



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/TQINewsletter09Jun06.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

- [Teach in Virginia](#)
 - **June 19, 2006:** Application deadline for teachers of hard-to-fill subjects in understaffed areas of Virginia
 - *Richmond Times-Dispatch* staff. ["Teach in Virginia deadline is June 19."](#) *The (Richmond, VA) Times-Dispatch*, June 7, 2006.
- [New York State Mentor Teacher Internship Program \(MTIP\) Grants](#)

This state grant program provides partial funding to local school districts or BOCES to develop and implement a mentoring/induction program.

 - **June 19, 2006:** Deadline for continuing awards
 - [Application for continuing project applicants](#)
 - **July 1, 2006:** Deadline for new awards
 - [Application for new applicants](#)
- [Michael Jordan's Fundamentals Grant Program](#)

Provides grants of up to \$2,500 to support the development of an original lesson plan or thematic unit that demonstrates high expectations for students. Teachers or paraprofessionals in Grades 1-12 who teach in public schools in which at least half of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals may apply. This year, 200 grants have been earmarked for teachers directly affected by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita, regardless of school's poverty status.

 - **June 30, 2006:** Application deadline

- [Application form](#)
- **July 9-11, 2006:** [NCTAF's Annual Partners' Symposium](#), St. Paul, Minnesota
Sessions include *Rewarding Professional Career Paths, Using Value-Added to Improve Teaching Quality and Student Achievement, The Teacher Incentive Fund, Meeting the Demand for Quality Teaching in Mathematics and Sciences, and Achieving an Equitable Distribution of Highly Qualified Teachers.*
- **July 11-14, 2006:** [ECS' National Forum on Education Policy](#), Minneapolis, Minnesota
Sessions include *The New Age for Compensating Teachers, The Cost of Teacher Turnover, Targeting Teacher Attrition in Large Urban Settings, Teacher Education and Community Colleges, Developing Principals, and The State and District Role in Turning Around Low-Performing Schools.*

SOME OF THE TOP STORIES

Report documents inequities in school staffing in Illinois, Ohio, and Wisconsin; recommends ways that states can narrow the teacher quality gap

- [Teaching Inequality: How Poor and Minority Students are Shortchanged on Teacher Quality](#)
Peske, H., & Haycock, K., The Education Trust, June 2006, 20 pp.
 - Education Trust. ["Teaching inequality: How poor and minority students are shortchanged on teacher quality."](#) Press release, June 8, 2006.
 - D'Allessio, F.N. ["Report: Poor, minority students taught by inexperienced teachers."](#) *Chicago Tribune*, June 8, 2006.
 - Borsuk, A. ["Needy kids, novice teachers."](#) *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, June 8, 2006.
 - Banchemo, S. ["Teachers study shows their worth: Better educators bring higher scores."](#) *Chicago Tribune*, June 9, 2006.
 - Rossi, R. ["Top teachers boost poor kids' scores."](#) *Chicago Sun-Times*, June 9, 2006.
 - Associated Press. ["Group says minorities get low-level teachers."](#) *Cincinnati Enquirer*, June 9, 2006.
 - Stephens, S. ["Study: Neediest pupils get least-skilled teachers."](#) *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*, June 9, 2006.

D.C. teachers approve pilot pay-for-performance program in ten schools

- Associated Press. ["D.C. teachers to vote on student-performance bonuses."](#) *WJLA/ABC News*, June 6, 2006.
- Haynes, V.D. ["Bonuses, relaxed rules proposed."](#) *Washington Post*, June 6, 2006, B04.
- Haynes, V.D. ["Teachers approve contract."](#) *Washington Post*, June 8, 2006, B04.

Texas creates nation's largest pay-for-performance plan; \$260M earmarked for locally-designed incentive programs, \$100M to reward educators in high-performing, high-poverty schools

- Pierson, E. ["Bell and Perry campaigns trade barbs over merit-based teacher raises."](#) *The (McAllen, TX) Monitor*, May 24, 2006.

Also:

- Pierson, E. [“Bell and Perry campaigns trade barbs over merit-based teacher raises,”](#) *The Brownsville (TX) Herald*, May 24, 2006.
- Office of Texas Governor Rick Perry. [“Gov. Perry praises school finance reform victory.”](#) Press release, May 25, 2006.
- *Dallas Morning News* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Rewarding teachers: Help new state program live up to its promise.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, June 1, 2006.
- Dallas Independent School District. [“Governor’s Educator Excellence Award Grant Program: Incentive plans of DISD schools eligible for state’s teacher incentive bonus are available online.”](#)
- Texas Education Agency. [“Summary of the Governor’s Educator Excellence Award.”](#)
- Texas Education Agency. [“Frequently asked questions about the Governor’s Educator Excellence Award grant program,”](#) April 28, 2006 – UPDATED.

