of-state alternate route teachers as would be accorded to traditionally prepared teachers.

Florida should consider discontinuing its requirement for the submission of transcripts. Transcript analysis is likely to result in additional coursework requirements, even for traditionally prepared teachers; alternate route teachers, on the other hand, may have to virtually begin anew, repeating some, most or all of a teacher preparation program in Florida. Regardless of whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route, all certified out-of-state teachers should receive equal treatment.

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida asserted that it has established full reciprocity with all states, and that a valid standard certificate from another state is verification that the applicant has met all Florida requirements for the professional certificate, including mastery of general knowledge, professional education competence and subject content. Florida further contended that all states require a subject-knowledge test for their professional license, and the state does not accept provisional/emergency certificates for reciprocity purposes.

Florida added that it does not conduct transcript analysis for certification via reciprocity. Transcripts are required to document that the applicant has earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution or the equivalent, which is required by law for all applicants regardless of certification pathway.

#### LAST WORD

Not all states have adopted subject-matter testing as a condition of licensure, and some states have considerably lower testing standards than Florida has. Therefore, Florida is urged to require all out-of-state teacher candidates to meet its minimum testing requirements.

In addition, the submission of transcripts should be unnecessary for certified out-of-state teachers, unless the state has some reason to suspect that the certifying state routinely licenses teachers who do not have a degree.

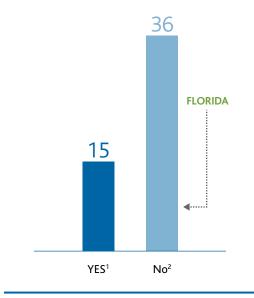
What do states require of teachers transferring

### 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.

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Figure 65			9.5
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# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

## Goal A – State Data Systems

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

#### **Goal Components** Figure 66 (The factors considered in determining the states' How States are Faring in the Development of rating for the goal.) Data Systems 1. The state should establish a longitudinal **Best Practice States** data system with at least the following key components: 35 States Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, FLORIDA, a. A unique statewide student identifier Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho 1, Illinois 1, Indiana 1, number that connects student data across Iowa<sup>1</sup>, Kansas<sup>1</sup>, Kentucky, Louisiana, key databases across years; Maryland 1, Massachusetts 1, Minnesota 1, b. A unique teacher identifier system that Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska1, can match individual teacher records with New Hampshire 1, New Mexico, New York 1, individual student records; and North Carolina, North Dakota1, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, c. An assessment system that can match South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Washington 1, individual student test records from year to West Virginia, Wisconsin 1, Wyoming year in order to measure academic growth. 2. Value-added data provided through the States Nearly Meet Goal state's longitudinal data system should be considered among the criteria used to **15** States Partly Meet Goal determine teachers' effectiveness. Alaska, Arizona 1, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia 1, Maine, Michigan, 3. To ensure that data provided through the Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, state data system is actionable and reliable, South Dakota<sup>1</sup>, Texas, Vermont, Virginia the state should have a clear definition of "teacher of record" and require its consistent States Meet a Small Part of Goal 0 use statewide. State Does Not Meet Goal Background California A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy. Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:17 👄 : 33 **↓**:1

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

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

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

Supporting Research Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Florida has not yet established a definition of teacher of record, which is essential in order to use the student-data link for the purpose of providing value-added evidence of teacher effectiveness. To ensure that data provided through the state data system are actionable and reliable, Florida should articulate a definition of teacher of record and require its consistent use throughout the state.

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is currently engaged in a project under a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to establish a comprehensive definition of teacher of record for the purpose of preparing value-added data. Florida also pointed out that a current definition is in place for the purposes of course records and class-size calculations.

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



	5	1 15	/ ~ē
Alabama			
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
FLORIDA			
Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
Indiana			
lowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine			
Maryland			
Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Mississippi			
Missouri			
Montana			-
Nebraska			-
Nevada			-
New Hampshire			-
New Jersey			
New Mexico			-
New York			-
North Carolina			
North Dakota		-	-
Ohio			-
Oklahoma		-	
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	50	35	50

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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



Key

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

# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

## Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

#### Background

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

## Figure 68

How States are Faring in Evaluating Teacher Effectiveness



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

State Meets Goal

💫 Bar Raised for this Goal 🛛 🕥 Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

Based on new state legislation, at least 50 percent of teacher evaluations must be based on data and indicators of student learning growth as measured by statewide assessments. The student learning growth portion of the evaluation must include growth data for students assigned to the teacher over the course of at least three years. If three years of data are not available, the percentage of the evaluation based upon student learning growth may be reduced to not less than 40 percent.

Further, classroom observations are required, and the evaluator must use the following multiple rating categories: highly effective, effective, needs improvement (or for new teachers who need improvement, developing), and unsatisfactory.

Supporting Research SB 736, amending Florida Statute 1012.34

FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 69	REQUIRES THAT STUDENT ACHEVENENTAT STUDENT THE PREPARAT CRATENT	Teacher evaluation are to be	Teacher evaluations include objective evaluations student learning evident	. /	
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classroom effectiveness	STU	NTO NTO	ns n Puide	lent <sub>c</sub>	
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evaluations?	PONE PONE	er ev antiy	er ev obje	it ach lired	
evaluations.	REQU CHE F PR	Teach Snific dent	Teach Iclude Idemt	ituder It requ	
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Arizona Arkansas					
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Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia <sup>1</sup>					
FLORIDA					
Georgia					
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lowa					
Kansas				_	
Kentucky					
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Maryland Massachusetts					
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North Dakota					
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Oklahoma					
Oregon Pennsylvania				_	
Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	12	5	7	27	

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

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

#### Figure 70

Using state data in teacher evaluations

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

Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Michigan, Nevada

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

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

#### Figure 69

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

# *Sources of objective evidence of student learning*

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

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

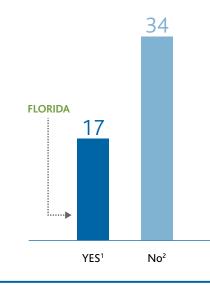
■ Artifacts of student work connected to specific student learning standards that are randomly selected for review by the principal or senior faculty, scored using rubrics and descriptors

• Examples of typical assignments, assessed for their quality and rigor

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

#### Figure 72

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



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

Figure 73		State-designed teacher etaluation with dicacher	·£ /	District designed minimal input ed Syster.	ži /	
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	tem	th di	ith s	teri;	ð A	
evaluated?	ate <sub>h</sub> 1 sys	ssign n wi	t des	in desi	$\square \square ho_{state policy}$	
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	Sing	Sta <sub>l</sub> Stal	lig Coli	Disi	<sup>60</sup> <sup>5</sup>	
Alabama						
Alaska						
Arizona						
Arkansas						
California						
Colorado						
Connecticut						
Delaware						
District of Columbia						
FLORIDA			1			
Georgia						
Hawaii						
Idaho			1			
Illinois						
Indiana						
lowa						
Kansas						
Kentucky			1			
Louisiana						
Maine						
Maryland			1			
Massachusetts						
Michigan		2 Z				
Minnesota						
Mississippi						
Missouri						
Montana						
Nebraska			1			
Nevada						
New Hampshire						
New Jersey						
New Mexico						
New York						
North Carolina						
North Dakota						
Ohio						
Oklahoma						
Oregon						
Pennsylvania						
Rhode Island		2				
South Carolina		2				
South Dakota						
Tennessee		2				
Texas		2				
Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
	9	10	24	5	3	

1. State approval required.

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

# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

# Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

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

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

State Nearly Meets Goal

### Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

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

Nonprobationary teachers are required to have a formal evaluation at least once a year. Newly hired teachers in Florida must now be observed and evaluated at least twice in their first year of teaching. However, the state does not articulate when the first observation should occur.

