



Teacher Quality and Improvement

e-Newsletter of the CCSSO Teacher Quality Network

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The Teacher Quality and Improvement e-newsletter is a free publication from CCSSO focusing on efforts at the state and district level to strengthen teacher quality and school leadership, particularly in high-poverty, low-performing schools. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide links to recent reports, studies, legislative action, and news articles related to teacher quality and improvement efforts.

To submit a news item relevant to teacher quality and improvement at the state or district level, provide feedback, or subscribe/unsubscribe, contact Cindy Prince at cindyp@ccsso.org. If you are having problems reading this file, the PDF version of this newsletter is available at <http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/TQINewsletter20Sept06.pdf>. All previous issues are posted on the CCSSO website at http://www.ccsso.org/whats_new/newsletters/teacher_quality_and_improvement/index.cfm.

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

- **Thursday, September 21, 2006, 3-4 pm Eastern time**
[Focusing Teacher Preparation on At-Risk and Hard-to-Staff Schools](#)
Live, interactive webcast sponsored by the National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality (NCCTQ). Information from this event will be archived on www.ncctq.org under "webcasts."
[Registration](#) is required for participation, but there is no registration fee.

SOME OF THE TOP STORIES

New report says majority of teacher preparation programs are poor to mediocre, fail to prepare teachers for demands of classroom

- [Educating School Teachers](#)
Levine, A., The Education Schools Project, September 2006, 142 pp.
- [The Education Schools Project](#)
 - Feller, B. "[Study says teacher training is chaotic,](#)" *Washington Post/Associated Press*, September 18, 2006.

Also:

- Feller, B. [“Study says teacher training is chaotic,”](#) *Houston Chronicle/Associated Press*, September 18, 2006.
- Feller, B. [“Teacher training is chaotic, study says,”](#) *USA Today/Associated Press*, September 18, 2006.
- Feller, B. [“Study says teacher training is chaotic,”](#) *Forbes/Associated Press*, September 18, 2006.
- Feller, B. [“Study says teacher training is chaotic,”](#) *Boston Globe/Associated Press*, September 18, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“Study assails ‘unruly...chaotic’ system of teacher education,”](#) *The Winston-Salem (NC) Journal*, September 19, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“Teacher training is chaotic, study says,”](#) *CNN.com*, September 19, 2006.
- Feller, B., & Erickson, T. [“Teacher training faulty, study says,”](#) *Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)/Associated Press*, September 19, 2006.
 - Associated Press. [“Key recommendations from ‘Educating School Teachers,’ ”](#) *Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)*, September 19, 2006.
- Feller, B. [“Teacher training is chaotic, study says,”](#) *Seattle Times/Associated Press*, September 19, 2006.
- Feller, B. [“Study says teacher training is chaotic,”](#) *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune/Associated Press*, September 19, 2006.
- Feller, B. [“Colleges get failing grades for preparation of teachers,”](#) *Cincinnati Enquirer/Associated Press*, September 19, 2006.
- *United Press International*. [“Group attacks U.S. teacher training,”](#) *UPI.com*, September 18, 2006.
- Borsuk, A. [“Alverno cited for teacher training,”](#) *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, September 18, 2006.
- Finder, A. [“Report critical of training of teachers,”](#) *New York Times*, September 19, 2006.
- Basken, P. [“Teachers, principals fault preparation of teaching colleges,”](#) *Buffalo News/Bloomberg News*, September 19, 2006.
- Winslow, O. [“Survey has alarming results for teachers-to-be,”](#) *Newsday*, September 19, 2006.
- Banchemo, S. [“Teacher ed gets failing mark,”](#) *Chicago Tribune*, September 19, 2006.
- eSchool News staff and wire service reports. [“Report slams teacher-education programs,”](#) *eSchool News*, September 19, 2006.
- Creamer, B. [“Teacher colleges get low marks,”](#) *Honolulu Advertiser*, September 19, 2006.
- Powers, E. [“New critique of teacher ed,”](#) *Inside Higher Education*, September 19, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“Emporia State lauded in study of teacher training programs,”](#) *The Wichita (KS) Eagle*, September 19, 2006.

Also:

- Associated Press. [“ESU lauded for teacher training program,”](#) *The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal*, September 19, 2006.
- Williams, M.R. [“Study says teachers are poorly trained,”](#) *Kansas City Star/Associated Press*, September 19, 2006.
- Honawar, V. [“Prominent teacher-educator assails field, suggests new accrediting body in report,”](#) *Education Week*, September 20, 2006.