Florida’s new A++ Plan for Education will award higher pay to teachers of hard-to-fill subjects and to those who work in low-performing schools

- Waller, N. [“Jeb puts seal on a massive education-reform package.”](#) *Miami Herald*, June 2006.

New incentives to attract math, science, and special ed teachers to low-performing L.A. schools include \$5,000 bonuses, plus \$5,000 more if teachers remain in schools for 3 years

- *KABC-TV News* staff. [“L.A. teacher incentive plan approved by the LAUSD board,”](#) *KABC-TV News (Los Angeles)*, May 24, 2006.

U. of North Carolina system proposes \$15,000 boost for math teachers in high-poverty schools; Guilford County moves forward with own merit pay, financial incentives to attract teachers to highest-need schools

- Silberman, T. [“Extra pay might fill teaching jobs,”](#) *The (Raleigh, NC) News & Observer*, May 20, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“N.C. school systems turn to pay incentives to draw, keep teachers,”](#) *WRAL News (Raleigh-Durham/Fayetteville, NC)*, May 21, 2006.
 - Discussion: [Can anything be done to keep N.C. teachers on the job?](#)
- Associated Press. [“N.C. school systems turn to pay incentives to draw, keep teachers,”](#) *WWAY News (Wilmington, NC)*, May 21, 2006.
- *News & Observer* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Teachers’ price,”](#) *The (Raleigh, NC) News & Observer*, May 27, 2006.

Illinois launches new website to provide information to teachers about employment opportunities, testing and certification requirements, and resources

- Illinois State Board of Education. [“Website offers career path information for teachers.”](#) News release, May 30, 2006.

- Associated Press. [“State unveils web site to help prospective educators.”](#) *ABC7-Chicago/WLS-TV News*, May 31, 2006.

State officials plan to examine how first group of alternative route teachers fared after participating in Teach Tennessee program

- Hall, K. [“Teacher program facing review.”](#) *The (Knoxville, TN) News-Sentinel/Associated Press*, June 5, 2006.

Also:

- Hall, K. [“Time to measure Teach Tennessee.”](#) *Commercial Appeal (Memphis)/Associated Press*, June 5, 2006.
- Hall, K. [“State looking to judge success of alternative teacher program.”](#) *The (Maryville, TN) Daily Times*, June 5, 2006.

FEDERAL UPDATE

USDE informs four states that Title I and Title II funds will be withheld until states comply with certain HQT data, reporting, and testing requirements; Delaware receives warning

- [Letter to Idaho](#)
- [Letter to Iowa](#)
- [Letter to Nebraska](#)
- [Letter to Washington](#)
- [Letter to Delaware](#)

Nebraska modifies teacher testing plans to avoid federal sanctions

- Associated Press. [“Nebraska’s teacher quality plan approved, penalties avoided.”](#) *The Sioux City (IA) Journal*, May 28, 2006.

IN THE NEWS

Teacher preparation, higher ed

- Bosker, B. [“Chinese the new ‘in’ language.”](#) *The (Trenton, NJ) Times*, May 29, 2006.
- *Arizona Republic* staff. [“Grow Your Own Teachers places 11 in Mesa district.”](#) *Arizona Republic*, May 31, 2006.
- Wheelwright, T. [“Pioneer teachers get started.”](#) *The New Haven (CT) Independent*, June 1, 2006.
- *Education Week’s* Stat of the Week, June 1, 2006: [States that publish the pass rates or rankings of teacher education institutions](#)
- Indravudh, P. [“When grad students become the teachers.”](#) *Daily Bruin (UCLA)*, June 2, 2006.

- Academy for Educational Development. [“Increasing student achievement by improving teacher education.”](#)

Teacher certification and licensure

- *News-Record* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Best teachers, or not?”](#) *The (Greensboro, NC) News-Record*, May 30, 2006.

Alternative routes to teaching

- Park, C. [“Benton County: Nontraditional teachers given licenses by state.”](#) *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, May 23, 2006.
- Kumar, K. [“Recent grads making a difference.”](#) *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 25, 2006.