Supporting Research SB 736, amending Florida Statute 1012.34

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Base evaluations on multiple observations.

To guarantee that annual evaluations are based on an adequate collection of information, Florida should require multiple observations for all teachers. This is important for all probationary teachers, not just those in their first year of teaching, as well as teachers who have nonprobationary status.

#### Ensure that new teachers are observed and receive feedback early in the school year.

It is critical that schools and districts closely monitor the performance of new teachers. Florida should ensure that its new teachers get the support they need and that supervisors know early on which new teachers may be struggling or at risk for unacceptable levels of performance. As evaluation instruments become more data driven, it may not be feasible to issue a formal evaluation rating until applicable student data are available later in the year.

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida asserted that teachers considered probationary, and therefore require a minimum of two evaluations, include all teachers "newly hired by the district"—not just those in their first year of teaching.

Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?



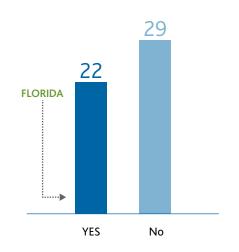
	OF A	A A A A A A
Alabama		
Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware <sup>1</sup>		
District of Columbia <sup>2</sup>		
FLORIDA		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
lowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		
Maine		
Maryland		
Massachusetts		
Michigan		
Minnesota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

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 76

Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?

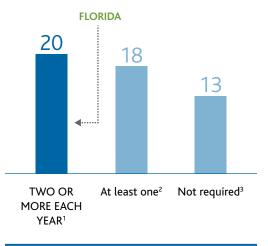


#### Figures 75 and 76

 Although highly effective teachers are only required to receive a summative evaluation once every two years, the student improvement component is evaluated annually.

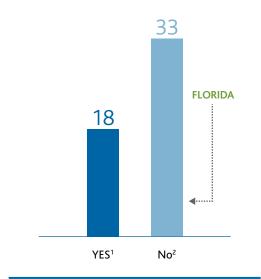
2. All District of Columbia Public Schools teachers are evaluated at least annually.

Figure 77 *Do states require classroom observations?* 



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

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



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

# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

# Goal D – Tenure

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

### Background

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

### Figure 79 How States are Faring on Tenure **Best Practice State** 1 Michigan 1 States Meet Goal 2 Colorado 1. FLORIDA1 States Nearly Meet Goal 5 Delaware 1, Nevada 1, Oklahoma 1, Rhode Island 1, Tennessee 1 3 States Partly Meet Goal Illinois<sup>1</sup>, Indiana<sup>1</sup>, New York<sup>1</sup> States Meet a Small Part of Goal 9 Connecticut, Idaho<sup>1</sup>, Kentucky, Massachusetts 1, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire 1, North Carolina, Ohio 31 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine 1, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:15 + : 36 1:0

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

State Meets Goal

#### **ANALYSIS**

Commendably, Florida has discontinued its policy of automatic tenure. The state now bases the leap in professional standing from probationary to nonprobationary status on evidence of classroom effectiveness.

To be awarded an annual contract (nonprobationary status), a probationary teacher must not have received any of the following evaluation ratings: two consecutive annual performance evaluation ratings of unsatisfactory, two annual performance evaluation ratings of unsatisfactory within a three-year period, or three consecutive annual performance evaluation ratings of needs improvement or a combination of needs improvement and unsatisfactory. Further, a district is prohibited from renewing an annual contract if a nonprobationary teacher receives any of the above evaluation ratings.

Because Florida'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.

Further, because all teachers are awarded an annual contract regardless of probationary status, Florida has essentially eliminated tenure.

Supporting Research SB 736, amending Florida Statute 1012.34

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

### How long before a teacher earns tenure?

	No policy	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 YEARS	5 YEARS	STATE ONLY AWARDS ANNUAL CONTRACTS
Alabama							
Alaska							
Arizona							
Arkansas							
California							
Colorado							
Connecticut							
Delaware							
District of Columbia							
FLORIDA							
Georgia							
Hawaii							
Idaho							
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lowa							
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Kentucky							
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Nevada							
New Hampshire							
New Jersey							
New Mexico							
New York							
North Carolina							
North Dakota							
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Rhode Island							2
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South Dakota							
Tennessee							
Texas							
Utah							
Vermont							
Virginia							
Washington							
West Virginia							
Wisconsin							
Wyoming							
	1	1	5	32	4	5	3

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

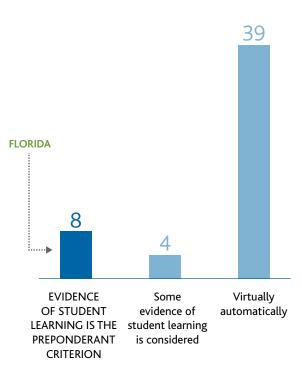
2. Teachers who receive two years of ineffective evaluations are dismissed.

#### EVIDENCE OF STUDENT LEARNING IS THE PREPONDERANT CRITERION Figure 81 Jome evidence of student learning is considered How are tenure Virtually automatically decisions made? Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California $\square$ Colorado Connecticut $\square$ Delaware District of Columbia $\square$ **FLORIDA** Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana lowa $\square$ $\square$ Kansas Kentucky $\square$ Louisiana Maine $\square$ Maryland Massachusetts $\square$ Π Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana $\square$ Nebraska Nevada $\square$ New Hampshire New Jersey $\square$ New Mexico New York $\square$ North Carolina North Dakota Ohio $\square$ Oklahoma 2 Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina $\square$ South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming $\square$ 8 4 39

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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





#### Figure 81

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

# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

# Goal E – Licensure Advancement

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

### **Goal Components**

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

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

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

#### Background

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



### State Does Not Meet Goal 🛛 🕢 Bar Raised for this Goal 🤅

### **Progress Since 2009**

#### **ANALYSIS**

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

To advance from a Temporary Certificate to a Professional Certificate, the state requires teachers to demonstrate "mastery of general knowledge (e.g., passing scores on basic skills exam)," "mastery of subjectarea knowledge (e.g., passing scores on subject-area exam)" and "mastery of professional preparation and education competence (e.g., passing scores on competency exam)."

Florida also does not include evidence of effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Florida teachers must renew their licenses every five years by completing six semester hours of college credit at an accredited college or university.

#### Supporting Research

http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/renew.asp

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Florida should require evidence of teacher effectiveness to be a factor in determining whether teachers can renew their licenses or advance to a higher level license. The state should use evidence of effectiveness from its strong teacher evaluations as a factor in determining whether teachers advance to the next licensure level (see Goal 3-B). However, states must consider carefully how to use this evidence, as the standard for denying licensure—the right to practice in the state—should not necessarily be the same standard that might result in termination from a particular position.

