

# National Summary

Are New Teachers Being  
Prepared for College- and  
Career-Readiness Standards?

## 2014 State Teacher Policy Yearbook



National Council on Teacher Quality

## 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. Although this year's edition did not require the extensive review that comprehensive editions require, we still wanted to make sure that we captured all relevant policy changes and that states' perspectives were represented. Every state formally received a draft of the policy updates we identified in June 2014 as well as a draft of analyses and recommendations for the new indicators related to college- and career-readiness standards for comment and correction. States also received a final draft of their reports a month prior to release. All but two states responded to our inquiries. While states do not always agree with our recommendations, their willingness to engage in dialogue, explain their differing points of view and often acknowledge the imperfections of their teacher policies are important steps in moving forward.

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# Executive Summary

Since most states adopted college- and career-readiness standards, about one million new teachers have graduated from teacher preparation programs in the United States. With five years lead time on incorporating new standards into policy and practice, this year NCTQ has expanded its policy analysis to examine the extent to which states have aligned their requirements for teacher preparation and licensure with the skills needed to prepare students for college and careers. The 2014 *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* focuses on state efforts to deliver well-prepared teachers into the profession by:

- Establishing high standards for admission into teacher preparation programs
- Ensuring that teacher candidates have rigorous content knowledge of the subjects they will teach
- Explicitly requiring teacher preparation programs to address the instructional shifts required by college- and career-readiness standards
- Holding teacher preparation institutions accountable for the quality of teachers they produce.

## Key Findings

▶ **No state received a “green light” for its state policies to deliver teachers into the classroom well prepared to help their students achieve at the high level demanded by college- and career-readiness standards.**

While NCTQ identified five states – **Indiana, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island** and **Texas** – ahead of the pack on the road to high-quality teacher preparation and licensure, many more states are going nowhere when it comes to paving the way for new K-12 teachers in their states to help students meet more ambitious college- and career-readiness standards.

▶ **With a few important exceptions, most states’ teacher policies aren’t explicit about preparing teachers for college- and career-readiness standards.**

A discouraging sign indeed was that not many states have made any significant changes to their standards for new teachers in recent years. With such a profound change occurring in K-12 standards, it would stand to reason that parallel changes would occur in teacher standards.

▶ **State content knowledge requirements for prospective teachers have improved in recent years, but just aren’t ambitious enough to meet the demands of college- and career-readiness standards.**

The failure of states to require new teachers, without loophole or exception, to demonstrate knowledge of the subjects they will be licensed to teach may be the biggest impediment to helping students meet college- and career-readiness standards.



*How well are states ensuring that new teachers are prepared for college- and career-readiness standards?*



## Key Findings Continued

- ▶ **The preparation needs of special education teachers continues to be a largely neglected area, with the introduction of more challenging academic standards having little to no impact on requirements for teachers who educate special education students.**

For as long as NCTQ has been tracking special education teacher policy, states have overwhelmingly set a lower bar for licensing of new special education teachers.

- ▶ **In 2014, more states than ever are poised to become more selective about admission to teacher preparation programs – that is, if accreditors do what they promise.**

Although this is good news, there is a degree of uncertainty about whether new accreditation standards will lead to higher admission standards for teacher preparation programs. Clear state policy would eliminate this uncertainty and send an unequivocal message to programs about the state's expectations.

- ▶ **More states are collecting better data and information about the quality of teacher prep programs but this transparency is of limited value without a link to accountability.**

Despite years of promises, no state has yet implemented a full accountability system for teacher preparation that features program performance data, student achievement gains for students of program graduates, clear minimum standards for program performance and a mechanism for publishing results to inform prospective teachers about program quality and school districts looking to hire new teachers.

- ▶ **Looking at NCTQ's traditional *Yearbook* metrics, the average state grade for teacher preparation in 2014 is a solid C.**

Compared to a dismal D in 2011, the improvement reflects real progress, but as states are poised to administer new college- and career-readiness assessments to students, these mediocre grades simply aren't good enough.

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As college- and career-readiness standards become the basis for new student assessments as well as future evaluations of teacher effectiveness, states need to ensure that teachers are adequately supported in the transition and beyond. And there is no better place to start than where new teachers begin to learn their craft – teacher preparation programs.

# Teacher Preparation National Summary

## 2014 STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK: ARE NEW TEACHERS BEING PREPARED FOR COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS?

It has been five years since 43 states and the District of Columbia adopted Common Core State Standards, a major effort to significantly raise the expectations for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness. While the politics surrounding the Common Core has become a distraction in many states, few in the debate seriously disagree that American public education needs to set its sights higher in a technology-driven, fast-changing world where almost any skilled job now requires young people to be able to adapt to a changing environment, learn quickly, and have a capacity for problem solving and critical thinking.

The purpose of this report is not to weigh in on the political debate about how college- and career-readiness standards were adopted or to assess the merits of individual academic standards. The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) supports efforts to raise expectations for our nation's K-12 students, but we also recognize that there is a pressing issue that hasn't received the attention it deserves: Are new teachers being prepared to help students meet the expectations of higher academic standards?

Since most states raised their K-12 standards, about one million new teachers have graduated from teacher preparation programs in the United States. With five years lead time on incorporating new standards into policy and practice, this year NCTQ has expanded its policy analysis to examine the extent to which states have aligned their requirements for teacher preparation and licensure with the skills needed to prepare students for college and careers. We know that teacher prep doesn't change quickly or easily, but without states establishing a clear framework for what is needed, programs are left to their own interpretations and devices with little consistency in how well they prepare future teachers.

This 2014 *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* focuses on state efforts to deliver well-prepared teachers into the profession by:

- Establishing high standards for admission into teacher preparation programs
- Ensuring that teacher candidates have rigorous content knowledge of the subjects they will teach
- Explicitly requiring teacher preparation programs to address the instructional shifts required by college- and career-readiness standards
- Holding teacher preparation institutions accountable for the quality of teachers they produce.

*One million new teaching candidates have graduated from teacher preparation institutions in the United States in the five years since states adopted college- and career-ready standards. How ready are they to help students meet new academic standards?*

## NO STATE RECEIVED A “GREEN LIGHT” FOR ITS POLICIES TO DELIVER TEACHERS INTO THE CLASSROOM WELL PREPARED TO HELP THEIR STUDENTS ACHIEVE AT THE HIGH LEVEL DEMANDED BY COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS.

From setting criteria for admitting prospective teacher candidates into preparation programs to articulating requirements for teacher licensing, state policy is absolutely critical to moving teachers down the road toward success in the classroom.

In the 2014 *Yearbook*, none of the states earned a “green light” for how well it addresses the need to prepare new teachers for college- and career-readiness standards. Five states – **Indiana, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island** and **Texas** – are on the right track and ahead of the pack on the road to high-quality teacher preparation and licensure. The overall collections of teacher preparation policies in these five states include important efforts to incorporate college- and career-readiness standards into state requirements for teacher training while also setting higher expectations for admission to teacher prep programs and demanding that teacher candidates demonstrate their knowledge of the subjects they will be licensed to teach.

Seven states – **Alaska, Arizona, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota** and **Wyoming** – earn “red lights” for the whole of their collection of state teacher preparation policies. These states have done little to lay out a policy framework for shaping the teaching profession. In traffic-light-speak, these states are going nowhere when it comes to paving the way for K-12 teachers to help students meet more ambitious college- and career-readiness standards.



*How well are states ensuring that new teachers are prepared for college- and career-readiness standards?*



## WITH A FEW IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS, MOST STATES’ TEACHER POLICIES AREN’T EXPLICIT ABOUT GETTING TEACHERS READY FOR COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS.

Embedded in college and career-readiness standards across the nation are some important assumptions about the kinds of skills that must be cultivated in students as they move through school.

Some of the most important principles are not surprisingly focused on literacy. Meeting the demands of college- and career-level reading by the end of high school is critical. As a result, college- and career-readiness standards emphasize the need for students to be able to digest and understand complex informational text. The standards also are unambiguous about the importance of teaching literacy

across subjects and content areas. The idea that reading or English classes are the only places where vocabulary, word meanings, and comprehension are taught, in isolation, is no longer accepted. In the context of college- and career-readiness standards, teachers of all grade levels in all core subjects are understood to be teachers of literacy, and therefore must be prepared with strategies for incorporating literacy into their classrooms as well as with skills to help struggling readers.

For 2014, NCTQ closely examined states' teacher standards and licensing test frameworks to see whether states have embedded any of the instructional shifts into the expectations they've set for incoming teachers who will be teaching to these standards. Many states have vague statements generally articulating that teachers are required to be able to teach to their K-12 standards, whatever those standards may be. But for this *Yearbook*, NCTQ examined state policy with an eye for more explicit attention to preparing teachers for the ways that college- and career-readiness standards affect instruction in all subject areas. These include ensuring that all new teachers are prepared for the demands of cross-disciplinary literacy, use complex informational texts, and know how to help struggling readers.

A discouraging sign indeed was that not many states have made *any* significant changes to their requirements for new teachers in the last few years. With such a profound change occurring in K-12 student standards, it would stand to reason that parallel changes would occur on the teacher side. In a few states (e.g., Minnesota, Massachusetts) one could argue that higher than average student standards already existed, but those are surely the exceptions. In fact, we found that very few states have made changes to their standards for new teachers. We did see more changes in testing frameworks as the large commercial providers have moved to better align teacher licensing tests with college- and career-readiness standards, but even these efforts leave considerable room for improvement.

*When it comes to requirements for new teachers to demonstrate knowledge of the subjects they will be licensed to teach, the landscape has not changed dramatically, and that may be the biggest impediment to meeting college- and career-readiness standards.*

Yet we did find some promising efforts. At the elementary level, states such as **Arkansas** and **California** stand out. Arkansas has thoughtfully rewritten its competencies for teachers to articulate the important role of informational text in the elementary classroom, while California's Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) licensure test measures elementary teachers' knowledge and skills related to these key instructional shifts. Arkansas and California are also among the 20 states that explicitly require elementary teachers to have knowledge of intervention strategies for struggling readers.

**Illinois** is a standout at the middle school level. The state's new standards for middle school teachers articulate in great detail the skills new teachers need for the classroom. Teachers of all subjects are expected to incorporate close reading of complex, challenging text, with clear articulation of the purposes of and strategies for supporting students. **Arkansas** is the only other state that clearly specifies the use of complex information text by middle school teachers, while **Indiana, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania** and **Texas** are the only states besides Illinois and Arkansas to detail the ways literacy skills must be incorporated across all subject areas.

Finally, at the high school level, **Arkansas** has probably done more than any other state to drive teacher policy to ensure that secondary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards by explicitly requiring teachers to incorporate literacy into all subject areas. The state's history, social studies, life science and physical science certification requirements include a competency in "disciplinary literacy." Secondary social studies teachers, for example, must be ready to help their students "read informational texts in history and social studies closely and critically to analyze the key ideas and details as well as craft and structure with the purpose of integrating knowledge and ideas both within and across texts...."

Figure A

Are states ensuring that new teachers are prepared for the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards?