Also:

- Kumar, K. [“Recent graduates flocking to Teach for America program.”](#) *St. Louis Post-Dispatch/Kansas City Star*, May 31, 2006.
- Doss Helms, A. [“48 urban trailblazers: Teachers set out to help students in tough schools.”](#) *Winston-Salem (NC) Journal/Charlotte Observer*, May 29, 2006.
- Figueiredo, L. [“Aspiring teachers find path to success.”](#) *The Oroville (CA) Mercury-Register*, May 30, 2006.
- *Daily Bruin (UCLA)* staff. [“UCLA program may have something to learn.”](#) *TMC.net*, May 31, 2006.
- Chan, C. [“Troops turned teachers tackle challenge.”](#) *Arizona Republic*, June 2, 2006.
- Creamer, B. [“From boardroom to classroom.”](#) *Honolulu Advertiser*, June 5, 2006.
- Sher, R. [“Carroll County man begins second career as teacher.”](#) *WJZ News (Baltimore)* June 5, 2006.
- Creamer, B. [“55 national teaching corps recruits arrive in Islands.”](#) *Honolulu Advertiser*, June 6, 2006.
- Teach for America/*PRNewswire/Yahoo! Finance*. [“Teach for America expands to Hawaii, recruiting top college graduates to teach in the state’s high-need public schools.”](#) Press release, June 6, 2006.

Teacher recruitment, hiring

- Alston, J. [“Male teachers difficult to recruit, says Shearin.”](#) *The (Henderson, NC) Daily Dispatch*, May 20, 2006.
- Eveld, E. [“Men noticeably absent in elementary classrooms.”](#) *The (Fort Wayne, IN) News-Sentinel/Knight Ridder*, May 22, 2006.
- Solomon, B. [“Finding and keeping good teachers.”](#) *WALB News (Albany, GA)*, May 22, 2006.
- Bliss, M. [“Fewer mentors.”](#) *The Southeast Missourian (Cape Girardeau, MO)*, May 28, 2006.
- Alberty, E. [“Recruiters: Saginaw teachers have good reputation.”](#) *The Saginaw (MI) News*, May 28, 2006.
- Buhain, V. [“More diversity sought in staffing.”](#) *The Olympian (Olympia, WA)*, May 28, 2006.

- Roebuck, J. [“McKinney ISD guarantees jobs once students qualify.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, May 28, 2006.
- KFMB News staff. [“Wanted: A few good male teachers.”](#) *KFMB News (San Diego)*, June 1, 2006.
- Mascareñas, I. [“Teachers wanted.”](#) *WTSP News (Tampa/St. Petersburg, FL)*, June 1, 2006.
- Ingram, C. [“Teacher Job Fair gets big response.”](#) *The (Jacksonville, NC) Daily News*, June 4, 2006.
- Eveld, E. [“Male teachers noticeably absent in classrooms.”](#) *The Monterey County (CA) Herald/Knight Ridder*, June 6, 2006.
- Gunn, J. [“Nationwide search for teachers.”](#) *AccessNorthGA.com*, June 6, 2006.
- Davis, P. [“Out-of-state educators want jobs near beach.”](#) *Miami Herald/Associated Press*, June 8, 2006.
- Spicuzza, M. [“County recruits teachers heavily.”](#) *St. Petersburg Times*, June 8, 2006.

Rehiring retired teachers

- Bradley, E. [“Rehiring teachers to save \\$68,775.”](#) *Community Press/Cincinnati Enquirer*, May 31, 2006.

Teacher supply and demand

- Bridgman, M. [“Teacher applicants look, wait and hope.”](#) *The Columbus (OH) Dispatch*, May 22, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“Las Vegas teacher shortage prompts rethinking of class size cuts.”](#) *Las Vegas Sun*, May 25, 2006.
- Solochek, J. [“Job pool keeps teachers afloat.”](#) *St. Petersburg Times*, May 27, 2006.

Teacher assignment, distribution

- *Los Angeles Times* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Wanted: Experienced teachers.”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, May 26, 2006.

Teacher retention

- David, J. [“First year teachers share hopes and dreams.”](#) *WQAD News (Moline, IL)*, May 2006.

Principal recruitment and retention

- Gootman, E. [“Heavy turnover in New York’s principal ranks.”](#) *New York Times*, May 22, 2006.