Springfield, Mass. teachers approve voluntary performance pay for district’s most experienced teachers; participants must agree to accept difficult assignments in low-performing schools

- Sacchetti, M. [“Springfield teachers OK merit pay contract,”](#) *Boston Globe*, September 9, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“Control board approves Springfield teachers contract,”](#) *Boston Herald*, September 11, 2006.
- Arbulú, N. [“Teacher contract gets board’s official OK,”](#) *The (Springfield, MA) Republican*, September 12, 2006.

\$5M gift to University of Maryland, Baltimore County will fund scholarships for math and science teachers who commit to teach in high-need urban schools

- University of Maryland, Baltimore County. [“UMBC launches Sherman ‘STEM’ Teacher Training Program.”](#) Press release, September 2006.
- Dechter, G. [“Science, math teacher bid gets a boost,”](#) *Baltimore Sun*, September 9, 2006.

Iowa nonprofit launches new loan forgiveness program for teachers of hard-to-fill subjects, with additional benefits for those who also work in high-poverty schools

- Gearino, D. [“Program would forgive teachers’ student loans,”](#) *The Quad-City Times (Davenport, IA)*, September 15, 2006.
- Campbell, L. [“If teachers stay, loans go away,”](#) *Des Moines Register*, September 16, 2006.

NYC Department of Education, CUNY, and NYU form partnership to recruit and prepare math and science teachers for New York City public schools

- Meenan, M. [“CUNY, NYU and DOE team up to train teachers for city schools,”](#) *NY1 News (New York)*, September 19, 2006.
- City University of New York, [The Teacher Academy](#).

Florida teachers union challenges state guidelines on teacher performance pay

- Deslatte, A. [“Teachers union to oppose Bush bonus plan,”](#) *Tallahassee Democrat*, September 18, 2006.

- Associated Press. [“Teachers union: State’s performance pay rules are invalid.”](#) *The (Bradenton, FL) Herald*, September 18, 2006.

Also:

- Associated Press. [“Teachers union: State’s performance pay rules are invalid.”](#) *WTSP News (Tampa/St. Petersburg)*, September 18, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“Union takes issue with state’s performance pay rules for teachers.”](#) *The Gainesville (FL) Sun*, September 19, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“Teachers group challenges performance-pay plan.”](#) *Orlando Sentinel*, September 19, 2006.
- *Naples Daily News* staff and wire reports. [“Lee teacher, union challenge performance pay increases.”](#) *Naples (FL) Daily News*, September 19, 2006.
- Deslatte, A. [“Union ready to fight bonus plan.”](#) *Tallahassee Democrat*, September 19, 2006.

FEMA to provide 250 furnished, rent-free modular homes to help lure teachers back to New Orleans

- Associated Press. [“Housing program started for New Orleans teachers.”](#) *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, September 13, 2006.

Also:

- Associated Press. [“Evacuee teachers offered free homes.”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, September 14, 2006.
- *Houston Chronicle* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Elementary improvement.”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, September 18, 2006.
- Ritea, S. [“Returning teachers to get temporary prefab homes.”](#) *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, September 19, 2006.

Wisconsin gubernatorial candidate favors basing teacher pay on performance and abolishing Milwaukee’s teacher residency requirements

- *WisPolitics.com*. [“Green unveils education reform plan to help Wisconsin kids get world’s best education.”](#) Press release, September 19, 2006.
- Beckett, A. [“Green education proposal would base teacher pay on performance.”](#) *Wisconsin Public Radio*, September 19, 2006.
- Callender, D. [“Green takes on teachers’ pay.”](#) *The (Madison, WI) Capital Times*, September 19, 2006.

FEDERAL UPDATE

USDE will not force elimination of HOUSSE option, but strongly encourages states to curtail its use “to the extent practicable”

- September 5, 2006 [letter to chief state school officers](#) from U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings

- Feller, B. [“Ed. Dept. eases teacher quality rule.”](#) *Washington Post/Associated Press*, September 7, 2006.

Also:

- Associated Press. [“Education Department eases stand on teacher quality.”](#) *CNN.com*, September 8, 2006.
- Bloomberg News. [“Feds decry less strict teacher certifications.”](#) *Arizona Daily Star*, September 8, 2006.
- Keller, B. [“Ed. Dept. won’t force HOUSSE closure now,”](#) *Education Week*, September 20, 2006.

IN THE NEWS

Teacher preparation, higher ed

- Mallory, A. [“Teacher ed programs get approval from state.”](#) *The Charleston (WV) Gazette*, September 15, 2006.
- Smith, N. [“FVSU teaching program reopened.”](#) *The Macon (GA) Telegraph*, September 16, 2006.
- University of Bridgeport (CT). [“UB’s school of education wins full approval of state for its educator preparation programs.”](#) Press release, September 2006.