	ELEMENTARY			MIDDLE			SECONDARY		
	USE OF INFORMATIONAL TEXT	INCORPORATING LITERACY SKILLS INTO ALL SUBJECTS	SUPPORTING STRUGGLING READERS	USE OF INFORMATIONAL TEXT	INCORPORATING LITERACY SKILLS INTO ALL SUBJECTS	SUPPORTING STRUGGLING READERS	USE OF INFORMATIONAL TEXT	INCORPORATING LITERACY SKILLS INTO ALL SUBJECTS	SUPPORTING STRUGGLING READERS
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
California	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Fully addresses instructional component  Partially addresses instructional component

Each of these state efforts highlights the opportunities all states have to articulate expectations for teachers that are aligned with college- and career readiness standards. But as our analysis shows, states have a long way to go. Only nine states – **Arkansas, California, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania** and **Texas** – fully address cross-disciplinary literacy for at least one grade span (elementary, middle or secondary). And no state addresses each of the instructional components across the board for elementary, middle and secondary teachers. (See Figure A.)

### STATE CONTENT KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS HAVE IMPROVED IN RECENT YEARS, BUT THEY JUST AREN'T AMBITIOUS ENOUGH TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS.

The demands of college- and career-readiness standards only heighten the need for teachers to have a strong content background in all of the subjects they teach. NCTQ has for years documented shortcomings in states' basic requirements for what subject-matter knowledge prospective teachers must demonstrate to become licensed educators. While there have been some important improvements, teachers' insufficient content knowledge will be an enormous impediment to students meeting college- and career-readiness standards.

Figure B

1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.
2. Massachusetts and North Carolina require a general curriculum test that does not report scores for each elementary subject. A separate score is reported for math.
3. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass a content test in Ohio.

Figure B

*Do states ensure that elementary teachers know core content?*

	ELEMENTARY CONTENT TEST WITH SEPARATE PASSING SCORE FOR EACH SUBJECT	Elementary content test with separate passing score for some subjects	Elementary content test with composite score	No test required
Alabama	■	□	□	□
Alaska	□	□	□	■ <sup>1</sup>
Arizona	□	■	□	□
Arkansas	■	□	□	□
California	□	■	□	□
Colorado	□	□	■	□
Connecticut	■	□	□	□
Delaware	■	□	□	□
District of Columbia	■	□	□	□
Florida	■	□	□	□
Georgia	□	■	□	□
Hawaii	□	□	□	■
Idaho	■	□	□	□
Illinois	□	□	■	□
Indiana	■	□	□	□
Iowa	□	□	■	□
Kansas	□	□	■	□
Kentucky	■	□	□	□
Louisiana	□	□	■	□
Maine	■	□	□	□
Maryland	□	□	■	□
Massachusetts	□	□	■ <sup>2</sup>	□
Michigan	□	□	■	□
Minnesota	□	■	□	□
Mississippi	□	□	■	□
Missouri	■	□	□	□
Montana	□	□	□	■
Nebraska	□	□	■	□
Nevada	□	□	■	□
New Hampshire	■	□	□	□
New Jersey	■	□	□	□
New Mexico	□	□	■	□
New York	□	■	□	□
North Carolina	□	□	■ <sup>2</sup>	□
North Dakota	□	□	■	□
Ohio	□	□	□	■ <sup>3</sup>
Oklahoma	□	■	□	□
Oregon	□	■	□	□
Pennsylvania	□	■	□	□
Rhode Island	■	□	□	□
South Carolina	■	□	□	□
South Dakota	□	□	■	□
Tennessee	□	□	■	□
Texas	■	□	□	□
Utah	■	□	□	□
Vermont	■	□	□	□
Virginia	■	□	□	□
Washington	□	■	□	□
West Virginia	■	□	□	□
Wisconsin	□	□	■	□
Wyoming	■	□	□	□
	21	9	17	4

- In 2014, 21 states require elementary teaching candidates to pass a content test in each of the four core subject areas. This is an improvement considering that just five years ago not a single state required teachers to demonstrate adequate knowledge in all core subjects as a condition of licensing.

In large part the improvement comes as numerous states have now begun to require teachers to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test to become licensed. Because the test reports separate subscores in each subject area, states have the ability to ensure that elementary teachers have mastered all specific subject areas tested rather than simply obtain an overall passing score. States with their own tests have similarly been moving to require a passing score in each major subject area.

Despite the progress it is still staggering to consider that more than half the states do not have an adequate mechanism for ensuring that prospective teachers have mastered all core content before receiving their licenses. Four states – **Alaska, Hawaii, Montana** and **Ohio** – do not require all elementary teachers to pass any content tests.

- In 2014, 18 states require elementary teachers to demonstrate their knowledge of the science of reading. This has been another important area of progress over the time NCTQ has tracked state policy. In 2007, NCTQ identified just four states that required an adequate assessment of the science of reading as part of teacher licensing. Despite this notable progress, the majority of states still do not assess whether new elementary teachers know how to teach young children to read.

Figure C

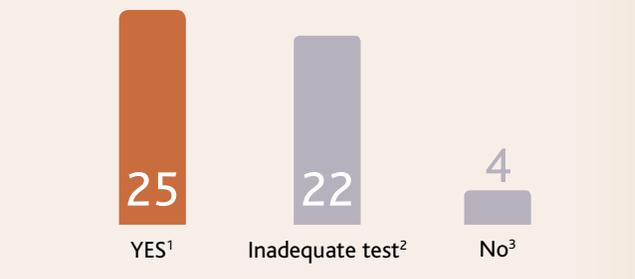
*Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?*



1. **Strong Practice:** Alabama, California<sup>4</sup>, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
2. Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming
3. Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota
4. California allows an exemption from the state's reading test for teachers who already have a single subject credential.
5. Teachers have until their second year to pass the reading test.

Figure D

*Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?*



1. **Strong Practice:** Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
2. Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin
3. Alaska<sup>4</sup>, Hawaii, Montana, Ohio<sup>5</sup>
4. Testing is not required for initial licensure.
5. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass an adequate content test.

In 2013 NCTQ began tracking whether teachers with early childhood licenses who teach in the elementary grades (K-3) must meet the same or equivalent requirements as other elementary-licensed teachers in the state.

■ For 2014, of the 38 states where teachers can teach elementary school grades on an early childhood license, only six require early childhood teachers to pass a content test in every subject they will teach, and only 13 require a test of the science of reading. Just nine states – **Connecticut, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin** – require any teacher in elementary school, including both early childhood educators licensed to teach in grades K-3 as well as special education teachers, to pass a test of the science of reading.

■ Twenty-five states now adequately measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math, up from 11 states in 2012. This improvement, again, comes largely because of the adoption of the Praxis II Multiple Subjects test in many states.

Until recently, **Massachusetts** was the only state NCTQ credited with having an adequate math test for elementary teachers. The state-designed MTEL mathematics subtest continues to set the standard for states by challenging candidates' understanding of underlying math concepts.

Figure E

1. These states do not offer a standalone early childhood certification that includes elementary grades or the state's early childhood certification is the de facto license to teach elementary grades.
2. Early childhood candidates may pass either multiple subjects (subscores) or content knowledge (no subscores) test.

Figure E

*What do states require of early childhood teachers who teach elementary grades?*

	CONTENT TEST WITH SUBSCORES FOR EACH SUBJECT	ADEQUATE SCIENCE OF READING TEST
Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alaska <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Georgia <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michigan <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6

13

Figure F

*Do states distinguish middle grade preparation from elementary preparation?*

	K-8 LICENSE NOT OFFERED	K-8 license offered for self-contained classrooms	K-8 license offered
Alabama	■	□	□
Alaska	□	□	■
Arizona	□	□	■ <sup>1</sup>
Arkansas	■	□	□
California	□	■ <sup>2</sup>	□
Colorado	■	□	□
Connecticut	■	□	□
Delaware	■	□	□
District of Columbia	■	□	□
Florida	■	□	□
Georgia	■	□	□
Hawaii	■	□	□
Idaho	□	□	■
Illinois	■	□	□
Indiana	■	□	□
Iowa	■	□	□
Kansas	■	□	□
Kentucky	■	□	□
Louisiana	■	□	□
Maine	□	□	■
Maryland	■	□	□
Massachusetts	■	□	□
Michigan	□	■	□
Minnesota	□	■	□
Mississippi	■	□	□
Missouri	■	□	□
Montana	□	□	■
Nebraska	□	■	□
Nevada	□	□	■
New Hampshire	□	□	■
New Jersey	■	□	□
New Mexico	□	□	■
New York	■	□	□
North Carolina	■	□	□
North Dakota	□	□	■ <sup>1</sup>
Ohio	■	□	□
Oklahoma	□	□	■ <sup>3</sup>
Oregon	□	□	■ <sup>4</sup>
Pennsylvania	■	□	□
Rhode Island	■	□	□
South Carolina	■	□	□
South Dakota	□	□	■
Tennessee	■	□	□
Texas	■	□	□
Utah	□	■	□
Vermont	■	□	□
Virginia	■	□	□
Washington	□	□	■
West Virginia	■	□	□
Wisconsin	□	□	■ <sup>1</sup>
Wyoming	■	□	□
	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>

Unfortunately, there has been little recent movement at the middle school level, despite the introduction of college- and career-readiness standards.

- Fourteen states issue a K-8 teaching license, and five more allow this license in some circumstances. Teachers with a K-8 license are less likely to be adequately prepared to teach core academic areas at the middle school level because their preparation requirements are not specific to the middle or secondary levels, which is different and more advanced than elementary preparation.
- Not surprisingly, none of the states that offer the broad generalist K-8 license requires teachers to pass middle school level content tests in every subject to be taught, even though these teachers can teach in the middle school setting. Nine other states also fail to measure whether middle school teachers know the content they are licensed to teach.

States such as **Georgia, Mississippi, New Jersey** and **South Carolina** have set some best practice examples at the middle school level. None of these states allows a K-8 teaching license and all require passing scores on subject-specific content tests.

Figure F

1. Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.
2. Candidates teaching multiple subjects only have to pass the elementary test. Single-subject credential does not require content test.
3. For K-8 license, Idaho also requires one single-subject test.
4. Illinois requires candidates to take a middle level core content test if a test is available. It is not clear that this will result in teachers passing a test in each subject and draft test frameworks are not yet available for review.
5. Maryland allows elementary teachers to teach in departmentalized middle schools if not less than 50 percent of the teaching assignment is within the elementary grades.
6. New Hampshire requires K-8 candidates to pass a middle school content test in one core area.
7. For nondepartmentalized classrooms, generalist in middle childhood education candidates must pass the new assessment with three subtests.
8. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.

- At the secondary school level only five states (up from three in 2012) – **Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota and Tennessee** – require secondary level teachers to pass a test in each and every subject they will be licensed to teach in high school, without any loopholes for subjects such as science or social studies.
- In the meantime most states have big loopholes in their secondary licenses. A full 36 states offer a general science license that allows teachers to teach areas such as chemistry or physics without assurance that they know that highly specialized content and 44 states offer a similar license for general social studies.

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



1. **Strong Practice:** Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, Tennessee
2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>4</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin [For more on loopholes, see Figure 15 (science) and Figure 16 (social studies).]
3. Alaska<sup>5</sup>, Arizona<sup>6</sup>, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, Washington, Wyoming
4. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.
5. Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.
6. Candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.

Figure H

Do states distinguish between elementary and secondary special education teachers?