Teacher mentoring, induction, support, coaching

- Miranda, K. [“Mentoring helps keep teachers in the district.”](#) *13 WHAM-TV News (Rochester, NY)*, May 29, 2006.
- Duke University. [“Mentoring program for Durham teachers kicks off this week.”](#) News release, May 30, 2006.

Professional development

- Tonn, J. [“Staff-development group to lose veteran leader.”](#) *Education Week*, May 24, 2006.

- Fernandez, I. [“Teachers will become students this summer.”](#) *The Wichita (KS) Eagle*, May 29, 2006.
- Au, L. [“This teacher training goes beyond the book.”](#) *Kansas City Star*, June 3, 2006.
- Johnson, Z. [“Teachers learning how to bring the farm into the classroom.”](#) *The Stockton (CA) Record*, June 6, 2006.

Teacher compensation, incentives

- Letters to the editor. [“OPINION: Judging performance pay from actual experience.”](#) *Education Week*, June 7, 2006.

☆ **Alabama**

- Konz, A. [“Schools look at bonuses for new hires.”](#) *The Montgomery (AL) Advertiser*, June 4, 2006.

☆ **California**

- Nevius, C.W. [“OPINION: Education is sinking ship; teachers bail.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 4, 2006.

☆ **Florida**

- Solochek, J. [“Testing undervalues us, teachers say.”](#) *St. Petersburg Times*, May 21, 2006.
- *Orlando Business Journal* staff. [“Orange County offers hiring bonuses for teachers.”](#) *Orlando Business Journal*, May 22, 2006.
- Neuwahl, J. [“Flagler aids educators in housing.”](#) *Daytona Beach (FL) News-Journal*, May 28, 2006.
- Travis, S. [“It adds up: How teachers in Palm Beach County could earn six-figure salaries.”](#) *South Florida Sun-Sentinel (Ft. Lauderdale)*, May 30, 2006.
- Hobbs, E. [“Orange schools use cash to help lure new teachers.”](#) *Orlando Sentinel*, May 30, 2006.
- *Central Florida News 13* staff. [“Attracting new teachers with signing bonuses.”](#) *Central Florida News 13 (Orlando)*, May 2006.

☆ **Indiana**

- Neal, A. [“OPINION: Quality matters in classroom.”](#) *Indianapolis Star*, June 5, 2006.

☆ **Nevada**

- Associated Press. [“Two in five Las Vegas-area teachers say they need second jobs.”](#) *Las Vegas Sun*, June 6, 2006.

Also:

- Associated Press. [“2 in 5 Las Vegas-area teachers say they need 2nd jobs.”](#) *KRNV News (Las Vegas, NV)*, June 6, 2006.

☆ **Texas**

- Fischer, K. [“DISD to revisit proposed bonuses.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, June 8, 2006.

☆ **Virginia**

- Nix, M. [“Expo geared to help teachers.”](#) *The (Fredericksburg, VA) Free Lance-Star*, May 26, 2006.

☆ **Wyoming**

- Nordby, B. [“Wyoming poised to compete for best teachers.”](#) *The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune*, June 4, 2006.

Working conditions

- Kossan, P. [“Survey: Ariz. teachers seek training, prep time.”](#) *Arizona Republic*, May 27, 2006.
- King, P. [“Mold-fighting teacher helps school district clear the air.”](#) *Contra Costa Times (Walnut Creek, CA)*, May 29, 2006.
- Hancock, L. [“Plan sharing is paying off for teachers.”](#) *Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)*, May 29, 2006.
- Chávez, S. [“Teachers may face fridge fee.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, June 3, 2006.

Teacher turnover, mobility

- Cummins, K. [“Teacher turnover becomes concern in New Bloomfield.”](#) *The Fulton (MO) Sun*, May 21, 2006.
- Bolduc, G. [“No easy replacement for seasoned teacher.”](#) *The Kennebec (ME) Journal*, May 31, 2006.

Teachers of hard-to-fill subjects and specializations

☆ **Math and science**

- Graham, K. [“The science of teaching.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 22, 2006.
- Serna, J. [“CSU system planning to increase number of teachers.”](#) *The State Hornet (California State University, Sacramento)*, May 31, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“Bill would let tenured teachers get lottery scholarships.”](#) *WVLT News (Knoxville, TN)*, May 2006.