Discontinue license renewal requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

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

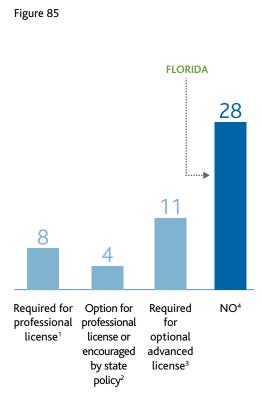
#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysist.

Figure 84		/	Consciention Biven to teacher Performance biven to teacher Port tied to classroom effectivers	8
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Do states require teachers	50 KOK	Same objective evidence of	to te forma effect	idere
to show evidence of	DENC IS RE	evide	Biven t pen Dom e	cons
effectiveness before	E EUN	s is a	tion te bu	e not
conferring professional	TIVE	e obje Venes	Isider, Irmar, Id to	manc
licensure?	OBIE	Some	Cor Derfo Ot tie	erfor
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Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut				
Delaware				
District of Columbia				
FLORIDA				
Georgia				
Hawaii				
Idaho				
Illinois <sup>1</sup>				
Indiana				
lowa				
Kansas				
Kentucky				
Louisiana				
Maine				
Maryland <sup>2</sup>				
Massachusetts				
Michigan				
Minnesota				
Mississippi				
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Montana				
Nebraska				
Nevada				
New Hampshire				
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Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				
West Virginia	_			
Wisconsin				
-				

### **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.

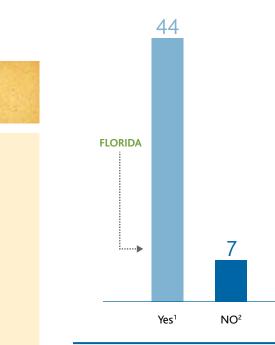


- Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New York and Oregon all require a master's degree or coursework equivalent to a master's degree
- 2. Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Tennessee
- Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia,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

#### Figure 84

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

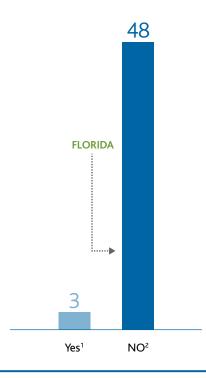
Do states require teachers to take additional, nonspecific coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



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

#### Figure 87

Do states award lifetime professional licenses?



1. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

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

# **Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers**

# Goal F – Equitable Distribution

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

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

### State Meets a Small Part of Goal 🤅

#### ANALYSIS

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

**Progress Since 2009** 

Florida collects and publicly reports some of the data recommended by NCTQ. The state does not provide a school-level teacher quality index that demonstrates the academic backgrounds of a school's teachers, but it does report on the percentage of newly hired teachers for each school. While Florida does not report on percentages of teachers with emergency credentials—as the state indicates it has no noncertified teachers—it does provide data on classes taught by teachers temporarily assigned to areas outside of their field of specialization. The state also does not report on teacher absenteeism or turnover rates.

Florida reports on the percentage of highly qualified teachers. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. The state is also commended for comparing the average percentages of highly qualified teachers in high- and low-poverty schools within each district.

#### **Supporting Research**

Florida Public School Accountability Report 2009-2010 http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbspar/year0910/main0910.cfm

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### Use a teacher quality index to publicly report 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. Florida 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.

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

#### Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

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

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida commented that its reporting requirements, which currently include teacher turnover, will be more comprehensive beginning in 2011-12, with new value-added calculation. In addition, under Race to the Top, Florida is doing a number of descriptive and comparative analyses that will be published throughout the grant.

Figure 89	AN NUEX FOR EACH SCHOOL THAT NUEX FOR EACH SCHOOL FASOCATED WET ACTOR SCHOOL	/	PERCENTACE OF NEW.	ŝ /	/	/	
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report school-level	E E		STAL	PERCENTAGE OF HIGHIN	5	x Rd	
data about teachers?	DES F		E NEI		Volu	NIE <sup>4</sup>	
Gala about leachers?	ACLUS OF		5 0	E E		ABSE	
	HER N	CEN.	ENTA	CENI	NUA	CHER	
	AN INDEX FOR EACH THAT INCLUDES FOR ASSOCIATELUDES FOCH TEACHER OF WITH	EME	PERC	OUN PER	/ <sup>1</sup> /	IFA	
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Alaska							
Arizona							
Arkansas							
California							
Colorado							
Connecticut			_	_			
Delaware							
District of Columbia FLORIDA							
Georgia							
Hawaii							
Idaho							
Illinois							
Indiana							
lowa							
Kansas							
Kentucky							
Louisiana							
Maine							
Maryland							
Massachusetts							
Michigan							
Minnesota							
Mississippi							
Missouri							
Montana				_			
Nebraska							
Nevada							
New Hampshire New Jersey							
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Vermont							
Virginia							
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West Virginia Wisconsin							
Wyoming							
wyoning							
	0	18	10	41	6	5	

#### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

# **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers**

# Goal A – Induction

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

#### **Goal Components**

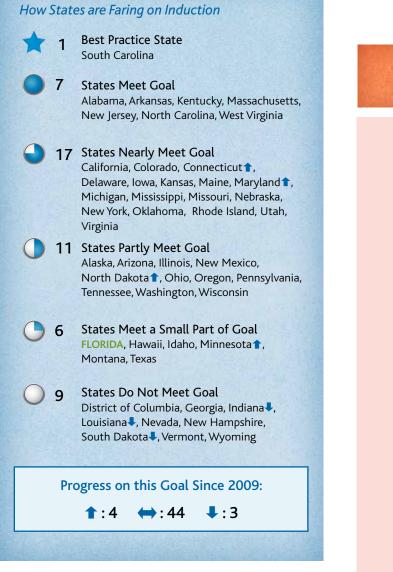
(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

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

#### Background

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

### Figure 90



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

### State Meets a Small Part of Goal

### Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Florida only requires that some of its new teachers receive mentoring. Only teachers completing an alternative certification program are required to have a mentor. Adjunct (part-time) teachers are no longer required to be assigned to a peer mentor by their principal for the first year of employment.

National Board-certified teachers who serve as mentors are eligible for a bonus equal to 10 percent of the prior fiscal year's statewide average salary for classroom teachers.

#### **Supporting Research**

Florida Statutes 1012.56; 1012.57; 1012.72 HB 7197 (2011)

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Although Florida does provide mentoring to teachers in its alternative certification program, the state should ensure that all new teachers—especially any teacher in a low-performing school—receive mentoring support, especially in the first critical weeks of school. Florida should consider expanding its program throughout the state.