	DOES NOT OFFER A K-12 CERTIFICATION	Offers K-12 and grade-specific certification(s)	Offers only a K-12 certification
Alabama	■	□	□
Alaska	□	□	■
Arizona	□	□	■
Arkansas	□	□	■
California	□	□	■
Colorado	□	■	□
Connecticut	□	□	■
Delaware	□	■	□
District of Columbia	□	■	□
Florida	□	□	■
Georgia	□	■	□
Hawaii	□	■	□
Idaho	□	■	□
Illinois	□	□	■
Indiana	□	■	□
Iowa	■	□	□
Kansas	□	■	□
Kentucky	□	□	■
Louisiana	■	□	□
Maine	■	□	□
Maryland	■	□	□
Massachusetts	■	□	□
Michigan	□	□	■
Minnesota	□	□	■
Mississippi	□	□	■
Missouri	■ <sup>1</sup>	□	□
Montana	□	□	■
Nebraska	□	■	□
Nevada	□	□	■
New Hampshire	□	■	□
New Jersey	■ <sup>1</sup>	□	□
New Mexico	□	□	■
New York	■	□	□
North Carolina	□	□	■
North Dakota	□	□	■
Ohio	□	□	■
Oklahoma	□	□	■
Oregon	■ <sup>1</sup>	□	□
Pennsylvania	■	□	□
Rhode Island	■	□	□
South Carolina	□	□	■
South Dakota	□	■	□
Tennessee	■	□	□
Texas	□	□	■
Utah	□	□	■
Vermont	■ <sup>1</sup>	□	□
Virginia	□	□	■
Washington	□	□	■
West Virginia	■	□	□
Wisconsin	■	□	□
Wyoming	□	■	□

16 12 23

## THE PREPARATION NEEDS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS CONTINUES TO BE A LARGELY NEGLECTED AREA, WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF MORE CHALLENGING ACADEMIC STANDARDS HAVING LITTLE TO NO IMPACT ON STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHERS WHO EDUCATE SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS.

Although most special education students are expected to meet the same high college- and career-readiness standards as typical students, too many states set a lower bar for the preparation and licensure requirements of special education teachers.

There are notable exceptions. **New York**, in particular, has strong policies for preparing special education students, including requiring some of the key instructional shifts associated with the college- and career-readiness standards. New York does not allow generic K-12 special education licenses, which make no distinction about the educational requirements for special education students of any age or any grade level. New York requires elementary special education teachers to pass the same content test that general education teachers must pass. Secondary special education teachers must pass a multi subject content test that appears to be as rigorous as what is required of other secondary teachers. Both sets of tests address teacher competencies related to college- and career- readiness standards.

At the elementary level, for example, general and special education teachers alike in New York must “demonstrate knowledge of characteristics, elements, and features of a range of text types in informational text from a broad range of cultures and periods, including literary nonfiction (e.g., biographies and autobiographies), books about history, social studies, science, and the arts; and technical texts (e.g., directions, forms; information displayed in graphs, charts, maps; digital sources).”

Both elementary and secondary special education teachers in New York also are required to be able to appropri-

Figure H

1. Missouri, New Jersey, Oregon and Vermont issue a K-12 certificate, but candidates must meet discrete elementary and/or secondary requirements.

Figure 1

*Do states require all teachers of early reading to pass an adequate science of reading test?*

	Elementary teachers	Early childhood teachers	Elementary special education teachers
Alabama	■	■	□
Alaska	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Arizona	□	□	□
Arkansas	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
California	■	□ <sup>1</sup>	■
Colorado	□	□	□
Connecticut	■	■	■
Delaware	□	□	□
District of Columbia	□	□	□
Florida	■	■	□
Georgia	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Hawaii	□	□	□
Idaho	□	□	□
Illinois	□	□	□
Indiana	■	■	■
Iowa	□	□	□
Kansas	□	□	□
Kentucky	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Louisiana	□	□	□
Maine	□	□	□
Maryland	□	□	□
Massachusetts	■	■	■
Michigan	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Minnesota	■	■	□
Mississippi	■	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Missouri	□	□	□
Montana	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Nebraska	□	□	□
Nevada	□	□	□
New Hampshire	■	■	□
New Jersey	□	□	□
New Mexico	■	□	□
New York	■	■	■
North Carolina	■	□ <sup>1</sup>	■
North Dakota	□	□	□
Ohio	■	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Oklahoma	■	■	■
Oregon	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Pennsylvania	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Rhode Island	□	□	□
South Carolina	□	□	□
South Dakota	□	□	□
Tennessee	■	■	■
Texas	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Utah	□	□	□
Vermont	□	□	□
Virginia	■	■	■
Washington	□	□	□
West Virginia	■	■	■
Wisconsin	■	■	■
Wyoming	□	□	□
	18	13	11

ately select and employ strategies, activities, or interventions to address a student’s identified needs in reading.

There are a few other practices of note – but just a few in an overall bleak policy landscape. **Rhode Island** requires secondary special education teachers to hold a certification in a content area, and **Missouri** requires teachers to pass a four subject content test or a single-subject content assessment to be licensed as secondary special education teachers.

Unfortunately, for as long as NCTQ has been tracking state teacher policy, the vast majority of states have fallen woefully short on ensuring that special education teachers are well grounded in all of the subject matter they will be licensed to teach. For example:

■ **Thirty-five states still offer or exclusively grant K-12 special education teacher licenses. The policy sends an important and devastating message about special education: There is no need for any specific subject or grade level content or pedagogy knowledge for teachers of any special education student ages 5-17.**

In 2014, for the first time, NCTQ also examined whether states that commendably already require a rigorous reading exam for elementary teacher certification also require that test for elementary special education teachers. Of the 18 states that require elementary teacher candidates to pass an adequate test of the science of reading, only 11 also require special education teachers at the elementary level to pass the same test. Considering that reading difficulties are the primary reason for referrals to special education, the failure to transfer this important requirement to special education teachers is nothing short of baffling.

Because it is so especially critical for special education teachers to possess the knowledge and skills related to the science of reading, there is little excuse for **Alabama, Florida, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico** and **Ohio** (states that already have strong reading content test requirements for elementary teachers) not to require elementary special education teachers to pass the same assessments.

Figure 1  
1. These states do not offer a standalone early childhood certification that includes elementary grades or the state’s early childhood certification is the de facto license to teach elementary grades.

**IN 2014, MORE STATES THAN EVER ARE POISED TO BECOME MORE SELECTIVE ABOUT ADMISSION TO TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS – THAT IS, IF ACCREDITORS DO WHAT THEY PROMISE.**

NCTQ has repeatedly found in the *Teacher Prep Review* that too many teacher prep programs are in need of major improvement, graduating new teachers lacking the skills and content knowledge needed to succeed in the classroom.

One important way states can raise the bar on the front end is to set more ambitious admission requirements for prospective teacher candidates. According to the *Teacher Prep Review*, only 28 percent of teacher preparation programs in the United States set a high standard for admission.

The focus on the selectivity of teacher preparation programs is more pertinent than ever given the increasingly rigorous expectations of college- and career-readiness standards.

In encouraging news, last year the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) adopted new standards for the accreditation of teacher education programs in higher education institutions across the country. The standards directly address some of the recommendations NCTQ has been issuing to states for years. The CAEP standards now require that:

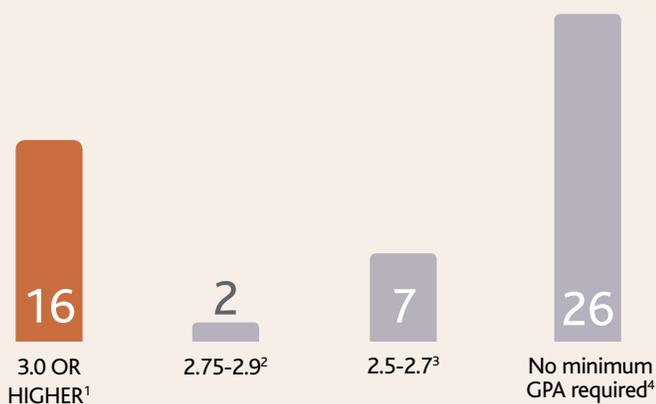
- Institutions ensure that the average grade point average of its accepted cohort of teacher prep candidates meets or exceeds a minimum of 3.0, and the group average performance on nationally normed ability/achievement assessments such as ACT, SAT, or GRE is in the top 50 percent from 2016-2017; is in the top 40 percent of the distribution from 2018-2019; and is in the top 33 percent of the distribution by 2020.

Because of the CAEP standards, more states than ever are credited with raising the bar for admission standards:

- Up from just seven states in 2013, 16 states now require a minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- Until this year only **Delaware, Rhode Island** and **Texas** required incoming education students to pass a test of academic proficiency normed to the college-going population (not only to other education students) as a condition of acceptance. In 2014, based on signing on to the CAEP accreditation standards, ten more states can claim the same.

Figure J

Do states require a minimum GPA for admission to teacher prep?



- Strong Practice:** Delaware, District of Columbia<sup>5</sup>, Georgia<sup>6</sup>, Hawaii<sup>7</sup>, Louisiana<sup>8</sup>, Michigan<sup>9</sup>, Mississippi<sup>6</sup>, New Jersey<sup>6</sup>, New York<sup>5</sup>, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, Pennsylvania<sup>9</sup>, Rhode Island, South Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Utah, Virginia<sup>5</sup>
- Kentucky, Texas
- Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut<sup>9</sup>, Florida, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin<sup>10</sup>
- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- Required minimum GPA of 3.0 is based on CAEP accreditation standards, not state's own admission policy.
- The 3.0 GPA requirement is a cohort average; individual candidates in Mississippi and New Jersey must have a 2.75 GPA. Individual candidates in Georgia must have a 2.5 GPA.
- Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission by passing a basic skills test.
- Students can also be admitted with a combination of a 2.8 GPA and qualifying scores on the basic skills test or SAT/ACT.
- Connecticut requires a B- grade point average for all undergraduate courses.
- The GPA admission requirement is 2.5 for undergraduate and 2.75 for graduate programs.

Figure K

Do states hold teacher preparation programs accountable?

OBJECTIVE PROGRAM-SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED  
MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE SET  
DATA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

State	Objective Program-Specific Data Collected	Minimum Standards for Performance Set	Data Publicly Available on Website
Alabama	■ <sup>1</sup>	■ <sup>1</sup>	□
Alaska	□	□	□
Arizona	■	□	□
Arkansas	□	□	■
California	□	□	□
Colorado	■	□	■
Connecticut	□	□	□
Delaware	■	□	■
District of Columbia	□	□	□
Florida	■	□	■ <sup>2</sup>
Georgia	■	□	□
Hawaii	□	□	□
Idaho	□	□	□
Illinois	■	□	□
Indiana	■	□	■
Iowa	■	□	□
Kansas	■	□	□
Kentucky	■	□	■ <sup>2</sup>
Louisiana	■	■	■ <sup>2</sup>
Maine	■ <sup>1</sup>	□	□
Maryland	■ <sup>3</sup>	□	□
Massachusetts	■	□	■
Michigan	■	■ <sup>1</sup>	■
Minnesota	□	□	□
Mississippi	■ <sup>1</sup>	□	□
Missouri	■	□	□
Montana	■ <sup>1</sup>	□	□
Nebraska	□	□	□
Nevada <sup>1</sup>	■	■	□
New Hampshire	■	□	□
New Jersey	■	□	□
New Mexico	□	□	□
New York	□	□	□
North Carolina	■	□	■ <sup>2</sup>
North Dakota	□	□	□
Ohio <sup>1</sup>	■	□	■
Oklahoma	□	□	■
Oregon	■	□	□
Pennsylvania	■ <sup>1</sup>	□	□
Rhode Island	■	□	■
South Carolina <sup>1</sup>	■	□	■
South Dakota	□	□	□
Tennessee	■	□	■
Texas	■	□	■
Utah	□	□	□
Vermont	■	□	□
Virginia	■ <sup>1</sup>	□	□
Washington	■	□	■
West Virginia	■ <sup>1</sup>	□	□
Wisconsin	■	□	■
Wyoming	□	□	□

35 4 18

Of course these improving numbers come with an important caveat. New CAEP accreditation standards are potentially good news for teacher prep selectivity. But NCTQ remains only cautiously optimistic until CAEP demonstrates that it will hold teacher prep programs to these accreditation standards when it makes recommendations for program approval and until states demonstrate a willingness to take action to improve or disapprove teacher prep programs that fail to meet these requirements.