☆ **Teachers of English language learners**

- Nicita, L. [“Pinal County schools to get teachers with foreign experience.”](#) *Arizona Republic*, May 27, 2006.
- Nicita, L. [“Pinal County program taps migrants to teach.”](#) *Arizona Republic*, May 30, 2006.
- Figueiredo, L. [“Aspiring teachers find path to success.”](#) *The Oroville (CA) Mercury-Register*, May 30, 2006.

Teachers in high-poverty, low-performing, and hard-to-staff schools

- Doss Helms, A. [“48 urban trailblazers: Teachers set out to help students in tough schools.”](#) *Winston-Salem (NC) Journal/Charlotte Observer*, May 29, 2006.
- Wheelwright, T. [“Pioneer teachers get started.”](#) *The New Haven (CT) Independent*, June 1, 2006.

- Indravudh, P. [“When grad students become the teachers.”](#) *Daily Bruin (UCLA)*, June 2, 2006.

Rural teachers

- Shaffer, M. [“Feds’ teacher rules strain rural areas.”](#) *Arizona Republic*, May 24, 2006.

International teachers

- Nicita, L. [“Pinal County schools to get teachers with foreign experience.”](#) *Arizona Republic*, May 27, 2006.
- Nicita, L. [“Pinal County program taps migrants to teach.”](#) *Arizona Republic*, May 30, 2006.

Substitute teachers

- Bustamante, C. [“Pregnant dilemma.”](#) *The (Riverside, CA) Press-Enterprise*, May 20, 2006.
- Gima, C. [“State loses 1,100 substitute teachers.”](#) *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, May 22, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“Hawaii loses 1,100 substitute teachers.”](#) *KPUA News (Hilo, HI)*, May 22, 2006.
- Reid, K. [“Switch from year-round calendar may push substitute teachers from field.”](#) *The Stockton (CA) Record*, May 22, 2006.
- Motsinger, C. [“College students taking on substitute teacher jobs.”](#) *Washington Post*, May 25, 2006, SM03.

Paraprofessionals

- Lussier, C. [“Many teacher aides must study to keep job.”](#) *The (Baton Rouge, LA) Advocate*, May 28, 2006.

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

- Associated Press. [“28 percent of teachers fail to meet federal standards.”](#) *KSL News (Salt Lake City)*, May 20, 2006.
- Toomer-Cook, J., & Erickson, T. [“Utah teacher quality falls short.”](#) *Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)*, May 20, 2006.
- Fernandez, J. [“Schools still short of ‘highly qualified’ teacher goal.”](#) *The (Greensboro, NC) News-Record*, May 21, 2006.
- Keller, B. [“No state meeting teacher provision of ‘No Child’ law.”](#) *Education Week*, May 24, 2006.
- Gertler, D. [“Experienced teacher excluded by red tape.”](#) *The (Wilmington, DE) News Journal*, May 24, 2006.
- Stewart, M. [“‘Great’ educators not enough under law.”](#) *The Pensacola (FL) News Journal*, May 25, 2006.
- Smith Amos, D. [“Law’s teacher standards elusive.”](#) *Cincinnati Enquirer*, May 29, 2006.

RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND REPORTS

Teacher preparation, higher ed

- [What Education Schools Aren't Teaching About Reading and What Elementary Teachers Aren't Learning](#)
Walsh, K., Glaser, D., & Dunne Wilcox, D., National Council on Teacher Quality, May 2006, 86 pp.
- Toppo, G. ["Teachers learn dated methods,"](#) *USA Today*, May 22, 2006.
- Kennedy Manzo, K. ["Education schools inadequately prepare elementary teachers how to teach reading,"](#) *Education Week*, May 22, 2006.
- *U.S. Newswire*. ["Report finds that 85 percent of the nation's ed schools are not educating future elementary teachers on how to teach children to read."](#) Press release, May 22, 2006.
- Seebach, L. ["OPINION: Teachers poorly trained in reading can hamstring kids,"](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, May 27, 2006.
- *Plain Dealer* editorial staff. ["OPINION: Not phonics; just phony,"](#) *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*, May 31, 2006.
- Kennedy Manzo, K. ["Teacher ed. faulted on reading preparation,"](#) *Education Week*, June 7, 2006.

Alternative routes to teaching

- [The Hot Choice, Post-College](#)
Powers, E., *Inside Higher Ed*, May 26, 2006

Teacher supply and demand

- [Supply in Demand](#)
Taylor, B., *California Schools Magazine*, Summer 2006

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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