Teacher certification and licensure

- *The Times* staff. [“State board launches new certification system.”](#) *The (Munster, IN) Times*, September 8, 2006.
- Malone, Z. [“Educator Certification System launched.”](#) *The Edwardsville (IL) Intelligencer*, September 9, 2006.
- McCorkell, J. [“STT helping military spouses to become educators.”](#) *Navy Compass (El Cajon, CA)*, September 15, 2006.
- *Pantagraph* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Teacher certification program belongs at ISU.”](#) *Pantagraph (Bloomington, IL)*, September 17, 2006.
- *Tallahassee Democrat* staff. [“Teachers beef up their skills with certification.”](#) *Tallahassee Democrat*, September 18, 2006.
- Elliott, M. [“Teachers taking skills to next level.”](#) *Tallahassee Democrat*, September 19, 2006.

Alternative routes to teaching

- Buxengard, J. [“College graduate teaching school at South Dakota Indian reservation.”](#) *The (Spring Grove, MN) Herald*, September 8, 2006.
- Well, K. [“FSU and Wakulla schools form educational partnership.”](#) *Wakulla.com*, September 12, 2006.
- Price, M., & Rotherham, A. [“D.C.’s new teacher demographics.”](#) *Education Sector*, September 12, 2006.
- Goodman, J. [“More shift career gears to shape young minds.”](#) *Rochester (NY) Democrat and Chronicle*, September 12, 2006.

- Johnson, J. [“Teacher in training.”](#) *Up & Coming Magazine (Fayetteville, NC)*, September 13, 2006.
- Keller, B. [“ABCTE picks up state, adds former member of National Board.”](#) *Education Week*, September 13, 2006.
- Reinolds, C. [“Ga. program turns military men, women into teachers.”](#) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, September 18, 2006.
- Manthey, T. [“Yes, sir, teacher, sir!”](#) *The (Tacoma, WA) News Tribune*, September 19, 2006.

Teacher recruitment, hiring

- Adair, J. [“OPINION: Nurturing male teachers changing the stereotype.”](#) *Metro West Daily News (Framingham, MA)*, September 10, 2006.
- *Orlando Sentinel* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Use varied strategies to hire teachers.”](#) *Orlando Sentinel*, September 10, 2006.
- Flanigan, H. [“Minority teachers in high demand in Region 8.”](#) *KAIT News (Jonesboro, AR)*, September 12, 2006.
- Young, J. [“New programs push Native education.”](#) *The Lincoln (NE) Journal Star*, September 18, 2006.

Teacher assignment, distribution

- Asimov, N. [“Schools may get break from bad teachers: ‘Dance of the Lemons’ from one campus to another would be curtailed under bill.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 10, 2006.
- Pinzur, M. [“Deal reached on failing schools.”](#) *Miami Herald*, September 14, 2006.

Principal recruitment, hiring, training

- Borg, L. [“Principal in training.”](#) *Providence (RI) Journal*, September 12, 2006.
- Archer, J. [“Mentoring for new principals gains policy attention.”](#) *Education Week*, September 13, 2006.
- Cressler, J. [“Principals offer mentoring.”](#) *The Burlison-Crowley Connection (Cleburne, TX)*, September 17, 2006.
- Smith, C. [“Tiny school to train more principals.”](#) *Charlotte Observer*, September 17, 2006.

Teacher mentoring, induction, support, coaching

- White, C. [“Rookie teachers paired with vets to help with real-world lessons.”](#) *The Daily World (Aberdeen, WA)*, September 5, 2006.
- Ast, E. [“Mentor programs aim to keep new teachers.”](#) *Oregonian/Hillsboro Argus*, September 15, 2006.
- *NBC 5 News* staff. [“CPS launches peer-mentoring program for teachers.”](#) *NBC 5 News (Chicago)*, September 19, 2006.

Professional development

- Noyce, P. [“COMMENTARY: Professional development: How do we know if it works?”](#) *Education Week*, September 13, 2006.