This uncertainty about accreditation standards is why NCTQ encourages states to adopt their own policy establishing rigorous criteria for admission to teacher prep programs. Clear state policy would eliminate this uncertainty and send an unequivocal message to programs about the state's expectations. Commendably, states such as **Rhode Island** and **Delaware** have set higher admission standards for teacher prep programs independent of any accreditation process.

**MORE STATES ARE COLLECTING BETTER DATA AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE QUALITY OF TEACHER PREP PROGRAMS IN WAYS THAT COULD BENEFIT PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS AND EMPLOYERS. BUT THIS TRANSPARENCY IS OF LIMITED VALUE WITHOUT A LINK TO ACCOUNTABILITY.**

As teacher preparation programs operate by virtue of state approval, states have important leverage when it comes to improving teacher effectiveness. However, despite regular promises – often made to obtain Race to the Top grants and meet conditions for applying for federal education waivers – states are, for the most part, doing little or nothing to hold teacher preparation programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

Figure K  
1. For traditional preparation programs only.  
2. State does not distinguish between alternate route programs and traditional preparation programs in public reporting.  
3. For alternate routes only.

At the same time, more and more states have the capacity to collect objective meaningful data on program performance and publicly report that information. In 2014, 35 states collect objective program performance data on teacher preparation and 18 states publish teacher prep performance data. Unfortunately, states are doing little to use this transparency to improve programs:

- In 2014, just ten states – **Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Texas** – connect student achievement data to teacher preparation programs.
- A mere four states – **Alabama, Louisiana, Michigan and Nevada** – set explicit minimum performance standards for teacher preparation programs in their states.

To date, no state in the nation explicitly holds teacher preparation programs accountable for ensuring teachers are prepared to teach college- and career readiness standards. Despite years of promises, no state has yet implemented a full accountability system for teacher preparation that features program performance data, student achievement gains for students of program graduates, clear minimum standards for program performance and a mechanism for publishing results to inform prospective teachers about program quality and school districts looking to hire new teachers.

### **LOOKING AT NCTQ'S TRADITIONAL YEARBOOK METRICS, THE AVERAGE STATE GRADE FOR TEACHER PREPARATION IN 2014 IS A SOLID C. COMPARED TO A DISMAL D IN 2011, THE IMPROVEMENT REFLECTS REAL PROGRESS, BUT AS STATES ARE POISED TO ADMINISTER NEW COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS ASSESSMENTS TO STUDENTS, THESE MEDIOCRE GRADES SIMPLY AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH.**

This interim edition of the *Yearbook* added a new layer to our review of states' teacher preparation policies, with our analysis of state requirements related to the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards. But we also want to show state progress—or lack thereof—on the traditional set of goals that produce each state's annual *Yearbook* grade for teacher preparation

As is always the case in the *State Teacher Policy Yearbook*, the overall state average grade masks great variation among the states. No state has ever earned an A from NCTQ for its teacher preparation policies. In 2014, some states are clearly on the right track. **Florida, Indiana and Rhode Island** earn the nation's highest grades (B+) for delivering well-prepared teachers. **New York and Texas** earn strong B grades. These states are raising admission standards for teacher preparation institutions, requiring teachers to adequately demonstrate knowledge of the content they will be licensed to teach, and collecting the kinds of data that will help hold teacher preparation programs accountable for giving new teachers the tools they need to succeed.

On the other end of the spectrum are states such as **Alaska and Montana**. Despite the clear responsibility of states to set the requirements for what it takes to become an effective teacher, both earned failing grades for having almost no state laws or regulations, standards or licensing requirements that ensure new teachers are classroom-ready. Another five states – **Colorado, Hawaii, Nebraska, Nevada, and Wyoming** – received grades of D-.

Figure L

*Delivering well-prepared teachers*

	2014 GRADE	2013 GRADE	2012 GRADE	2011 GRADE
Alabama	B-	B	B-	C
Alaska	F	F	F	F
Arizona	D	D-	D-	D-
Arkansas	C+	C+	C	C
California	D+	D+	D	D
Colorado	D-	D-	D	D-
Connecticut	B-	B-	C+	C-
Delaware	B-	C+	D-	D-
District of Columbia	C-	D+	D	D
Florida	B+	B+	B-	B-
Georgia	C+	C+	C	C
Hawaii	D-	F	D	D
Idaho	D+	D+	D	D
Illinois	D+	D+	D	D
Indiana	B+	B+	B-	C+
Iowa	D+	D+	D	D
Kansas	D+	D+	D+	D+
Kentucky	B-	B-	C+	C-
Louisiana	C	C-	C	C
Maine	D+	D+	D+	D
Maryland	D+	D+	D+	D+
Massachusetts	B-	B-	C+	C+
Michigan	D+	D	D+	D+
Minnesota	C+	C+	C+	C
Mississippi	C	C-	C	C
Missouri	B-	C-	D+	D+
Montana	F	F	F	F
Nebraska	D-	F	D-	D-
Nevada	D-	D-	D-	D-
New Hampshire	C-	C-	C-	D
New Jersey	B-	B-	C-	D+
New Mexico	D+	D	D+	D+
New York	B	B-	C-	D+
North Carolina	C+	C+	D-	D-
North Dakota	D	D	D	D
Ohio	C	C	C-	D+
Oklahoma	C	C	C	C
Oregon	D+	D	D-	D-
Pennsylvania	C	C	C	C
Rhode Island	B+	B+	C	D+
South Carolina	C+	C	C-	C-
South Dakota	D	D-	D	D
Tennessee	B-	B-	B-	B-
Texas	B	B	C+	C+
Utah	C-	D+	D	D
Vermont	C	C	C-	D+
Virginia	B-	C+	C-	C-
Washington	D+	D+	D+	D+
West Virginia	C+	C+	C-	C-
Wisconsin	C	C-	D+	D
Wyoming	D-	F	F	F
<b>Average State Grade</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>D</b>

Figure M

*Delivering well-prepared teachers*

	2014 GRADE
Florida	B+
Indiana	B+
Rhode Island	B+
New York	B
Texas	B
Alabama	B-
Connecticut	B-
Delaware	B-
Kentucky	B-
Massachusetts	B-
Missouri	B-
New Jersey	B-
Tennessee	B-
Virginia	B-
Arkansas	C+
Georgia	C+
Minnesota	C+
North Carolina	C+
South Carolina	C+
West Virginia	C+
Louisiana	C
Mississippi	C
Ohio	C
Oklahoma	C
Pennsylvania	C
Vermont	C
Wisconsin	C
District of Columbia	C-
New Hampshire	C-
Utah	C-
California	D+
Idaho	D+
Illinois	D+
Iowa	D+
Kansas	D+
Maine	D+
Maryland	D+
Michigan	D+
New Mexico	D+
Oregon	D+
Washington	D+
Arizona	D
North Dakota	D
South Dakota	D
Colorado	D-
Hawaii	D-
Nebraska	D-
Nevada	D-
Wyoming	D-
Alaska	F
Montana	F
<b>Average State Grade</b>	<b>C</b>

## CONCLUSION

As college- and career-readiness standards become the basis for new student assessments as well as future evaluations of teacher effectiveness, states need to ensure that teachers are adequately supported in the transition and beyond. And there is no better place to start to provide that support than where new teachers begin to learn their craft – teacher preparation programs.

About one million new teachers have been prepared in American teacher preparation programs since Common Core or other college- and career-readiness standards were adopted by the vast majority of states in 2009. The new standards, if fully implemented, will likely require veteran teachers to change and adapt to new instructional strategies that may be very different than those to which they are accustomed, and states will need to put resources and energy into delivering professional development to support these teachers. At the same time, states have a golden opportunity to make changes on the front line of the transition to college- and career-readiness standards by making robust and rigorous teacher preparation a policy priority.

We cannot continue an approach to teacher preparation that leaves new teachers largely to sort it all out for themselves once they are in the classroom. It is not fair to the dedicated women and men who want and need the knowledge and skills to be successful, and it is not fair to their students, who depend on– and deserve– well-prepared teachers.

# Elementary Teacher Preparation

## Key Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

1. The state should ensure that all elementary teachers are sufficiently prepared for the ways that college- and career-readiness standards affect instruction of all subject areas. Specifically,
  - A. The state should require that all new elementary teachers are prepared to incorporate complex texts and academic language into instruction.
  - B. The state should ensure that all new elementary teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.
  - C. The state should ensure that all new elementary teachers of English language arts are prepared to support struggling readers.
2. The state should require that new elementary teachers, including those who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license, pass a rigorous test of reading instruction in order to attain licensure.
3. The state should ensure that all elementary teacher candidates, including those who can teach elementary grades on an early childhood license, possess sufficient content knowledge in all core subjects, including mathematics.
4. 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 45 credit hours to ensure appropriate depth in the core subject areas of English, mathematics, science, social studies and fine arts.
5. 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 ensures that prospective teachers have taken higher-level academic coursework.



*How well are states ensuring that elementary teachers are prepared for college- and career-readiness standards?*

11

Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota

9

Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Oklahoma, Oregon

19

Alabama, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

12

Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia

0

Figure 1

Are states ensuring that new elementary teachers are prepared for the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards?

	USE OF INFORMATIONAL TEXT	INCORPORATING LITERACY SKILLS INTO ALL SUBJECTS	SUPPORTING STRUGGLING READERS
Alabama	☑	☐	☑
Alaska	☐	☐	☐
Arizona	☑	☐	☑
Arkansas	☑	☑	☑
California	☑	☑	☑
Colorado	☑	☑	☑
Connecticut	☑	☐	☑
Delaware	☑	☐	☐
District of Columbia	☑	☐	☐
Florida	☑	☑	☑
Georgia	☐	☐	☑
Hawaii	☐	☐	☐
Idaho	☑	☐	☐
Illinois	☑	☐	☑
Indiana	☑	☐	☑
Iowa	☐	☐	☐
Kansas	☑	☐	☐
Kentucky	☐	☐	☐
Louisiana	☐	☐	☑
Maine	☑	☐	☐
Maryland	☑	☐	☑
Massachusetts	☑	☐	☑
Michigan	☐	☑	☑
Minnesota	☑	☑	☑
Mississippi	☑	☐	☐
Missouri	☑	☑	☐
Montana	☐	☐	☐
Nebraska	☑	☐	☐
Nevada	☑	☐	☐
New Hampshire	☑	☐	☑
New Jersey	☑	☐	☐
New Mexico	☑	☐	☑
New York	☑	☐	☑
North Carolina	☑	☑	☑
North Dakota	☑	☐	☐
Ohio	☐	☐	☐
Oklahoma	☑	☐	☐
Oregon	☑	☐	☑
Pennsylvania	☑	☐	☑
Rhode Island	☐	☐	☑
South Carolina	☑	☐	☐
South Dakota	☑	☐	☐
Tennessee	☑	☐	☑
Texas	☑	☑	☑
Utah	☑	☐	☐
Vermont	☑	☑	☐
Virginia	☑	☐	☑
Washington	☑	☐	☑
West Virginia	☑	☐	☑
Wisconsin	☑	☐	☑
Wyoming	☑	☐	☐

☑ Fully addresses instructional component ☐ Partially addresses instructional component

### SUMMARY OF ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREP FIGURES

- **Figure 1**  
Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards
- **Figure 2**  
Content test requirements
- **Figure 3**  
Specific subject-matter requirements
- **Figure 4**  
Science of reading requirements
- **Figure 5**  
Math requirements
- **Figure 6**  
Requirements for academic concentrations
- **Figure 7**  
Requirements for early childhood teachers
- **Figure 8**  
*Teacher Prep Review* findings about elementary teacher prep

Figure 2

Do states ensure that elementary teachers know core content?