#### Set more specific parameters.

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

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

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

Figure 91 Do states have policies that articulate the elements of effective induction?	MENTORING FOR AL.	MENTORING SUFER	MENTORING PROJECTION	CARENI, SELECTION,	NENTORS MUST	MENTONS PROGRAM	MENTOR IS COMME	USE OF A VANETY OF EFFERING
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Alaska								
Arizona								
Arkansas								
California								
Colorado								
Connecticut								
Delaware								
District of Columbia								
FLORIDA								
Georgia								
Hawaii Idaho								
Illinois								
Indiana								
lowa								
Kansas								
Kentucky								
Louisiana								
Maine								
Maryland								
Massachusetts								
Michigan								
Minnesota								
Mississippi								
Missouri								
Montana								
Nebraska								
Nevada								
New Hampshire								
New Jersey								
New Mexico	_							
New York								
North Carolina North Dakota								
Ohio								
Oklahoma								
Oregon								
Pennsylvania								
Rhode Island								
South Carolina								
South Dakota								
Tennessee								
Texas								
Utah								
Vermont								
Virginia								
Washington								
West Virginia								
Wisconsin								
Wyoming								
	30	18	9	17	28	12	21	17

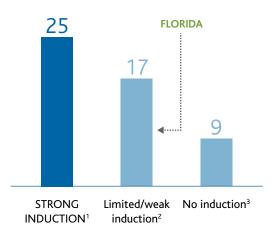
# 灩

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 92

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



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

# **Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers**

# Goal B – Professional Development

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

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

New Goal

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



State Nearly Meets Goal

# Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Florida requires that teachers receive written copies of their evaluations "no later than ten days after the evaluation takes place." The state also specifies that teacher evaluations must be used when identifying professional development.

Supporting Research SB 736

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

Although Florida requires teachers to receive copies of their evaluations, this only ensures that teachers will receive their ratings, not necessarily feedback on their performance. Florida should specify that teachers should receive specific feedback on identified strengths and areas that need improvement.

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida noted that while not in law, the state's Race to the Top plan requires that districts document how teachers will receive feedback in the new evaluation systems.

Supporting Research http://alex.state.al.us/leadership/

#### LAST WORD

While putting such a requirement in the state's Race to the Top plan is a step in the right direction, NCTQ would encourage Florida to codify this requirement to ensure that it extends beyond the life of the grant.

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

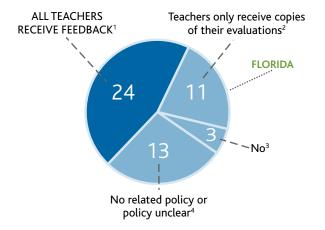


## **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

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

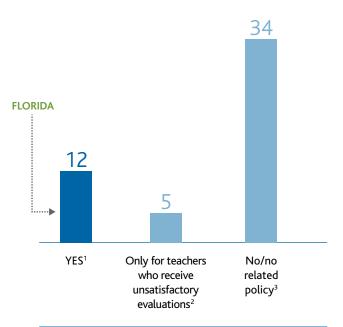
### Figure 94

### Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?



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

# Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wyoming

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

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

## Goal C – Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

## **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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

## Figure 97 How States are Faring in Pay Scales **Best Practice States** 2 FLORIDA<sup>1</sup>, Indiana<sup>1</sup> 1 State Meets Goal Idaho 1 State Nearly Meets Goal Minnesota 29 States Partly Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming States Meet a Small Part of Goal 3 Illinois, Rhode Island, Texas States Do Not Meet Goal 15 Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:3 👄 : 48 4:0

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

Best Practice State

Progress Since 2009

## ANALYSIS

While still allowing local districts to develop their own salary schedules, new legislation recently passed in Florida prevents districts from focusing on elements not associated with teacher effectiveness.

Starting in 2014, local salary schedules must ensure that a highly effective teacher will receive a salary increase greater than the highest annual salary adjustment available to that individual through any other salary schedule adopted by the school district. An effective teacher will receive a salary increase between 50 and 75 percent of the annual salary increase provided to a highly effective teacher, and an employee under any other performance rating is not eligible for a salary increase.

In addition, "a district school board may not use advanced degrees in setting a salary schedule....unless the advanced degree is held in the individual's area of certification and is only a salary supplement."

### Supporting Research FL SB 736 (2011)

http://laws.flrules.org/files/Ch\_2011-001.pdf

FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 98 What role does the state play in deciding teacher	Sets minimum salary schedule	Sets minimum sal-	DISTRICTS SET SALARY
pay rates?	imu. Pedu	,uur	LZ SS
<i>p</i> - <i>y</i> - <i>s</i>	s mir	Thin	
	Sets Palar	Sets.	Sia Sia
Alabama	-, ,		,
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado <sup>1</sup>			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
FLORIDA			
Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
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lowa			
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Montana			
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Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
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South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	16	0	27
	10	8	27

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

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

Figure 99	COUNTS PERFORM		Requires compensation	
Do states discourage	2MM	I HALS	atio, es	,
districts from basing	<i>from</i>	G. SEE	egre	
teacher pay on advanced	S PE	Cret to	e d a	
degrees?	1210	VCFI	lires Vanc	
uegrees?	P C P	Leaves pay to district discretion	r ad	
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North Dakota				
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Oklahoma				
Oregon				
Pennsylvania				
Rhode Island		1		
South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee		2		
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia Washington				
Washington West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
wyoning				
	3	32	16	

1. Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training".

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

#### 112 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 **FLORIDA**

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

## Goal D – Compensation for Prior Work Experience

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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

## Figure 100

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

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

## State Does Not Meet Goal

## Progress Since 2009

## ANALYSIS

Florida 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, Florida 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.

## FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

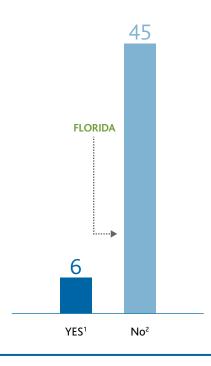
Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state pointed out that it is moving away from giving credit for years of experience.

## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

### Figure 101

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



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

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

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

## Goal E – Differential Pay

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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

## Figure 102 How States are Faring on Differential Pay **Best Practice State** 1 Georgia 12 States Meet Goal Arkansas, California, FLORIDA, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas States Nearly Meet Goal 3 Maryland, Virginia, Washington 8 States Partly Meet Goal Colorado, Hawaii 4, Idaho 1, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming 10 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Connecticut, Illinois, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Rhode Island 1, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont 17 States Do Not Meet Goal Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, West Virginia Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:2 + : 45 4:4

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

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

## ANALYSIS

Florida supports differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects or working at a school classified as high-needs. Under Florida's new salary schedule, teachers will be provided salary supplements for teaching in a Title I eligible school or a school in the bottom two categories of the school improvement system as well as for teaching in critical teaching-shortage areas.