- Danley-Greiner, K. [“Teachers find ideas, energy by taking master’s classes.”](#) *Des Moines Register*, September 19, 2006.
- ☆ **To teach math and science**
 - Northrop Grumman. [“Northrop Grumman’s weightless teacher flights touch down in Cleveland.”](#) Press release, *PR Newswire/Yahoo! Finance*, September 9, 2006.
 - Blume, H. [“Gates Foundation is giving \\$1.3 million to L.A. schools.”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, September 14, 2006.
 - University of Kentucky. [“Program awards grants to Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia schools.”](#) Press release, September 18, 2006.
- ☆ **To teach history and culture**
 - Associated Press. [“Lincoln Museum offers free workshops for teachers.”](#) *ABC 7 News (Chicago)*, September 8, 2006.

Also:

 - Associated Press. [“Lincoln Museum offers free workshops for teachers.”](#) *KHQA News (Quincy, IL)*, September 8, 2006.
 - *Indiansz.com* staff. [“Education conferences in South Dakota, Montana.”](#) *Indiansz.com*, September 19, 2006.
 - Steen, J. [“Conference aids Indian education.”](#) *The Rapid City (SD) Journal*, September 19, 2006.
 - Thackeray, L. [“Conference set on Indian ed.”](#) *The Billings (MT) Gazette*, September 19, 2006.

Teacher and principal compensation, incentives

- Weiss Green, E. [“More apples for the very best teachers.”](#) *U.S. News & World Report*, September 10, 2006.
- *WTVF News* staff. [“New study seeks if teacher incentives improve student learning.”](#) *WTVF News (Nashville, TN)*, September 14, 2006.
- ☆ **California**
 - Ortiz, E. [“Teacher housing to be on tap.”](#) *The Orange County (CA) Register*, September 11, 2006.
- ☆ **Connecticut**
 - Hagey, K. [“Schools will start commuter shuttle for teachers.”](#) *Greenwich (CT) Time*, September 16, 2006.
- ☆ **Iowa**
 - Waterfield, A. [“Paying teachers for performance resurfaces.”](#) *Daily Iowan (University of Iowa)*, September 8, 2006.
 - *Des Moines Business Record* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Grading teachers is tough.”](#) *Des Moines Business Record*, September 10, 2006.

☆ **Maryland**

- *Baltimore Sun* editorial staff. "[OPINION: Principal perquisites.](#)" *Baltimore Sun*, September 18, 2006.

☆ **Massachusetts**

- Carroll, M. "[Low pay an issue at special-ed schools.](#)" *Boston Globe*, September 10, 2006.

☆ **Michigan**

- Mitchell, C. "[School board president floats merit pay increases.](#)" *The Saginaw (MI) News/Associated Press*, September 15, 2006.

☆ **Minnesota**

- Ong, B. "[Student success is bonus for teachers.](#)" *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, September 8, 2006.

☆ **North Carolina**

- Williams, J. "[Big bucks for math and science teachers.](#)" *The Eden (NC) Daily News*, September 13, 2006.
- Williams, J. "[Ten county teachers to get bonus.](#)" *The Eden (NC) Daily News*, September 20, 2006.
- Jacobson, L. "[N.C. district lures new math teachers with \\$10,000 bonus.](#)" *Education Week*, September 20, 2006.

☆ **Texas**

- Alanis, M. "[FW school gets \\$60,000 in staff bonuses.](#)" *Dallas Morning News*, September 12, 2006.
- Stewart, M. "[Fort Worth school gets \\$60,000 state bonus.](#)" *CBS 11 News (Fort Worth, TX)*, September 12, 2006.
- Weber, P. "[Texas schools begin receiving bonus pay grants.](#)" *Houston Chronicle/Associated Press*, September 12, 2006.

Also:

- Associated Press. "[Texas schools begin receiving bonus pay grants.](#)" *WOAI News (San Antonio, TX)*, September 12, 2006.
- *Houston Business Journal* staff. "[Perry touts new merit-based pay program.](#)" *Houston Business Journal*, September 12, 2006.
- *Dallas Business Journal* staff. "[Perry touts new merit-based pay program.](#)" *Dallas Business Journal*, September 13, 2006.
- *Dallas Morning News* staff and wire reports. "[Perry touts performance bonuses.](#)" *Dallas Morning News*, September 13, 2006.
- Mellon, E. "[State gives teachers \\$7 million in bonuses.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, September 13, 2006.
- Bernet, B. "[Grants to reward teacher performance.](#)" *Amarillo (TX) Globe News*, September 15, 2006.

- Anthony, P. "[Perry delivers bonuses to Veribest educators.](#)" *The San Angelo (TX) Standard-Times*, September 15, 2006.

☆ **Virginia**

- Associated Press. "[Hertford County Schools to provide teacher housing.](#)" *WTKR News (Norfolk, VA)*, August 22, 2006.