	ELEMENTARY CONTENT TEST WITH SEPARATE PASSING SCORE FOR EACH SUBJECT	Elementary content test with separate passing score for some subjects	Elementary content test with composite score	No test required
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	21	9	17	4

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Both **Arkansas** and **California** ensure that elementary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students. These states specify that elementary teacher candidates must have the ability to not only build content knowledge and vocabulary through careful reading of informational and literary texts, but also to challenge students with texts of increasing complexity.

Candidates are also required to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject and are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling.

In addition, **Indiana** ensures that all candidates licensed to teach the elementary grades, including early childhood education candidates, possess the requisite knowledge of core content and of the key elements of scientifically based reading instruction before entering the classroom. Elementary and early childhood teacher candidates are required to pass a content test comprised of four independently scored subtests, including mathematics. In addition, these candidates are required to pass a comprehensive assessment that tests the five elements of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Elementary teacher candidates in Indiana must also earn either a major or minor in an academic content area.

**Massachusetts's** MTEL mathematics subtest continues to set the standard in this area by evaluating mathematics knowledge beyond an elementary school level and challenging candidates' understanding of underlying mathematics concepts.

1. Alaska does not require testing for initial licensure.  
 2. Massachusetts and North Carolina require a general curriculum test that does not report scores for each elementary subject. A separate score is reported for math.  
 3. Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass a content test in Ohio.

Figure 3

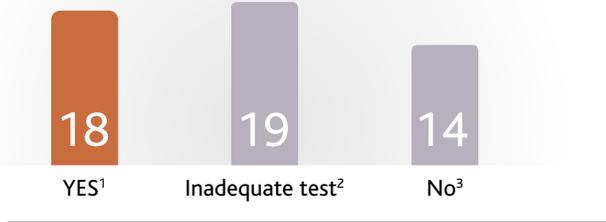
Do states expect elementary teachers to have in-depth knowledge of core content?

	ENGLISH				SCIENCE					SOCIAL STUDIES							FINE ARTS	
	American Literature	World/British Literature	Writing/Grammar/Composition	Children's Literature	Chemistry	Physics	General Physical Science	Earth Science	Biology/Life Science	American History I	American History II	American Government	World History (Ancient)	World History (Modern)	World History (Non-Western)	Geography	Art History	Music
Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★
Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>																	
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>																	
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>																	
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>														
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>																	
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>																	
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★
New York	<input type="checkbox"/>																	
North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>																	
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>																	
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★
Pennsylvania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>																	
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	★	★	★	★	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	★	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Subject mentioned    ★ Subject covered in depth

Figure 4

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



- Strong Practice:** Alabama, California<sup>4</sup>, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming
- Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota
- California allows an exemption from the state's reading test for teachers who already have a single subject credential.
- Teachers have until their second year to pass the reading test.

Figure 6

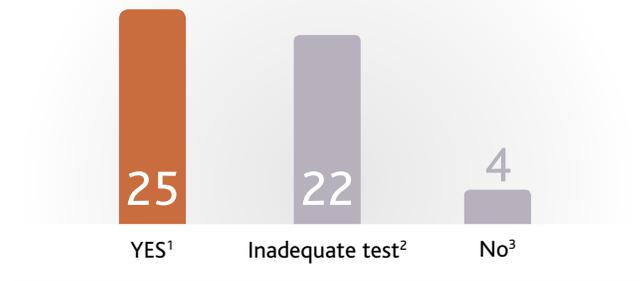
*Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?*



- Strong Practice:** Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico
- Strong Practice:** Indiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma
- California, Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, 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.
- Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire<sup>5</sup>, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- Only K-8 teachers must complete an area of concentration in a field such as humanities, fine arts, social sciences and sciences.

Figure 5

*Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?*



- Strong Practice:** Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin
- Alaska<sup>4</sup>, Hawaii, Montana, Ohio<sup>5</sup>
- Testing is not required for initial licensure.
- Only teachers of grades 4 and 5 are required to pass an adequate content test.

Figure 7

What do states require of early childhood teachers who teach elementary grades?

	CONTENT TEST WITH SUBSCORES FOR EACH SUBJECT	ADEQUATE SCIENCE OF READING TEST
Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alaska <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Georgia <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michigan <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

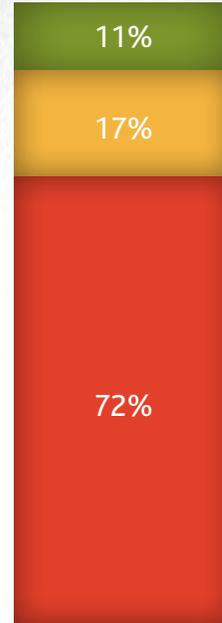
6

13

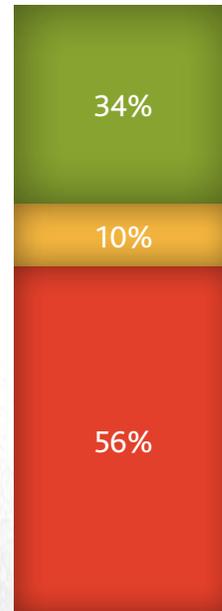
Figure 8

TEACHER PREP REVIEW FINDINGS

Only 11 percent of preparation programs ensure that elementary teachers are well prepared in the subjects they will teach.



Just 34 percent of preparation programs provide adequate training to elementary teachers in the science of reading instruction.



From NCTQ's 2014 *Teacher Prep Review* Standard 6: Elementary Content (n=1,166 elementary programs) and Standard 2: Early Reading (n=959 elementary and special education programs)

Figure 7

1. These states do not offer a standalone early childhood certification that includes elementary grades or the state's early childhood certification is the de facto license to teach elementary grades.
2. Early childhood candidates may pass either multiple subjects (subscores) or content knowledge (no subscores) test.

# Middle School Teacher Preparation

## Key Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

1. The state should ensure that all middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared for the ways that college- and career-readiness English language arts standards affect instruction of all subject areas. Specifically,
  - A. The state should require that all new middle school teachers are prepared to incorporate complex texts and academic language into instruction.
  - B. The state should ensure that all new middle school teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.
  - C. The state should ensure that all new middle school teachers of English language arts are prepared to support struggling readers.
2. The state should require that new middle school teachers pass a licensing test in every core academic area they are licensed to teach.
3. 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.



*How well are states ensuring that middle school teachers are prepared for college- and career-readiness standards?*

16

Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

5

Colorado, Massachusetts, Nevada, North Dakota, Wisconsin

22

Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

6

Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas

2

Arkansas, Indiana

Figure 9

Are states ensuring that new middle school teachers are prepared for the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards?

	USE OF INFORMATIONAL TEXT	INCORPORATING LITERACY SKILLS INTO ALL SUBJECTS	SUPPORTING STRUGGLING READERS
Alabama	☑	☐	☑
Alaska	☐	☐	☐
Arizona	☑	☐	☐
Arkansas	☑	☑	☑
California	☐	☐	☐
Colorado	☑	☑	☑
Connecticut	☑	☐	☐
Delaware	☑	☐	☐
District of Columbia	☑	☐	☐
Florida	☑	☑	☑
Georgia	☑	☑	☑
Hawaii	☐	☐	☐
Idaho	☑	☐	☐
Illinois	☑	☑	☑
Indiana	☑	☑	☑
Iowa	☑	☐	☐
Kansas	☑	☐	☐
Kentucky	☑	☐	☐
Louisiana	☑	☐	☑
Maine	☑	☐	☐
Maryland	☑	☐	☐
Massachusetts	☐	☐	☐
Michigan	☐	☐	☐
Minnesota	☑	☑	☑
Mississippi	☑	☐	☐
Missouri	☑	☑	☐
Montana	☐	☐	☐
Nebraska	☐	☐	☐
Nevada	☑	☐	☐
New Hampshire	☑	☑	☑
New Jersey	☑	☐	☐
New Mexico	☐	☐	☐
New York	☑	☐	☑
North Carolina	☑	☑	☐
North Dakota	☑	☐	☐
Ohio	☑	☐	☐
Oklahoma	☐	☐	☐
Oregon	☑	☐	☐
Pennsylvania	☑	☑	☑
Rhode Island	☑	☐	☑
South Carolina	☑	☐	☐
South Dakota	☑	☐	☐
Tennessee	☑	☐	☑
Texas	☑	☑	☑
Utah	☐	☐	☐
Vermont	☑	☐	☑
Virginia	☑	☐	☐
Washington	☐	☑	☐
West Virginia	☑	☐	☐
Wisconsin	☐	☐	☐
Wyoming	☐	☐	☐

☑ Fully addresses instructional component ☐ Partially addresses instructional component

### SUMMARY OF MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PREP FIGURES

- **Figure 9**  
Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards
- **Figure 10**  
Distinctions in licenses between middle and elementary teachers
- **Figure 11**  
Content test requirements
- **Figure 12**  
*Teacher Prep Review* findings about middle school teacher prep

Figure 10

Do states distinguish middle grade preparation from elementary preparation?

	K-8 LICENSE NOT OFFERED	K-8 license offered for self-contained classrooms	K-8 license offered
Alabama	■	□	□
Alaska	□	□	■
Arizona	□	□	■ <sup>1</sup>
Arkansas	■	□	□
California	□	■ <sup>2</sup>	□
Colorado	■	□	□
Connecticut	■	□	□
Delaware	■	□	□
District of Columbia	■	□	□
Florida	■	□	□
Georgia	■	□	□
Hawaii	■	□	□
Idaho	□	□	■
Illinois	■	□	□
Indiana	■	□	□
Iowa	■	□	□
Kansas	■	□	□
Kentucky	■	□	□
Louisiana	■	□	□
Maine	□	□	■
Maryland	■	□	□
Massachusetts	■	□	□
Michigan	□	■	□
Minnesota	□	■	□
Mississippi	■	□	□
Missouri	■	□	□
Montana	□	□	■
Nebraska	□	■	□
Nevada	□	□	■
New Hampshire	□	□	■
New Jersey	■	□	□
New Mexico	□	□	■
New York	■	□	□
North Carolina	■	□	□
North Dakota	□	□	■ <sup>1</sup>
Ohio	■	□	□
Oklahoma	□	□	■ <sup>3</sup>
Oregon	□	□	■ <sup>4</sup>
Pennsylvania	■	□	□
Rhode Island	■	□	□
South Carolina	■	□	□
South Dakota	□	□	■
Tennessee	■	□	□
Texas	■	□	□
Utah	□	■	□
Vermont	■	□	□
Virginia	■	□	□
Washington	□	□	■
West Virginia	■	□	□
Wisconsin	□	□	■ <sup>1</sup>
Wyoming	■	□	□
	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>

★ **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

**Illinois** ensures that middle school teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students. The state's new standards for the middle grades include the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex texts and careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these standards. The standards also address the needs of struggling readers.