Supporting Research SB 736 http://laws.flrules.org/files/Ch\_2011-001.pdf

## FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

Figure 103 Do states provide		HIGH NEED SCHOOLS	/	SHORTAGE	. /
incentives to teach in				AREAS	
	-	jes /		less	
high-need schools	DIFFERENTIAL	Loan Forgiveness	DIFFERENTIAL PAY	Siver	Nosupport
or shortage subject	FERE	For	FERE	For	dan
areas?	a de	Loar	PAY DE	Loar	<sup>°</sup> <sup>°</sup>
Alabama				Loan Forgiveness	
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California					
Colorado					
Connecticut <sup>1</sup>					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
FLORIDA					
Georgia Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana					
lowa					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland <sup>2</sup>					
Massachusetts					
Michigan					
Minnesota					
Mississippi					
Missouri					
Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio					
Oklahoma					
Oregon					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
South Dakota <sup>3</sup>					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia			4		
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	21	7	17	11	17
	21		17		

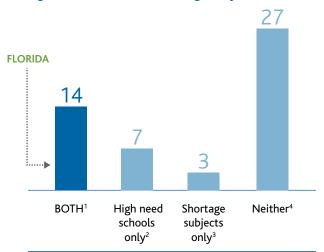
- Connecticut offers mortgage assistance and incentives to retired teachers working in shortage subject areas.
- Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 3.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

## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

### Figure 104

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



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

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

3. Idaho, Pennsylvania, Utah

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

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

## Goal F – Performance Pay

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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



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

Best Practice State 🛛 🕜 Progress Since 2009

## ANALYSIS

Starting in 2014, Florida will require that districts tie teacher compensation to teacher performance.

A teacher determined to be highly effective will receive a salary increase that must be greater than the highest annual salary adjustment available to that individual through any other salary schedule adopted by the school district. A teacher determined to be effective will receive a salary increase between 50 and 75 percent of the annual salary increase provided to a highly effective teacher.

Supporting Research SB 736 http://laws.flrules.org/files/Ch\_2011-001.pdf

## FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis

**T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

Figure 106 Do states support performance pay?	E FACTORED	PERCORNANCE BOW	L TEACHERS Permiss	State-Sonsored Perfect	Ifered in select It	
	PERFORMANCE FACTORES	PERFORMANCE	Performance pay Permin	State-Sponsor Pay initiatives	Does not support	<b>`</b>
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Connecticut						
Delaware						_ 1
District of Columbia						
FLORIDA						- 1
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Louisiana						
Maine						_
Maryland						
Massachusetts						
Michigan						
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Nevada						
New Hampshire						_
New Jersey						
New Mexico						- 1
New York						
North Carolina						- 1
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Oregon						
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South Carolina						
South Dakota						
Tennessee						
Texas						
Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
	3	4	12	5	27	

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

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

## Goal G – Pension Flexibility

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

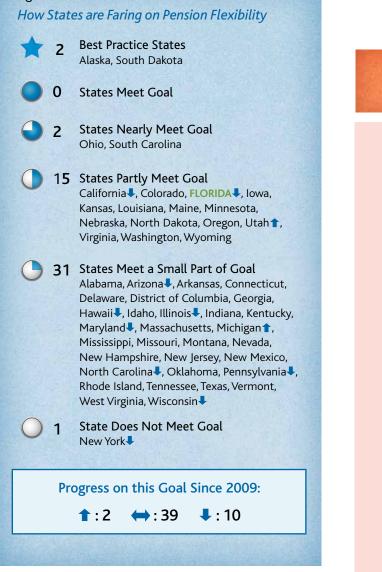
## **Goal Components**

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

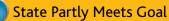
- Participants in the state's pension system should have the option of a fully portable pension system as their primary pension plan by means of a defined contribution plan or a defined benefit plan that is formatted similar to a cash balance plan.
- 2. Participants in the state's pension system should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

## Background

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



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



## Progress Since 2009

## **ANALYSIS**

Florida offers the option of defined contribution plans or defined benefit plans for all teachers. Florida provides new teachers with very informative literature describing the advantages, disadvantages and estimated benefit payouts for each type of plan. New teachers choose one plan at the time of employment and are allowed to change their plan once during their active employment. Florida teachers also participate in Social Security, so choice of retirement plans is particularly appropriate because teachers already participate in one mandatory defined benefit-style plan.

Florida's defined contribution plan is fully portable, flexible and fair to all workers.

Vesting in a defined contribution plan entitles teachers to permanent rights to their own contributions and any available employer contributions. Florida's defined contribution plan vests immediately for their own contributions and after year one for employer contributions. Teachers with at least one year of service in the defined contribution plan who choose to leave employment are fully entitled to the employers' 9 percent contribution and the applicable earnings at the time of withdraw. This is more generous than most other states and helpful to recruit teachers.

Florida's defined benefit plan is not fully portable, does not vest until year six (year eight for new teachers) and does not provide any employer contribution for teachers who withdraw their accounts. It also limits flexibility by restricting the ability to purchase years of service.

Vesting in a defined benefit plan guarantees a teacher's eligibility to receive lifetime monthly benefit payments at retirement age. Nonvested teachers do not have a right to later retirement benefits; they may only withdraw the portion of their funds allowed by the plan. Teachers in Florida hired prior to July 1, 2011, vest at six years; vesting has been raised for teachers hired after that date to year eight. Teachers who leave the system prior to these points have limited options.

Teachers in Florida's defined benefit plan leaving the system may not withdraw any employer contributions. Beginning July 1, 2011, teachers contribute 3 percent of their salary to the pension system and withdraw their own contributions with no interest. (Previously there was no employee contribution.) This means that teachers who withdraw their funds accrue fewer benefits than what they might have earned had they simply put their contributions in basic savings accounts that earned interest. 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. However, teachers leaving the state could use their one-time opportunity to switch to the defined contribution plan that provides greater portability.

Florida limits teachers' flexibility to purchase years of service within its defined benefit plan. 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. Florida's plan allows teachers to purchase time for previous teaching experience, up to five years. While better than not allowing any purchase at all, this provision disadvantages teachers who move to Florida with more teaching experience. The state's plan also allows teachers to purchase time up to two years total for all approved leaves of absence, including maternity and paternity leave.

### **Supporting Research**

Florida Retirement System Programs http://www.myfrs.com/portal/server.pt/community/frs\_programs/224

## RECOMMENDATION

## Increase the portability of its defined benefit plan.

If Florida maintains its defined benefit plan, it should allow teachers that leave the system to withdraw employer contributions. The state should also allow teachers to purchase their full amount of previous teaching experience and decrease the vesting requirement to year three. A lack of portability is a disincentive to an increasingly mobile teaching force.

## Offer a fully portable supplemental retirement savings plan.

If Florida 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.

### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The Florida Retirement System did not respond to repeated requests to review NCTQ's analyses related to teacher pensions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Figure 109		Defined benefit plan only Contribution since with	ined	DEFINED CONTINED BEAL	, ð _ / _
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Montana Nebraska					
Nevada					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio⁴					
Oklahoma					
Oregon⁵					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina <sup>6</sup>					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah <sup>7</sup>					
Vermont					
Virginia Washington <sup>8</sup>					
Washington <sup>8</sup> West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
wyonning	25	17	4	4	1
	25	17	4	4	

## 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.

Alabama

## How many years before teachers vest?

10

years

4 to 5

years

3 YEARS

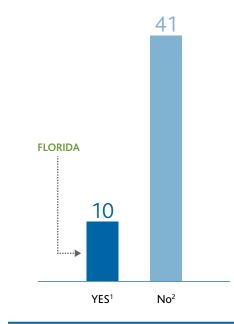
OR LESS

6 to 9

years

#### Figure 110

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



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

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

Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas				[
California				
Colorado				[
Connecticut				
Delaware <sup>1</sup>				
District of Columbia				ſ
FLORIDA <sup>2</sup>				Г
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Illinois				L.
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lowa <sup>3</sup>				L
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Nebraska				ſ
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Ohio⁴				[
Oklahoma				[
Oregon⁵				[
Pennsylvania				
Rhode Island				
South Carolina <sup>6</sup>				ſ
South Dakota				Г
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Virginia				l
Washington <sup>7</sup>				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				[
Wyoming				[
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Figure 112		,	,	,	> <3	
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Washington <sup>11</sup>						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
	4	5	34	6	1	
	•	5	2.	v	•	

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

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



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

### Figure 114

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



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

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

## Goal H – Pension Sustainability

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

## **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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



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

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

## **ANALYSIS**

As of July 1, 2010, the most recent date for which an actuarial valuation is available, Florida's teacher defined benefit pension plan is 86.59 percent funded and has an amortization period of less than 30 years. This means that if the plan earns its assumed rate of return and maintains current contribution rates, it would take the state less than 30 years to pay off its unfunded liabilities. Both levels are better than regulatory recommendations, and Florida's system is financially sustainable according to actuarial benchmarks. Further, Florida's defined contribution plan is fully funded and sustainable. Employers make mandatory payments credited to teachers' individual accounts.

Florida does not commit excessive resources toward its teachers' retirement system. The current employer contribution rate of 3.77 percent to the defined benefit plan and 6 percent to the defined contribution plan are both reasonable, in light of the fact that local districts must also contribute 6.2 percent to Social Security. The rate is determined according to statutory requirements, which mandate that the employer contribution rate must be equal to an actuarially determined rate in order to provide sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. As of July 1, 2011, all employees contribute 3 percent to the defined benefit pension system. Previously, there was no employee contribution.

### Supporting Research

Florida Retirement System Annual Report, July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010 https://www.rol.frs.state.fl.us/forms/2009-10\_Annual\_Report.pdf

### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The Florida Retirement System did not respond to repeated requests to review NCTQ's analyses related to teacher pensions.

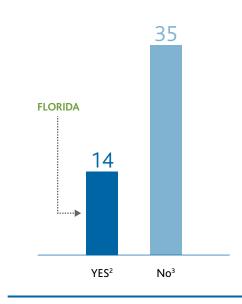
Do state pension systems meet standard benchmarks for fii

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Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	16	26

## T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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



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

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

## Figure 118 *Real Rate of Return*

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

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

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

#### Figure 119

1. Alaska has only a defined contribution pension system.

Figure 119

How well funded are state pension systems?

	Funding Level
Alaska <sup>1</sup>	N/A
District of Columbia	118.3%
Washington	116%
New York	103.2%
Wisconsin	99.8%
South Dakota	96.3%
Delaware	96%
North Carolina	95.9%
Indiana <sup>2</sup>	94.7%
Tennessee	90.6%
Wyoming	87.5%
Georgia	87.2%
FLORIDA	86.6%
Utah	85.7%
Oregon	83.2%
Texas	82.9%
Nebraska	82.4%
lowa	80.8%
Virginia	80.2%
Arizona	79%
Idaho	78.9%
Michigan	78.9%
Minnesota	78.5%
California	78%
Missouri	77.7%
Pennsylvania	75.1%
Alabama	74.7%
Arkansas	73.8%
Nevada	71.2%
North Dakota	69.8%
South Carolina	67.8%
Vermont	66.5%
Maine	65.9%
New Mexico	65.7%
Maryland	65.4%
Montana	65.4%
Colorado	64.8%
Mississippi	64.2%
Massachusetts	63%
Connecticut	61.4%
Hawaii	61.4%
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%

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

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

#### Employer contribution rate

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

## Figure 120

What is a reasonable rate for pension contributions?

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

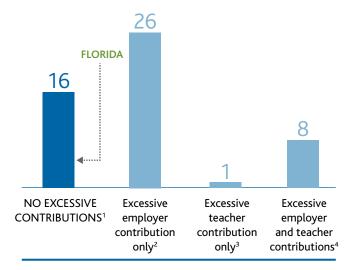
Analysts generally agree that workers in their 20's with no previous retirement savings should save, in addition to Social Security contributions, about 10-15 percent of their gross income in order to be able to live during retirement on 80 percent of the salary they were earning when they retired. While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

#### Sources:

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

- 1. The employer contribution rate includes the contributions of both school districts and state governments, where appropriate.
- 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.

# Do states require excessive contributions to their pension systems?



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

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

#### Figure 123

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

## Figure 123

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

Teacher contribution rate

leacher contribution rate						
Social Security (+6.2%)	C	)%	5%	10%	15%	20%
Alabama <sup>1</sup>	7.3					
Alaska	8					
Arizona	11.4					
Arkansas	6					
California	8	_				
Colorado	8					
Connecticut	7.3			-		
Delaware <sup>1</sup>	3					
District of Columbia	8					
FLORIDA	3					
Georgia <sup>1</sup>	5.5					
Hawaii <sup>1</sup>	6					
Idaho	6.2					
Illinois	9.4					
Indiana	3					
lowa	5.4					
Kansas	6					
Kentucky	10.9	-				
Louisiana	8					
Maine	7.7					
Maryland	7					
Massachusetts	11					
Michigan <sup>2</sup>	11.4					
Minnesota <sup>1</sup>	6					
Mississippi	9					
Missouri	14.5					
Montana	7.2					
Nebraska <sup>3</sup>	8.8					
Nevada <sup>4</sup>	11.9					
New Hampshire	7					
New Jersey <sup>1</sup>	6.5					
New Mexico	11.2					
New York	3.5					
North Carolina	6					
North Dakota <sup>1</sup>	7.8					
Ohio	10					
Oklahoma	7					
Oregon	6					
Pennsylvania⁵	7.5					
Rhode Island	9.5					
South Carolina	6.5					
South Dakota	6					
Tennessee	5					
Texas	6.4					
Utah <sup>6</sup>	0					
Vermont	5					
Virginia	5					
Washington <sup>7</sup>	4.8					
West Virginia	6					
Wisconsin	6.2					
Wyoming	7					

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

## Goal I – Pension Neutrality

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

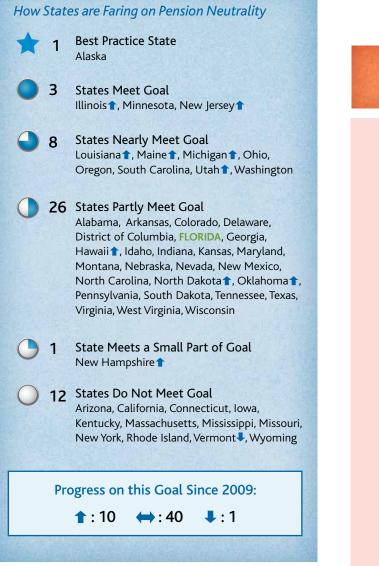
## **Goal Components**

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

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

## Background

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



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

## State Partly Meets Goal 🛛 🜔 Progress Since 2009

## ANALYSIS

Florida is commended for offering a defined contribution plan that is neutral, allowing teachers' pension wealth to increase in a uniform way.