Working conditions

☆ **Facilities, resources**

- Gullapalli, D. "[Moldy school offers outstanding programs.](#)" *Chicago Tribune/Wall Street Journal*, September 10, 2006.
- Associated Press. "[Brown recluse spiders infest school.](#)" *Indianapolis Star*, September 14, 2006.

Also:

- Associated Press. "[School open despite recluse spiders.](#)" *Chicago Sun-Times*, September 15, 2006.
- Horswell, C. "[So far, no rabid bats at Humble High.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, September 15, 2006.
- Horswell, C. "[Humble parents question response on bats.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, September 15, 2006.
- Markley, M., & Horswell, C. "[9 bats at Humble High test negative for rabies.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, September 15, 2006.
- *Houston Chronicle* staff. "[Rabid bat found at Katy Taylor High.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, September 16, 2006.
- Horswell, C. "[Rabid bat found at Katy school.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, September 17, 2006.
- Martin, B. "[Rabid bat prompts health screenings Saturday in Katy.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, September 18, 2006.
- Eriksen, H. "[Katy teacher treated after bat bite.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, September 18, 2006.
- Eriksen, H. "[Teacher in KISD bitten by bat.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, September 19, 2006.
- Eriksen, H. "[Teacher bitten by bat back on the job.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, September 20, 2006.

☆ **Class size**

- Snyder, S. "[Teachers have had it with crowding.](#)" *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 20, 2006.

☆ **Safety and discipline**

- Breen, K. "[Recorded assaults more than double in Plano schools.](#)" *Dallas Morning News*, September 19, 2006.

Teacher evaluation, effectiveness

- Deegan, M. "[City schools ramp up teacher evaluations.](#)" *The (Charlottesville, VA) Daily Progress*, September 16, 2006.

- Dell'Angela, T. "[Rookie teachers will be graded by a 'coach.'](#)" *Chicago Tribune*, September 20, 2006.

Teacher retention

- Lowry, D. "[Programs hope to retain teachers.](#)" *WXIA News (Atlanta)*, September 13, 2006.

Teacher mobility, turnover

- Harrison, D. "[Teacher turnover spikes.](#)" *The Roanoke (VA) Times*, September 17, 2006.

Teachers of hard-to-fill subjects and specializations

☆ **Math and science**

- Khanna, S. "[NCCU instructors = help.](#)" *The (Raleigh, NC) News & Observer*, September 20, 2006.

☆ **Special education**

- Carroll, M. "[Low pay an issue at special-ed schools.](#)" *Boston Globe*, September 10, 2006.

Substitute teachers

- Sena, J. "[New program streamlines substitute teacher process.](#)" *The (Santa Fe) New Mexican*, September 7, 2006.
- NY1 News staff. "[Schools to install system to track substitute teachers.](#)" *NY1 News (New York)*, September 10, 2006.
- Aljentera, C. "[Substitute teachers learn new tricks.](#)" *Monterey (CA) Herald*, September 13, 2006.
- Solochek, J. "[Teacher pay boost tradeoff: fewer subs.](#)" *St. Petersburg Times*, September 20, 2006.

State and district progress toward the goal that all teachers will be highly qualified

- Whitaker, C. "[Ohio teachers are head of class.](#)" *Middletown (OH) Journal*, September 10, 2006.
- Sherry, M. "[Teachers' credentials checked.](#)" *Kansas City Star*, September 18, 2006.

RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, REPORTS, AND TOOLS

Alternative routes to teaching

- Teacher Blog: [On the Reservation](#)
Shyu, J., *Teacher Magazine*, 18(1), September 12-19, 2006

Teacher mentoring, induction, support, coaching

- [Mentor Like You Mean It](#)
Teacher Magazine, 18(1), September 1, 2006, p. 20

State and district progress toward the goal that all teachers will be highly qualified

- [Model Components for Revised State HQT Plans](#)
National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality, September 2006, 6 pp.
- [Tool to Help States Revise Plans to Have Highly Qualified Teachers in Every Classroom](#)
ECS/National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality, September 2006
- [Revising the Equitable Distribution Component in Your State's Plan for Highly Qualified Teachers](#)
Goe, L., ETS/ National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality, September 2006, 16 pp.

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in the states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and five U.S. extra-state jurisdictions. CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance on the major educational issues. The Council seeks member consensus on major educational issues and expresses their views to civic and professional organizations, federal agencies, Congress, and the public.

Our mission statement: The Council of Chief State School Officers, through Leadership, Advocacy, and Service, assists chief state school officers and their organizations in achieving the vision of an American education system that enables all children to succeed in school, work, and life.

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