Illinois's requirements connecting literacy to all subject areas are particularly noteworthy. All middle school teachers must understand "the role, perspective and purpose of text in specific disciplines" and be able to perform tasks such as scaffolding reading to allow students to understand and learn from challenging text; guiding reading discussions that require students to identify key ideas and details of a text; analyze craft and structure and critically evaluate the text; and model reading strategies to improve comprehension.

In addition, **Georgia, Mississippi, New Jersey** and **South Carolina** ensure that all middle school teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach middle school-level content. None of these states offers a K-8 generalist license and all require passing scores on subject-specific content tests. Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina explicitly require at least two content-area minors, and New Jersey requires a content major along with a minor for each additional area of certification.

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

Figure 11

Do middle school teachers have to pass an appropriate content test in every core subject they are licensed to teach?

	YES	No, test does not report subscores for all core subjects	No, K-8 license requires only elementary test	No, testing of all subjects not required
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>5</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>6</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>7</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	27	2	15	7

Figure 12

TEACHER PREP REVIEW FINDINGS

82 percent of programs ensure that middle school teachers are well prepared in the subjects they will teach.



From NCTQ's 2014 *Teacher Prep Review Standard 7: Middle School Content* (n=375 middle school programs). State licensing test requirements are also included in evaluating this standard.

1. Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.
2. Candidates teaching multiple subjects only have to pass the elementary test. Single-subject credential does not require content test.
3. For K-8 license, Idaho also requires one single-subject test.
4. Illinois requires candidates to take a middle level core content test if a test is available. It is not clear that this will result in teachers passing a test in each subject and draft test frameworks are not yet available for review.
5. Maryland allows elementary teachers to teach in departmentalized middle schools if not less than 50 percent of the teaching assignment is within the elementary grades.
6. New Hampshire requires K-8 candidates to pass a middle school content test in one core area.
7. For nondepartmentalized classrooms, generalist in middle childhood education candidates must pass the new assessment with three subtests.
8. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.

# Secondary Teacher Preparation

## Key Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

1. The state should ensure that all secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared for the ways that college- and career-readiness English language arts standards affect instruction of all subject areas. Specifically,
  - A. The state should require that all new secondary teachers are prepared to incorporate complex texts and academic language into instruction.
  - B. The state should ensure that all new secondary teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.
  - C. The state should ensure that all new secondary teachers of English language arts are prepared to support struggling readers.
2. The state should require that secondary teachers pass a licensing test in every subject they are licensed to teach.
3. The state should require secondary general science and general social studies teachers to pass a subject-matter test of each discipline they are licensed to teach.
4. The state should require that secondary teachers pass a content test when adding subject-area endorsements to an existing license.



*How well are states ensuring that secondary teachers are prepared for college- and career-readiness standards?*



Figure 13

Are states ensuring that new secondary teachers are prepared for the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards?

	USE OF INFORMATIONAL TEXT	INCORPORATING LITERACY SKILLS INTO ALL SUBJECTS	SUPPORTING STRUGGLING READERS
Alabama	☑	☐	☐
Alaska	☐	☐	☐
Arizona	☑	☐	☐
Arkansas	■	■	☑
California	☐	☐	☐
Colorado	☑	☑	■
Connecticut	☑	☐	☐
Delaware	☑	☐	☐
District of Columbia	☑	☐	☐
Florida	☐	☑	☑
Georgia	☑	☐	☐
Hawaii	☐	☐	☐
Idaho	☑	☐	☐
Illinois	☐	☐	☐
Indiana	☑	☑	☑
Iowa	☑	☐	☐
Kansas	☑	☐	☐
Kentucky	☑	☐	☐
Louisiana	☑	☐	■
Maine	☑	☐	☐
Maryland	☑	☐	■
Massachusetts	☐	☐	☐
Michigan	☐	☐	☑
Minnesota	☑	■	■
Mississippi	☑	☐	☐
Missouri	☑	☑	☐
Montana	☐	☐	☐
Nebraska	☑	☐	☐
Nevada	☑	☐	☐
New Hampshire	☑	☑	■
New Jersey	☑	☐	☐
New Mexico	☐	☐	☐
New York	☑	☐	■
North Carolina	☑	■	☐
North Dakota	☑	☐	☐
Ohio	☑	☐	☐
Oklahoma	☐	☐	☐
Oregon	☑	☐	☐
Pennsylvania	☑	☐	☑
Rhode Island	☑	☐	☑
South Carolina	☑	☐	☐
South Dakota	☑	☐	☐
Tennessee	☑	☐	☑
Texas	☑	■	■
Utah	☑	☐	☐
Vermont	☑	☐	■
Virginia	☑	☐	☐
Washington	☑	☐	■
West Virginia	☑	☐	☐
Wisconsin	☑	☐	☐
Wyoming	☐	☐	☐

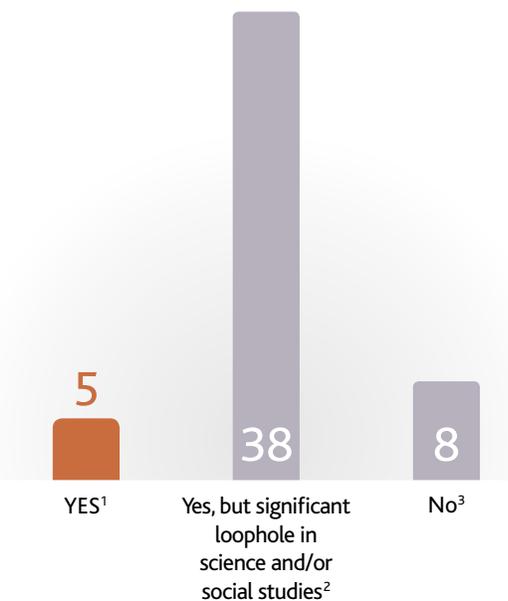
■ Fully addresses instructional component ☑ Partially addresses instructional component

### SUMMARY OF SECONDARY TEACHER PREP FIGURES

- **Figure 13**  
Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards
- **Figure 14**  
Content test requirements
- **Figure 15**  
Requirements for general science teachers
- **Figure 16**  
Requirements for general social studies teachers
- **Figure 17**  
*Teacher Prep Review* findings about secondary teacher prep

Figure 14

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



1. **Strong Practice:** Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, Tennessee

2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina<sup>4</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin [For more on loopholes, see Figure 15 (science) and Figure 16 (social studies).]

3. Alaska<sup>5</sup>, Arizona<sup>6</sup>, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, Washington, Wyoming

4. Teachers may have until second year to pass tests, if they attempt to pass them during their first year.

5. Alaska does not require content tests for initial licensure.

6. Candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.

## ★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

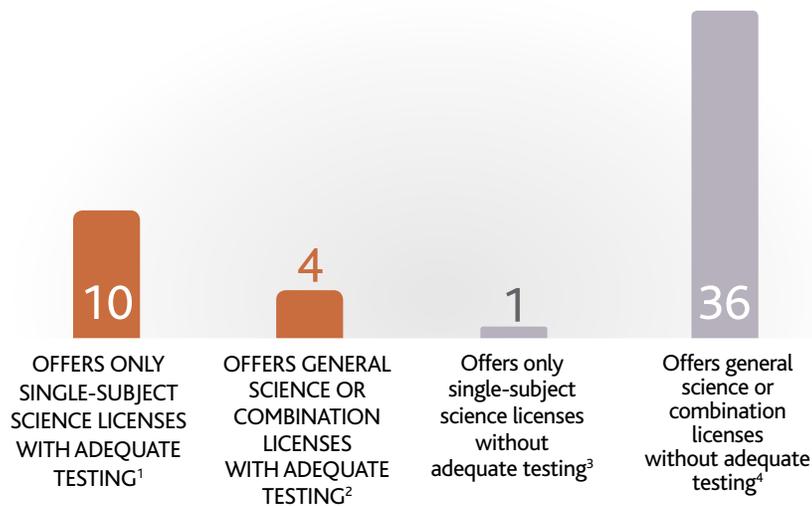
**Arkansas** has done more than other states to ensure that secondary teachers are prepared to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students. Not only does the state address the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex informational texts and careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these new standards in its educator competencies for secondary English language arts teachers, it also requires teachers to incorporate literacy skills into all content areas. For example, the secondary social studies competency to "incorporate disciplinary literacy" states that "reading competencies for literacy in history/social studies for grades 7-12 include the ability to read informational texts in history and social studies closely and critically to analyze the key ideas and details as well as craft and structure with the purpose of integrating knowledge and ideas both within and across texts." A similar competency exists for both the life science and physical science secondary certifications.

**Indiana, Minnesota** and **Tennessee** require that all secondary teacher candidates pass a content test to teach any core subject—both as a condition of licensure and to add an additional field to a secondary license. Further, none of these states offers secondary certification in general social studies or science; all teachers must be certified in a specific discipline.

Also worthy of mention is **Missouri**, which requires general social studies teachers to pass a multi-content test with six independently scored subtests. Missouri also offers a general science license that can only be used to teach general science courses. All other science teachers must be certified in a specific discipline.

Figure 15

*Do states ensure that secondary general science teachers have adequate subject-matter knowledge?*



1. **Strong Practice:** Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia

2. **Strong Practice:** Missouri, New Jersey, Rhode Island<sup>5</sup>, West Virginia<sup>5</sup>

3. California

4. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona<sup>6</sup>, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia<sup>7</sup>, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

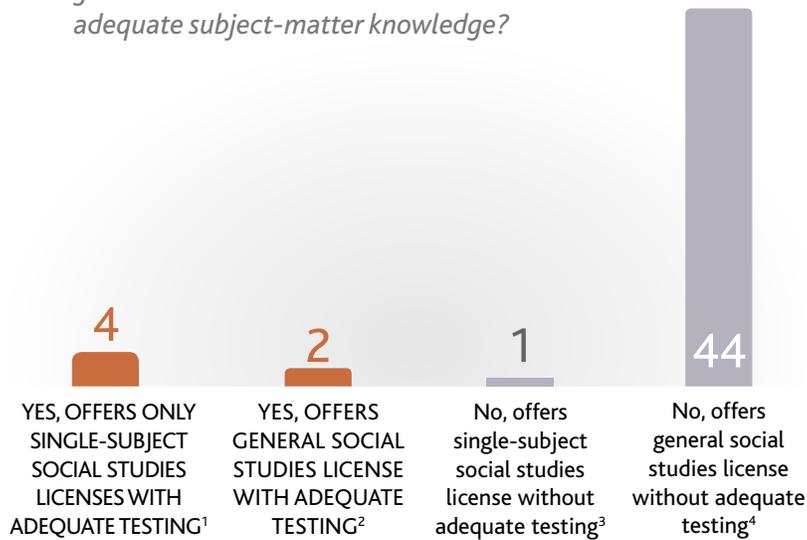
5. Teachers with the general science license may only teach general science courses.

6. Arizona limits teachers with the general science license to teaching only general science courses. However, candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.