However, Florida's defined benefit 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 in a defined benefit plan 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.

Florida's defined benefit pension plan does not utilize a constant benefit multiplier. Instead, the state's multiplier is constant at 1.6 percent for retirement with 30 years of service or at age 62, and then it increases .02 percent to .03 percent for each succeeding year up to a maximum of 1.68 percent for retirement with 33 years of service or at age 65.

In addition, teachers in the defined benefit pension plan may retire before standard retirement age based on years of service without a reduction in benefits. Teachers enrolled by July 1, 2011, with 30 years of service may retire at any age, while other vested teachers with less than 30 years of service may not retire until age 62. Therefore, teachers who begin their careers at age 22 can reach 30 years of service by age 52, entitling them to 10 additional years of unreduced retirement benefits beyond what other teachers would receive who may not retire until age 62. Teachers enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, with 33 years of service may retire at any age—and those who begin their careers at age 22 can retire at age 55—while other vested teachers with less than 30 years of service may not retire until age 65. Not only are some of these teachers being paid benefits by the state well before Social Security's retirement age, but also these provisions may encourage effective teachers to retire early, and they fail to treat equally those teachers who enter the system at a later age and give the same amount of service.

### Supporting Research

Florida Retirement System Programs http://www.myfrs.com/portal/server.pt/community/frs\_programs/224

### RECOMMENDATION

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

Each year of service should accrue equal pension wealth. Florida's defined benefit pension plan should use a pension formula that treats each year of service equally.

## End retirement eligibility based on years of service.

Florida should change its defined benefit pension plan's practice of allowing teachers with 30 years of service to retire at any age with full benefits. If retirement at an earlier age is offered to some teachers, benefits should be reduced accordingly to compensate for the longer duration they will be awarded.

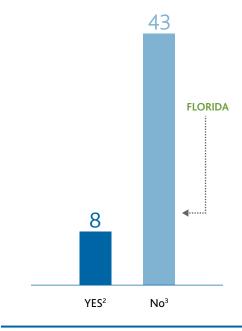
### Align eligibility for retirement with unreduced benefits with Social Security retirement age.

Florida allows all teachers in its defined benefit plan 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).

### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The Florida Retirement System did not respond to repeated requests to review NCTQ's analyses related to teacher pensions.

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

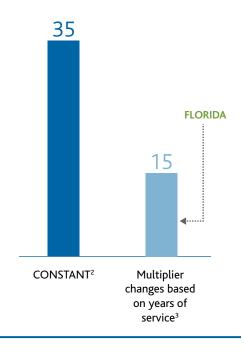
- 1. All calculations are based on a teacher who starts teaching at age 22, earns a starting salary of \$35,000 that increases 3 percent per year, and retires at the age s/he is first eligible for unreduced benefits. The calculations use states' current benefit formulas and do not include cost of living 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	paio of	thai s
How much do states	<sup>5</sup> Total amount in benefits Paid per teacher from the benefits Paid tetriement until age 65 or of	29 Earliest retirement areaching at reaching at a seaching who started that receive timeduced benefits
pay for each teacher	in be, n the Be 6	star star 22, 22, 22, 22,
that retires with	Punt, Fron Intil	t age
unreduced benefits at	l am ache, ient u	liest acher ing a unr,
an early age? <sup>1</sup>	Tota er te tiren,	Earr a te each, ceive
	ସ ହିଁ	t Te
Alaska <sup>2</sup>	4.0	
Illinois	ΨŪ	07
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 California⁴	\$289,187	60
	\$310,028	62
Indiana	\$317,728	55
Hawaii⁵ Kansas	\$337,385	60
	\$337,385	60
Oregon	\$361,536	58
North Dakota Oklahoma	\$385,583	60
	\$385,583	60
Maryland Wisconsin	\$413,808	56
Rhode Island	\$416,007	57
New York	\$430,013	59
Texas	\$440,819	57
South Dakota	\$443,421	60
Virginia	\$447,707 \$468,982	55
Louisiana		56
FLORIDA	\$481,979	60
Vermont	\$485,257 \$486,832	55
Montana	\$518,228	56
Connecticut	\$520,009	47
Utah	\$520,009	57
lowa	\$551,428	57 55
Idaho	\$551,743	
North Carolina	\$568,555	56 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	\$780,983 \$789,343	51
Kentucky	\$791,679	49
	1.01,015	

P.

at 1

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



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

## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Goal A – Licensure Loopholes

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

### Figure 129



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



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Florida allows new teachers who have not passed required state licensing tests to teach for up to three years on a temporary certificate. Although the state requires teachers to pass its general knowledge test in the first year of teaching, it allows teachers to practice for up to three years without passing its required content test.

Supporting Research

Florida Statutes 1012.56 Florida Department of Education Certificate Types and Requirements http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/cert\_types.asp

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

#### Limit exceptions to one year.

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

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that a bachelor's degree or equivalent is required in the subject area to earn a Temporary Certificate.

	Figure 131	
	How long can new teachers practice without passing	
	licensing tests?	
OF BEST PRACTICE		ć
ississippi, and New Jersey require		
pass all required subject-matter	Alabama	
of initial licensure.	Alaska	
	Arizona	
	Arkansas	
	California	
rd emergency licenses? <sup>1</sup>	Colorado	
	Connecticut	
ergency	Delaware	
enses <sup>2</sup>	District of Columbia	
Renewable	FLORIDA	
emergency or	Georgia	
provisional licenses <sup>3</sup>	Hawaii	
	Idaho	
1	Illinois	
12/	Indiana	
	lowa <sup>1</sup>	
	Kansas	
	Kentucky	
	Louisiana	
	Maine	
ENCY OR	Maryland	
L LICENSES <sup>4</sup>	Massachusetts	
	Michigan	
	Minnesota	
na and Nebraska, which do not require subject	Mississippi	
	Missouri	
s, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District rgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland,	Montana <sup>2</sup>	
npshire, New York, North Carolina,	Nebraska <sup>3</sup>	
lahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, a, Wyoming	Nevada	
ouisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota,	New Hampshire	
buth Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin	New Jersey	
Illinois, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey,	New Mexico	
ina, Utah, Virginia	New York	
only if licensure tests are passed.	North Carolina	
	North Dakota	
	Ohio	
	Oklahoma	
	Oregon	
	Pennsylvania	
	Rhode Island	
	South Carolina	
	South Dakota	
	Tennessee	

<sup>3</sup> years or more (or unspecified) O DEFERRAL Up to 2 years Up to 1 year  $\square$  $\square$  $\square$  $\square$  $\square$  $\square$ Tennessee Texas Utah⁴ Vermont Virginia Washington  $\square$ West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming<sup>5</sup> 9 14 8 18

#### Figure 131

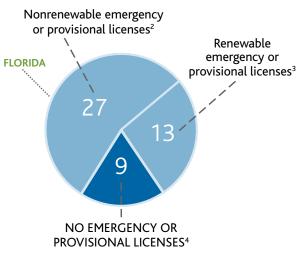
- 1. Iowa only requires subject-matter testing for elementary teachers.
- 2. Montana does not require subject-matter testing.
- 3. Nebraska does not require subject-matter testing.
- 4. There is a potential loophole in Utah, as alternate route teachers appear able to delay passage of subject-matter tests.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

### T EXAMPLES C

Colorado, Illinois, Mi all new teachers to tests as a condition o

#### Figure 130

### Do states still awar



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

# 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.

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



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

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

Florida requires local districts to place teachers who receive an unsatisfactory evaluation on an improvement plan. If a teacher does not successfully correct the identified deficiencies, he or she is formally eligible for dismissal at the district superintendent's discretion.

