



Teacher Quality and Improvement

e-Newsletter of the CCSSO Teacher Quality Network

March 9, 2004

Welcome to the Teacher Quality and Improvement e-newsletter, a new bi-weekly publication 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/TQINewsletter09Mar04.pdf>. The PDF version of the previous issue is also available, at <http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/TQINewsletter25Feb04.pdf>.

FEDERAL UPDATE

New USDE Teacher Quality website

The U.S. Department of Education is launching a new Teacher Quality website, which will provide information about USDE's Teacher Assistance Corps and various state initiatives to improve teacher quality. New information is being added to the site each day until its official launch next week, but you can get a sneak preview by checking www.teacherquality.us.

“Dear Colleague” letter forthcoming

Within the next couple of weeks the U.S. Department of Education intends to issue a “Dear Colleague” letter from U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige to chief state school officers about the highly qualified teacher requirements in rural school districts. The letter may address other teacher quality provisions of NCLB, as well. We will update you as more information becomes available.

Rural teacher legislation

On March 4, 2004, Nevada Senator Harry Reid (D) introduced S. 2164, Assisting America's Rural Schools Act. This legislation would allow the U.S. Secretary of Education to defer the highly qualified teacher requirements for one year for rural middle school and high school teachers who teach multiple subjects. These teachers would be considered highly qualified in all subjects they teach during the deferral period, provided that they can demonstrate competence in at least one of these subjects. S. 2164 was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. [Search by bill number](#) for the full text of the legislation.

Updated Title I paraprofessionals guidance

- [Title I Paraprofessionals: Non-Regulatory Guidance](#)
U.S. Department of Education, 17 pp., March 1, 2004

IN THE NEWS

Higher education, teacher preparation

- Stephens, S. [“Ohio looks for the key to perfect teachers.”](#) *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*, January 11, 2004.
- Blair, J. [“Congress orders thorough study of teacher education programs.”](#) *Education Week*, March 3, 2004.

Teacher certification and licensure, alternative routes to teaching

- Tofig, D. [“Teacher accrediting may change.”](#) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, January 7, 2004.
- Littlefield, C. [“Teaching talent may be on the way.”](#) *Las Vegas Sun*, January 13, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Teachers’ groups blast alternative certification.”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, February 25, 2004.
- Stutz, T. [“Teachers criticize plan to hire untrained grads.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, February 26, 2004.
- Stutz, T. [“‘Instant teacher’ plan OK’d.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, February 29, 2004.
- Staff and wire reports. [“Teacher test draws praise, complaints: Idaho will certify people based only on computer test.”](#) *The (Spokane, Wa.) Spokesman-Review*, March 3, 2004.
- Axtman, K. [“Texas begs for teachers – with or without credentials.”](#) *Christian Science Monitor*, March 5, 2004.

Teacher testing

- Bowers, M. [“Proposal would ease teacher testing standards.”](#) *The (Hampton Roads) Virginian-Pilot*, January 7, 2004.
- Hawkins, M. [“State board may require more tests for teachers.”](#) *DesMoines Register*, January 16, 2004.
- Hawkins, M. [“Board split on teacher tests.”](#) *DesMoines Register*, January 17, 2004.

Teacher recruitment and hiring

- Hui, T.K. [“Wake tweaks school hiring.”](#) *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, March 3, 2004.

Teacher and principal assignment

- Sataline, S. [“Plan seeks to help struggling schools.”](#) *Boston Globe*, February 26, 2004.
- Brown, M. [“Teacher racial mix must be fixed.”](#) *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, March 4, 2004.
- Snyder, S. [“Minority students’ rights violated, complaint says.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 9, 2004.

Teacher retention

- Associated Press. [“Educators: New law may cause Nevada teachers to quit.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 25, 2004.
- Posamentier, A. [“OPINION: Raise the status of the teaching profession.”](#) *Newsday*, March 1, 2004.

Teacher compensation, incentives

- Ita, E. [“Judge rules against teachers’ bonuses.”](#) *Kansas City Star*, January 16, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Money for teacher incentives faces cuts.”](#) *The (Louisville, Ky.) Courier-Journal*, February 4, 2004.
- Byrnes, S. [“OPINION: Enticing talented teachers into the neediest schools.”](#) *Seattle Times*, March 2, 2004.
- Ita, E. [“Committee supports teacher incentives.”](#) *Kansas City Star*, March 6, 2004.

Professional development and support

- Hawkins, M. [“Teacher certification support office closes.”](#) *DesMoines Register*, February 27, 2004.
- Hornbeck, M. [“Teachers told to train for test-giving: Granholm wants professional development funds to go toward reaching federal standards.”](#) *Detroit News*, March 3, 2004.

Teacher evaluation, effectiveness

- Olson, L. [“Tennessee reconsiders value-added assessment system.”](#) *Education Week*, March 3, 2004.

Teacher shortages in high-demand subject areas

- Dodd, D.A. [“Schools hire more teachers from India.”](#) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, March 5, 2004.
- Brulliard, K. [“New visa ceiling called threat to teacher recruitment.”](#) *Washington Post*, March 8, 2004.

Urban teachers and principals

- Mendieta, A. [“School Board adopts education policy overhaul.”](#) *Chicago Sun-Times*, February 26, 2004.

Teacher quality

- [Spotlight on Teacher Quality \(Part I\)](#)
ASCD Smartbrief Special Report, March 2, 2004
- [Spotlight on Teacher Quality \(Part II\)](#)
ASCD Smartbrief Special Report, March 4, 2004
- [TQ Update](#)
Bi-monthly newsletter, ECS, February-March 2004

RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND REPORTS

Mentoring and induction

- [The Impact of Mentoring on Teacher Retention: What the Research Says](#)
Ingersoll, R., & Kralik, J.M., *ECS Research Review*, 24 pp., February 2004

Teacher compensation, incentives

- [Reforming the Single Teacher Salary Schedule in Public Schools](#)
Podgursky, M., *Texas Education Review*, Winter 2003-2004

Professional development

- [*The Delivery, Financing, and Assessment of Professional Development in Education: Pre-Service Preparation and In-Service Training*](#)
Neville, K.S., & Robinson, C.J., The Finance Project, 56 pp., December 2003

Working conditions

- [*The Effects of School Facility Quality on Teacher Retention in Urban School Districts*](#)
Buckley, J., Schneider, M., & Shang, Y., National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities, February 2004

Teacher evaluation, effectiveness

- [*The Real Value of Teachers: Using New Information About Teacher Effectiveness to Close the Achievement Gap*](#)
Carey, K., in *Thinking K-16*, 8(1), The Education Trust, 44 pp., Winter 2004

Teacher data

- [*State and Federal Teacher Data Collection*](#)
Compiled by Bachler, S., *ECS State Notes*, 7 pp., February 2004

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a bipartisan, 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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