7. Georgia's science test consists of two subtests.

Figure 16

*Do states ensure that secondary general social studies teachers have adequate subject-matter knowledge?*



1. **Strong Practice:** Georgia, Indiana, South Dakota, Tennessee

2. **Strong Practice:** Minnesota<sup>5</sup>, Missouri

3. Arizona<sup>6</sup>

4. Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

5. Minnesota's test for general social studies is divided into two individually scored subtests.

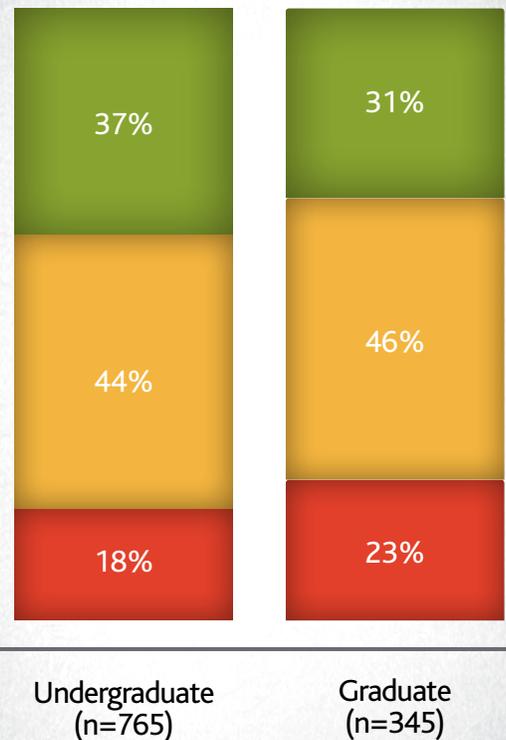
6. Candidates with a master's degree in the subject area do not have to pass a content test.

7. Oklahoma offers combination licenses without adequate testing.

Figure 17

**TEACHER PREP REVIEW FINDINGS**

*Less than 40 percent of preparation programs ensure that secondary teachers are well prepared in the subjects they will teach.*



From NCTQ's 2014 *Teacher Prep Review* Standard 8: High School Content (n=1,110 high school programs). State licensing test requirements are also considered in evaluating this standard.

# Special Education Teacher Preparation

## Key Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

1. The state should ensure that all special education teachers are sufficiently prepared for the ways that college- and career-readiness English language arts standards affect instruction of all subject areas. Specifically,
  - A. The state should ensure that all new secondary special education teachers are prepared to support struggling readers.
  - B. The state should require that all new secondary special education teachers are prepared to incorporate complex texts and academic language into instruction.
  - C. The state should ensure that all new secondary special education teachers are prepared to incorporate literacy skills as an integral part of every subject.
2. The state should require that new elementary special education teachers pass a rigorous test of reading instruction in order to attain licensure.
3. 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.
4. All elementary special education candidates should be required to pass a subject-matter test for licensure that is no less rigorous than what is required of general education candidates.
5. The state should ensure that secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge.



*How well are states ensuring that special education teachers are prepared for college- and career-readiness standards?*

30

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming

9

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, Tennessee, Virginia

11

Alabama, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin

1

New York

0

Figure 18

Are states ensuring that new special education teachers are prepared for the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards?

	USE OF INFORMATIONAL TEXT	INCORPORATING LITERACY SKILLS INTO ALL SUBJECTS	SUPPORTING STRUGGLING READERS
Alabama	☑	☐	☑
Alaska	☐	☐	☐
Arizona	☐	☐	☐
Arkansas	☐	☐	☑
California	☑	☐	☑
Colorado	☑	☑	☑
Connecticut	☑	☐	☑
Delaware	☐	☐	☐
District of Columbia	☐	☐	☐
Florida	☑	☐	☑
Georgia	☐	☐	☐
Hawaii	☐	☐	☐
Idaho	☑	☐	☐
Illinois	☐	☐	☑
Indiana	☑	☐	☑
Iowa	☐	☐	☐
Kansas	☐	☐	☐
Kentucky	☐	☐	☐
Louisiana	☑	☐	☑
Maine	☐	☐	☐
Maryland	☐	☐	☑
Massachusetts	☑	☐	☑
Michigan	☐	☐	☑
Minnesota	☐	☐	☐
Mississippi	☐	☐	☐
Missouri	☑	☑	☐
Montana	☐	☐	☐
Nebraska	☐	☐	☐
Nevada	☐	☐	☐
New Hampshire	☐	☐	☑
New Jersey	☑	☐	☐
New Mexico	☐	☐	☐
New York	☑	☐	☑
North Carolina	☑	☑	☑
North Dakota	☐	☐	☐
Ohio	☐	☐	☐
Oklahoma	☐	☐	☐
Oregon	☐	☐	☑
Pennsylvania	☑	☑	☐
Rhode Island	☑	☐	☑
South Carolina	☐	☐	☐
South Dakota	☐	☐	☐
Tennessee	☐	☐	☑
Texas	☐	☐	☑
Utah	☐	☐	☐
Vermont	☐	☐	☐
Virginia	☐	☐	☑
Washington	☐	☐	☐
West Virginia	☑	☐	☑
Wisconsin	☑	☐	☑
Wyoming	☐	☐	☐

☑ Fully addresses instructional component    ☐ Partially addresses instructional component

## SUMMARY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREP FIGURES

- **Figure 18**  
Requirements for instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards
- **Figure 19**  
Distinctions in licenses between elementary and secondary teachers
- **Figure 20**  
Content test requirements
- **Figure 21**  
Science of reading requirements
- **Figure 22**  
*Teacher Prep Review* findings about special education teacher prep

## ★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Although all states have weaknesses when it comes to special education teachers' preparedness to meet the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards for students, both **Indiana** and **New York** are notable for addressing the instructional shifts toward building content knowledge and vocabulary through increasingly complex informational texts and careful reading of informational and literary texts associated with these standards.

Unfortunately, states are also weak in other areas of special education teacher preparation. However, three states—**Missouri**, **New York** and **Rhode Island**—are worthy of mention for taking steps in the right direction in ensuring that all special education teachers know the subject matter they are required to teach. These three states require that elementary special education candidates pass the same elementary content tests, which are comprised of individual subtests, as general education elementary teachers.

Secondary special education teachers in New York must pass a multi-subject content test for special education teachers comprised of three separately scored sections. Rhode Island requires its secondary special education teachers to hold certification in another secondary area. Secondary special education teachers in Missouri can either take a multi-subject test comprised of four separately scored sections or a single-subject secondary assessment.

Figure 19

Do states distinguish between elementary and secondary special education teachers?

	DOES NOT OFFER A K-12 CERTIFICATION	Offers K-12 and grade-specific certification(s)	Offers only a K-12 certification
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>

Figure 20

Which states require subject-matter testing for special education teachers?

Elementary Subject-Matter Test	
Required for an elementary special education license	Alabama, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri <sup>1</sup> , New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania <sup>2</sup> , Rhode Island, West Virginia <sup>3</sup> , Wisconsin
Required for a K-12 special education license	Colorado, Idaho, North Carolina
Secondary Subject-Matter Test(s)	
Tests in all core subjects required for secondary special education license	Missouri <sup>1</sup> , New York <sup>4</sup> , Wisconsin <sup>5</sup>
Test in at least one subject required for secondary special education license	Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania <sup>2</sup> , Rhode Island, West Virginia <sup>3</sup>
Required for a K-12 special education license	None

1. Missouri offers a K-12 certification but candidates must pass either the elementary multi-content assessment or the middle/secondary multi-content assessment.
2. In Pennsylvania, a candidate who opts for dual certification in elementary or secondary special education and as a reading specialist does not have to take a content test.
3. West Virginia also allows elementary special education candidates to earn dual certification in early childhood, which would not require a content test. Secondary special education candidates earning a dual certification as a reading specialist are similarly exempted.
4. New York requires a multi-subject content test specifically geared to secondary special education candidates. It is divided into three subtests.
5. Wisconsin requires a middle school level content area test which does not report subscores for each area.

Figure 19

1. Missouri, New Jersey, Oregon and Vermont issue a K-12 certificate, but candidates must meet discrete elementary and/or secondary requirements.

Figure 21

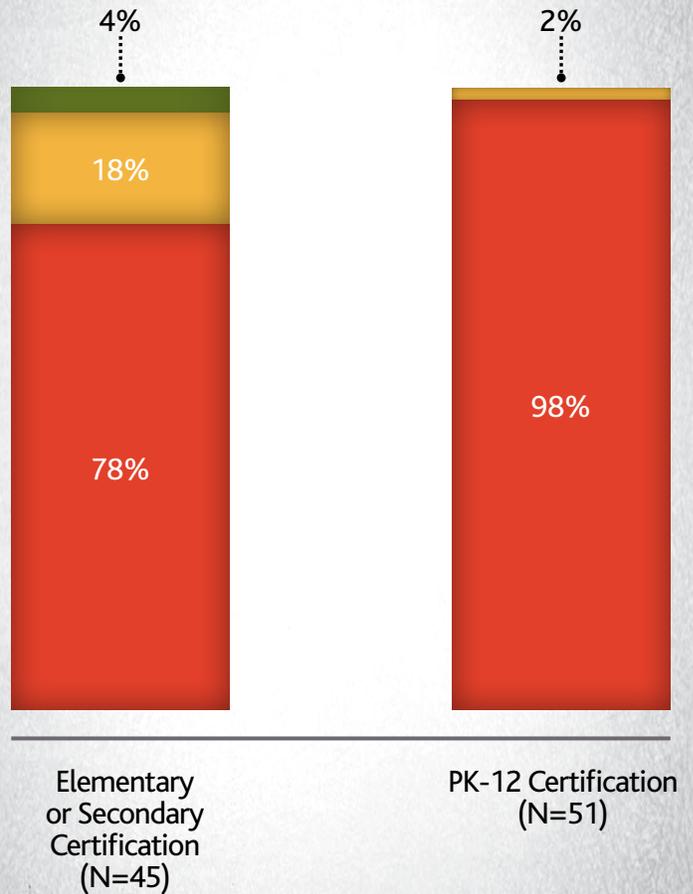
Do states require all teachers of early reading to pass an adequate science of reading test?

	Elementary teachers	Early childhood teachers	Elementary special education teachers
Alabama	■	■	□
Alaska	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Arizona	□	□	□
Arkansas	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
California	■	□ <sup>1</sup>	■
Colorado	□	□	□
Connecticut	■	■	■
Delaware	□	□	□
District of Columbia	□	□	□
Florida	■	■	□
Georgia	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Hawaii	□	□	□
Idaho	□	□	□
Illinois	□	□	□
Indiana	■	■	■
Iowa	□	□	□
Kansas	□	□	□
Kentucky	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Louisiana	□	□	□
Maine	□	□	□
Maryland	□	□	□
Massachusetts	■	■	■
Michigan	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Minnesota	■	■	□
Mississippi	■	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Missouri	□	□	□
Montana	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Nebraska	□	□	□
Nevada	□	□	□
New Hampshire	■	■	□
New Jersey	□	□	□
New Mexico	■	□	□
New York	■	■	■
North Carolina	■	□ <sup>1</sup>	■
North Dakota	□	□	□
Ohio	■	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Oklahoma	■	■	■
Oregon	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Pennsylvania	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Rhode Island	□	□	□
South Carolina	□	□	□
South Dakota	□	□	□
Tennessee	■	■	■
Texas	□	□ <sup>1</sup>	□
Utah	□	□	□
Vermont	□	□	□
Virginia	■	■	■
Washington	□	□	□
West Virginia	■	■	■
Wisconsin	■	■	■
Wyoming	□	□	□
	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>

Figure 22

TEACHER PREP REVIEW FINDINGS

Less than 5 percent of preparation programs ensure that special education teachers are well prepared in the subjects they will teach.



From NCTQ's 2014 *Teacher Prep Review* Standard 9: Content for Special Education (n=96 special education programs)

1. These states do not offer a standalone early childhood certification that includes elementary grades or the state's early childhood certification is the de facto license to teach elementary grades.

# Admission into Teacher Preparation

## Key Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

1. The state should limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population.
2. 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. Alternatively, academic proficiency could be demonstrated by grade point average.