Supporting Research Florida Statute Title XLVIII 1012.34 SB 736

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

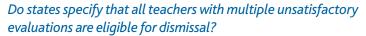
		EUCREE FOR DISMISSAL AFTER	- 1	1
Figure 133	MAPROVENENT PLAN AFTER	AFTE		No articulated consequences
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Virginia Washington				
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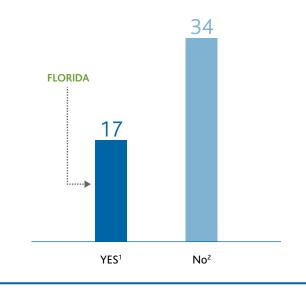
- Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- While results of evaluations may be used in dismissal decisions, there are no specific criteria for a teacher's eligibility for dismissal.
- Improvement plans are only used for teachers in identified "Schools At Risk." Those same teachers are also eligible for dismissal for multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal.
- 5. Teachers in low performing schools can be dismissed after one negative rating.
- Local school boards must include procedures for using evaluation results for the removal of poorly performing teachers.

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 134





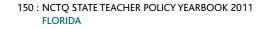
- 1. Strong Practice: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington
- 2. Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho<sup>3</sup>, Iowa,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

## Goal C – Dismissal for Poor Performance

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

#### **Goal Components** Figure 135 (The factors considered in determining the states' How States are Faring in Dismissal for Poor rating for the goal.) Performance 1. The state should articulate that teachers **Best Practice State** may be dismissed for ineffective classroom Oklahoma performance. 2. A teacher who is terminated for poor 2 States Meet Goal performance should have an opportunity to FLORIDA<sup>1</sup>, Indiana<sup>1</sup> appeal. In the interest of both the teacher and the school district, the state should States Nearly Meet Goal 6 ensure that this appeal occurs within a Colorado<sup>1</sup>, Illinois<sup>1</sup>, Michigan<sup>1</sup>, New York<sup>1</sup>, Rhode Island 1. Tennessee 1 reasonable time frame. 3. There should be a clear distinction between States Partly Meet Goal 8 the process and accompanying due process Arizona<sup>1</sup>, Delaware<sup>1</sup>, Hawaii<sup>1</sup>, rights for teachers dismissed for classroom Massachusetts 1, Nevada 1, Ohio 1, Wisconsin, Wyoming ineffectiveness and the process and accompanying due process rights for teachers States Meet a Small Part of Goal dismissed or facing license revocation for felony Louisiana, New Hampshire, Virginia, or morality violations or dereliction of duties. West Virginia 30 States Do Not Meet Goal Background Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, A detailed rationale and supporting research for Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy. Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington Progress on this Goal Since 2009: 1:16 ↔:35 4:0





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

State Meets Goal

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

New legislation in Florida ensures that teacher ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal. All new teachers will be placed on annual contracts (see Goal 3-D), and the state requires that such contracts are not renewed if a teacher's performance is unsatisfactory. An annual contract may not be awarded if the teacher has received "two consecutive annual performance evaluation ratings of unsatisfactory, two annual performance ratings of unsatisfactory within a three-year period, or three consecutive annual performance evaluation ratings of needs improvement or a combination of needs improvement and unsatisfactory."

The state also distinguishes the due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance as determined by annual performance evaluations from those facing other charges commonly associated with license revocation such as a felony and/or morality violations.

A teacher dismissed for "just cause," which includes "immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency, gross insubordination, willful neglect of duty, and being convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea of guilty to, regardless of adjudication of guilt, any crime involving moral turpitude" is entitled to more than one appeal. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher may file an appeal within 15 days. The hearing must then take place within 60 days. A teacher then has 30 days to appeal the district school board's decision for judicial review.

In contrast, a teacher may contest his or her performance evaluation rating by requesting a hearing with the district school board, and the hearing must take place within 60 days. The district school board's decision is final.

#### Supporting Research

SB 736; Florida Statutes Title XLVIII, Chapter 1012.33 (3) and Title X, Chapter 120.68

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

#### Figure 136

Do states articulate that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal?

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New York				
North Carolina				
North Dakota				
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Pennsylvania				
Rhode Island				
South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee				
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia			3	
Washington				
West Virginia			3	
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				
	9	13	38	

#### 152 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 FLORIDA

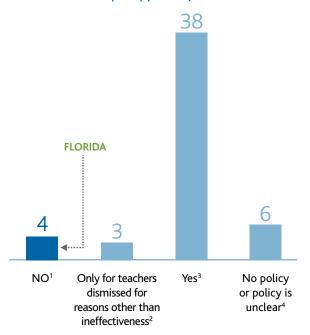
### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 137

POLICY

Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



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

- 2. Teachers in these states revert to probationary status following ineffective evaluation ratings, meaning that they no longer have the due process right to multiple appeals: Colorado, Indiana, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois<sup>5</sup>, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississispi, 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.

#### Figure 136

1. It is left to districts to define "inadequacy of classroom performance."

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



### Goal D – Reductions in Force

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

#### **Goal Components**

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

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

#### Background

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

### Figure 138



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

Best Practice State

Progress Since 2009

#### ANALYSIS

In Florida, new legislation requires that teacher performance be a factor in determining which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force. In addition, the state ensures that seniority is not the sole factor in determining which teachers are laid off. Employees with the lowest performance evaluations are the first to be released, and school districts "may not prioritize retention of employees based upon seniority."

#### Supporting Research

Florida Statutes Title XLVIII, Chapter 1012.33 (5) http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2011/736

#### FLORIDA RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Florida recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.





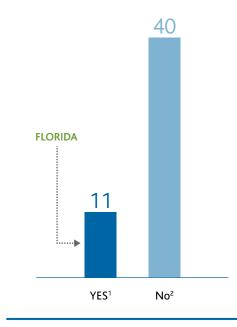
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New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico		
New York		
North Carolina		
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Oklahoma		
Oregon		
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Tennessee		
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Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
	11	17

### T EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

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

#### Figure 140

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



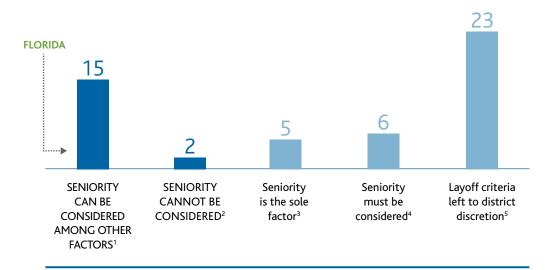
1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah

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

3. Tenure is considered first.

### 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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