



# 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](mailto: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/TQINewsletter01Oct.pdf>. The PDF version of the previous issue is available at <http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/TQINewsletter16Sep.pdf>.

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## SOME OF THE TOP STORIES

### **NSF grant will retrain Boston's science teachers; 80% not highly qualified to teach subject**

- Rothstein, K. "[Hub schools make grade with \\$12.5M science grant.](#)" *Boston Herald*, October 1, 2004.
- Tench, M. "[\\$12.5m grant offers teachers a science primer.](#)" *Boston Globe*, October 1, 2004.

### **Alabama State University trustees overturn State Board of Ed decision to test new teachers**

- Dean, C. "[ASU trustees block deal to begin teacher tests.](#)" *Birmingham News*, September 30, 2004.

### **Virginia Board of Ed considers lowering cut-scores on state teacher test to stem attrition**

- Carroll, H. "[Testing teachers: Va. weighs who should make the grade.](#)" *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, September 24, 2004.

### **California Commission on Teacher Credentialing decides not to pursue ABCTE option**

- Viadero, D. "[News in Brief: A State Capitols Roundup – California rejects credential.](#)" *Education Week*, September 22, 2004. (*scroll to bottom*)

### **In Chicago, less than half of Teach for America teachers remain beyond 2-yr commitment**

- Keller, B. "[Teaching & Learning: Chicago wants TFA to commit longer.](#)" *Education Week*, September 22, 2004.

## Update: Philadelphia teacher contract deadline extended again

- Snyder, S. [“School district says it’s ready to impose terms.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 22, 2004.
- Kirsch, T. [“OPINION: A better way to attract good teachers.”](#) *Philadelphia Daily News*, September 23, 2004.
- *Philadelphia Inquirer* staff. [“EDITORIAL: Philadelphia teacher contract.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 23, 2004.
- Dean, M. [“‘My defining moment:’ Nevels talks about his role in forging new teachers deal.”](#) *Philadelphia Daily News*, September 25, 2004.
- Snyder, S. [“District, teachers’ union say 3d extension possible.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 28, 2004.
- Dean, M. [“Poll: Parents back empowering principals.”](#) *Philadelphia Daily News*, September 29, 2004.
- Dean, M. [“Progress made, teachers pact extended again.”](#) *Philadelphia Daily News*, September 30, 2004.
- Snyder, S. [“Teacher contract extended 10 days.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 30, 2004.

## FEDERAL UPDATE

- Robelen, E. [“Kennedy bill would give states, districts leeway.”](#) *Education Week*, September 22, 2004.

### Note:

“In addition, the bill would require that all states offer veteran teachers an alternative approach to meet the law’s mandate on “highly qualified” teachers. The law allows states to develop a “high, objective, uniform state standard of evaluation,” or HOUSSSE, for veterans to demonstrate subject-matter competence without going back for more schooling or passing a subject-matter test. Sen. Kennedy said 15 states still don’t offer that option.”

## IN THE NEWS

### Teacher and principal preparation, higher ed

- Keller, B. [“Teaching & Learning: Teacher prep becomes fodder for U.S. News college guide.”](#) *Education Week*, September 22, 2004. (scroll down)

### Alternative routes to teaching

- Scheller, L. [“Two professionals teaching in schools.”](#) *The Tonganoxie (Kan.) Mirror*, September 15, 2004.
- Ellin, A. [“Struggling, even with a tuition break.”](#) *New York Times*, September 19, 2004.

### Teacher hiring

- Associated Press. [“Judge orders removal of three Ohio school board members who hired unqualified teachers.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 27, 2004.

### Also:

- Associated Press. [“Three on Ohio school board ordered off.”](#) *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, September 27, 2004.

### **Recruitment and retention**

- Long, D. [“Recruitment center aims to stem state’s teacher shortage.”](#) *The Tennessean*, September 26, 2004.
- Bach, D. [“Percentage of minorities on staff at Seattle Public Schools dips.”](#) *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, September 27, 2004.
- Manzo, K.K. [“Report Roundup: Teacher shortage.”](#) *Education Week*, September 29, 2004. (scroll down)

### **Novice teachers and principals**

- Griego, T. [“OPINION: Unruly freshmen test mettle of a dedicated young teacher.”](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, September 27, 2004.
- Dean, M. [“At King High, new teachers outnumber the old.”](#) *Philadelphia Daily News*, October 1, 2004.