*How well are states ensuring that teacher prep programs have rigorous admission standards?*

18

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming

8

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon

10

Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

2

Georgia, Mississippi

13

Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia

Figure 23

Do states measure the academic proficiency of teacher candidates?

	TEST NORMED TO COLLEGE-BOUND POPULATION PRIOR TO ADMISSION TO PREP PROGRAM	Test normed to teacher candidates only before admission to prep program	Test normed to teacher candidates only during or after completion of prep program	No test required
Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>

### SUMMARY OF ADMISSION INTO TEACHER PREP FIGURES

- **Figure 23**  
Test of academic proficiency requirements
- **Figure 24**  
GPA requirements
- **Figure 25**  
*Teacher Prep Review* findings about admissions

### ★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

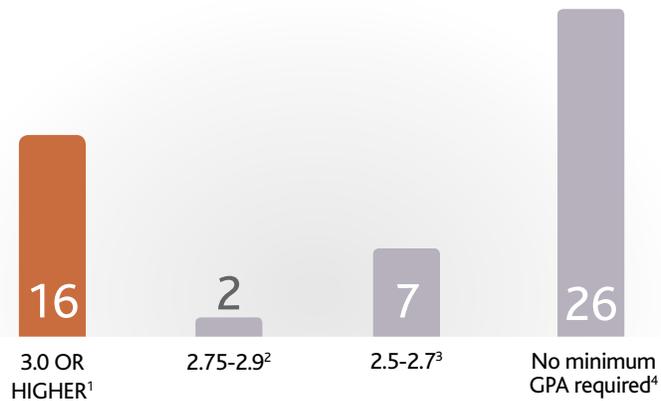
While many states now require CAEP accreditation which includes a standard requiring strong admission practices, **Rhode Island** and **Delaware** have set requirements independent of the accreditation process, ensuring that the states' expectations are clear. Both states require a test of academic proficiency normed to the general college-bound population rather than a test that is normed just to prospective teachers. Delaware also requires teacher candidates to have a 3.0 GPA or be in the top 50th percentile for general education coursework completed. Rhode Island also requires an average cohort GPA of 3.0, and, beginning in 2016, the cohort mean score on nationally-normed tests such as the ACT, SAT or GRE must be in the top 50th percentile. In 2020, the requirement for the mean test score will increase from the top half to the top third.

1. Requirements for admissions test normed to college-bound population is based on CAEP accreditation standards, not state's own admission policy.

2. Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission with a 3.0 GPA.

Figure 24

Do states require a minimum GPA for admission to teacher prep?

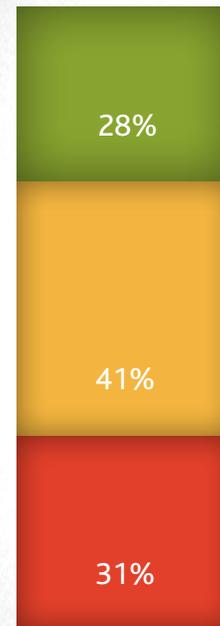


1. **Strong Practice:** Delaware, District of Columbia<sup>5</sup>, Georgia<sup>6</sup>, Hawaii<sup>5</sup>, Louisiana<sup>5</sup>, Michigan<sup>5</sup>, Mississippi<sup>6</sup>, New Jersey<sup>6</sup>, New York<sup>5</sup>, North Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, Pennsylvania<sup>8</sup>, Rhode Island, South Carolina<sup>5</sup>, Utah, Virginia<sup>5</sup>
2. Kentucky, Texas
3. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut<sup>9</sup>, Florida, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin<sup>10</sup>
4. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
5. Required minimum GPA of 3.0 is based on CAEP accreditation standards, not state's own admission policy.
6. The 3.0 GPA requirement is a cohort average; individual candidates in Mississippi and New Jersey must have a 2.75 GPA. Individual candidates in Georgia must have a 2.5 GPA.
7. Candidates in Oklahoma also have the option of gaining admission by passing a basic skills test.
8. Students can also be admitted with a combination of a 2.8 GPA and qualifying scores on the basic skills test or SAT/ACT.
9. Connecticut requires a B- grade point average for all undergraduate courses.
10. The GPA admission requirement is 2.5 for undergraduate and 2.75 for graduate programs.

Figure 25

**TEACHER PREP REVIEW FINDINGS**

Only 28 percent of teacher preparation programs have a high bar for admissions.



From NCTQ's 2014 *Teacher Prep Review* Standard 1: Selection Criteria (n=2,396 elementary, secondary and special education programs)

# Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

## Key Components

(The factors considered in determining the states' ratings for this topic.)

1. The state should incorporate preparation to teach to college- and career-readiness standards into its accountability requirements for teacher preparation programs.
2. The state should collect data that connects student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs. Such data can include value-added or growth analyses conducted specifically for this purpose or evaluation ratings that incorporate objective measures of student learning to a significant extent.
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.
5. The state should retain full authority over its process for approving teacher preparation programs.



*How well are states ensuring that teacher preparation programs are accountable for their performance?*



Figure 26

Do states hold teacher preparation programs accountable?

	OBJECTIVE PROGRAM-SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED	MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE SET	DATA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
California	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
District of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>
Georgia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>
Maine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>
North Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>35</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>

SUMMARY OF TEACHER PREP PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY FIGURES

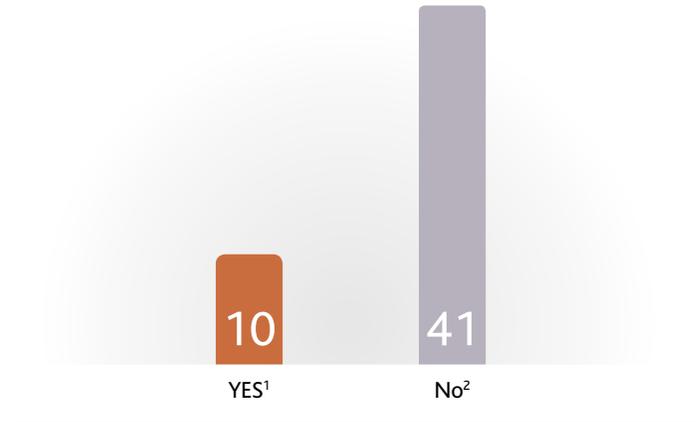
- **Figure 26**  
Accountability requirements
- **Figure 27**  
Use of student achievement data

★ EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

No state has yet implemented a full accountability system for teacher preparation that features data, including student achievement gains, connected to teacher preparation programs (not just the institution level); has clear minimum standards of performance for those data; and publishes the results for use by prospective teachers, hiring school districts and the general public. Some states are well on their way. **Georgia** and **Louisiana** collect student achievement gains and set minimum standards of performance, while **Ohio** and **Tennessee** have published report cards that include connections to student achievement gains.

Figure 27

Do states connect student achievement data to teacher preparation programs?



- Strong Practice:** Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas
- Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia<sup>3</sup>, Hawaii<sup>3</sup>, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland<sup>3</sup>, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York<sup>3</sup>, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- Included in state's Race to the Top plan, but not in policy or yet implemented.

Figure 26

- For traditional preparation programs only.
- State does not distinguish between alternate route programs and traditional preparation programs in public reporting.
- For alternate routes only.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Alabama

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary special education teacher candidates to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.
- Establish minimum standards of performance for accountability purposes for all licensure pathways.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Alaska

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- As a condition of licensure, require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach, as a condition of licensure.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- As a condition of licensure, require secondary candidates to pass a content test in each subject they are licensed to teach.
- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Arizona

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary candidates to pass a content test in each subject they are licensed to teach.
- Require secondary science teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Arkansas

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for middle and secondary teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for California

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Require specific middle grades certification.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary candidates to pass a content test in each subject they are licensed to teach.
- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Colorado

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary candidates to pass a content test in each subject they are licensed to teach.
- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Connecticut

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for middle and secondary teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Delaware

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for District of Columbia

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Florida

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for secondary teacher preparation*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Georgia

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Hawaii

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary candidates to pass a content test in each subject they are licensed to teach.
- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Idaho

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach, as a condition of licensure.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Illinois

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for secondary teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Indiana

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for middle and secondary teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary and secondary teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Iowa

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Kansas

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Kentucky

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Louisiana

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Maine

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach, as a condition of licensure.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Maryland

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary and middle teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Massachusetts

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for middle and secondary teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Michigan

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Minnesota

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Eliminate the use of an elementary license to teach middle school grades.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Mississippi

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Missouri

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Montana

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- As a condition of licensure, require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach, as a condition of licensure.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- As a condition of licensure, require secondary candidates to pass a content test in each subject they are licensed to teach.
- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Nebraska

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Nevada

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for New Hampshire

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for New Jersey

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for New Mexico

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require early childhood teachers to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for New York

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for middle and secondary teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for North Carolina

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for middle and secondary teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary candidates to pass a content test in each subject they are licensed to teach prior to entering the classroom.
- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for North Dakota

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Ohio

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Oklahoma

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Oregon

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Pennsylvania

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for secondary teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Rhode Island

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary special education teacher candidates to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure adequate content testing for middle grades special education teachers.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.
- Establish minimum standards of performance for accountability purposes for all licensure pathways.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for South Carolina

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for South Dakota

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Tennessee

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for secondary teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Texas

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Utah

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Vermont

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Virginia

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for middle and secondary teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Washington

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for middle and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.
- Eliminate the generalist K-8 license.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary candidates to pass a content test in each subject they are licensed to teach.
- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for West Virginia

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for middle and secondary teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Wisconsin

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for middle and secondary teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require all elementary teacher candidates—including candidates for an early childhood license—to pass a rigorous content test that assesses knowledge of all core subjects, including mathematics, and requires a meaningful passing score for each area.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.

# Teacher Preparation Policy Priorities for Wyoming

## Prepare all teachers to meet the instructional shifts of college- and career-readiness standards for students.

- Strengthen preparation requirements to ensure teacher candidates have the ability to address the use of informational texts as well as incorporate complex informational texts into classroom instruction.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Through testing frameworks or teacher standards, include literacy skills and using text to build content knowledge in history/social studies, science, technical subjects and the arts.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*
- Ensure teachers are prepared to intervene and support students who are struggling with reading.  
*Priority for elementary, middle, secondary and special education teacher preparation.*

### Additional priorities for elementary teacher preparation:

- Require a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Require early childhood education teachers who teach at the elementary level to pass a content test with separate passing scores for each of the core subject areas.
- Require a content specialization in an academic subject area.

### Additional priorities for middle school teacher preparation:

- Require teacher candidates to pass a content test in every core area they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for secondary teacher preparation:

- Require secondary candidates to pass a content test in each subject they are licensed to teach.
- Require secondary science and social studies teachers to pass a content test for each discipline they are licensed to teach.

### Additional priorities for special education teacher preparation:

- Eliminate the K-12 special education certificate, and require licenses that differentiate between preparation of elementary and secondary teacher candidates.
- Require elementary special education candidates to pass a rigorous content test as a condition of initial licensure, as well as a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.
- Ensure secondary special education teachers possess adequate content knowledge for the grades and subjects they teach.

### Raise admission requirements:

- Limit admission to teacher preparation programs to candidates in the top half of the college-going population, measured by a test normed to the general college-bound population or minimum GPA.

### Hold preparation programs accountable:

- Collect performance data to monitor programs, including student achievement gains.
- Set minimum standards for program performance with consequences for failure to meet those standards.
- Publicly report performance data.







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