### **Mentoring, induction, coaching**

- *Boston Globe* staff. [“EDITORIAL: Greater expectations.”](#) *Boston Globe*, September 16, 2004. (See p. 3, “Teaching math.”)
- *Seattle Times* staff. [“Briefly: Boeing grant will couple elementary teachers, math.”](#) *Seattle Times*, September 22, 2004.
- Nevius, C.W. [“OPINION: Hanging on to new teachers.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 28, 2004.

### **Professional development**

- Loh, L. [“Report criticizes city schools’ instruction, training.”](#) *Baltimore Sun*, September 19, 2004.

#### ☆ **To teach diverse groups of students**

- Mui, Y.Q. [“Extra help for a special Md. school.”](#) *Washington Post*, October 1, 2004.

#### ☆ **To teach academic content**

- Schouten, C. [“Teachers go back to class for training.”](#) *Arizona Republic*, September 29, 2004.
- Smith, D. [“Hands-on science aims to boost learning.”](#) *Kansas City Star*, September 29, 2004.

### **Teacher and principal compensation, incentives**

- Draper, N. [“Teacher pay plan: Will it get results?”](#) *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, September 19, 2004.
- Sample, H. [“Teachers find a home in San Jose.”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, September 19, 2004.
- *Plain Dealer* staff. [“EDITORIAL: Paying for better teachers.”](#) *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*, September 21, 2004.
- Hoff, D. [“News in Brief: A State Capitols Roundup – Minnesota expands pay-for-performance pilot.”](#) *Education Week*, September 22, 2004. (scroll down)

- Webb, A. [“Merit pay for teachers studied.”](#) *Idaho Statesman*, September 23, 2004.

### **Teacher turnover**

- Sherry, A. [“Denver sees teacher exodus.”](#) *Denver Post*, September 27, 2004.

### **Teachers in hard-to-staff schools**

- Kolber, M. [“Fiscal help on way to struggling schools.”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, September 29, 2004.
- Wise, A. [“COMMENTARY: Teaching teams.”](#) *Education Week*, September 29, 2004.

### **Rural staff shortages**

- Hasten, M. [“Filling rural teacher posts no easy task.”](#) *The (Lafayette, La.) Advertiser*, September 20, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Report: Small schools struggle to meet NCLB.”](#) *Rapid City (S.D.) Journal*, September 29, 2004.

### **Highly-qualified tutors**

- Frahm, R. [“City teachers may lose tutor roles.”](#) *Hartford Courant*, September 29, 2004.

### **Teacher quality**

- Wasserman, J. [“Schwarzenegger signs 29 bills Tuesday, vetoes one schools bill.”](#) *San Diego Union-Tribune/Associated Press*, September 14, 2004.

### **State progress toward meeting the requirement that all teachers must be highly qualified**

- Warsmith, S. [“Teaching requirement is subject of complaint.”](#) *Akron (Oh.) Beacon Journal*, September 6, 2004.

## **RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND REPORTS**

### **Teacher certification and licensure**

- [“Does Teacher Certification Matter?”](#)  
Coulson, A., Mackinac Center for Public Policy, September 14, 2004

### **Teacher and principal compensation, incentives**

- [“Pay It Backward”](#)  
Gewertz, C., *Teacher Magazine*, 16(1), 17, September 2004

### **Teacher turnover**

- [“The Effects of Chronic Teacher Turnover on School Climate and Organization”](#)  
*ASCD ResearchBrief*, 2(19), September 14, 2004

### **Rural staff shortages**

- [“Teacher Recruitment and Retention: A Survey of the Rural Landscape”](#)  
National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), *Policy Update*, 12(11), August 2004

- [\*No Child Left Behind Act: Additional Assistance and Research on Effective Strategies Would Help Small Rural Districts\*](#)  
United States Government Accountability Office, September 2004, 58 pp.

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