



# 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/TQINewsletter11Nov.pdf>. The PDF version of the previous issue is available at <http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/TQINewsletter29Oct.pdf>.

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## SOME OF THE TOP STORIES

### **Pennsylvania releases guidelines for alternative certificate that allows some veteran teachers to meet highly qualified definition without testing**

- Keller, B. "[NCLB presents middle school complications: 'Highly qualified' rule vexes teachers.](#)" *Education Week*, November 3, 2004.
- Pennsylvania Department of Education. "[PA Department of Education releases guidelines for Bridge Certificate.](#)" News release, November 5, 2004.
- [Guidelines and Procedures for Meeting Pennsylvania's Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements Through the Bridge Certificate Program](#)  
Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Teacher Certification and Preparation, November 2004, 27 pp.
- Mezzacappa, D. "[Pa. releases regulations for teacher-test alternative.](#)" *Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 6, 2004.

### **Buffalo school board to study teacher seniority rules and staffing patterns in high-minority schools**

- Simon, P. "['Unintentional discrimination' raised in filling teaching spots by seniority.](#)" *Buffalo News*, November 3, 2004.

### **New court-mandated funds help attract qualified teachers to district with highest teacher turnover in North Carolina**

- Silberman, T. "[Test-case schools add teachers.](#)" *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, October 31, 2004.

### **Seattle's plan to close achievement gap includes nearly \$9.2M earmarked for teacher recruitment, mentoring, coaching, prof. development, and improved working conditions**

- Bhatt, S. "[Seattle district presents five-year schools plan.](#)" *Seattle Times*, November 5, 2004.

### **Connecticut teachers' union criticizes proposal to offer bonuses to teachers who reduce dropout rates, raise student achievement**

- Gillespie, N. "[Teachers union challenges bonus plan for urban teachers.](#)" *Newsday/Associated Press*, November 3, 2004.
- Associated Press. "[Teachers union challenges bonus plan for urban teachers.](#)" *Hartford Courant*, November 4, 2004.

### **Tentative Miami contract includes 20% bonuses, more professional development for teachers who work in 39 lowest-performing schools**

- Pinzur, M. "[Teachers to get bonus incentive.](#)" *Miami Herald*, November 5, 2004.

### **Illinois reduces time required to process certification applications for Chicago teachers from 15 months to 30 days**

- Illinois State Board of Education. "[New State Board of Education reaches major milestone in eliminating teacher certification backlog.](#)" News release, November 3, 2004.
- Grossman, K. "[State speeds up teacher certification.](#)" *Chicago Sun-Times*, November 4, 2004.

### **President Bush signs bill to close lender loopholes, use savings to help repay student loans for math, science, and special ed teachers in high-poverty schools**

- Cavanagh, S. "[News in Brief: A Washington Roundup – Student-loan subsidies.](#)" *Education Week*, November 10, 2004.
- [Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act of 2004](#), H.R.5186.ENR (*enter bill number as directed*)

## **FEDERAL UPDATE**

### **Applications due for FY 2005 Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants**

Nine states and jurisdictions that have not received previous Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants are eligible to [apply for FY 2005 awards](#). Eligible states and jurisdictions are: **Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Montana, New York, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the Virgin Islands**. Priority activities are as follows:

- a) “initiatives to reform State teacher licensure and certification requirements so that current and future teachers possess strong teaching skills and academic content knowledge in the subject areas in which they will be certified or licensed to teach;
- b) innovative reforms to hold higher education institutions with teacher preparation programs accountable for preparing teachers who are highly competent in the academic content areas and have strong teaching skills; or
- c) innovative efforts to reduce the shortage (including the high turnover) of highly competent teachers in high-poverty urban and rural areas.”

The deadline for transmittal of applications is **December 17, 2004**.

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## IN THE NEWS

### Higher education, teacher preparation

- Gregorian, V. [“OPINION: No more silver bullets: Let’s fix teacher education.”](#) *Education Week*, November 10, 2004.

### Teacher certification and licensure

- *New York Times* staff. [“OPINION: Upholding teacher standards.”](#) *New York Times*, November 7, 2004.

### Teacher testing

- Jacobson, L. [“Petition may scuttle teacher testing in Ala.”](#) *Education Week*, November 3, 2004.

### Recruitment and retention

- New Jersey Department of Education. [“Teacher recruitment initiative sets dates for fall.”](#) News release, October 22, 2004.
- *Richmond Times-Dispatch* staff. [“Workshop targets prospective teachers.”](#) *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, October 30, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Groups push for teacher diversity.”](#) *CNN.com*, November 9, 2004.

#### Also:

- Feller, B. [“Education groups push for greater diversity in teaching force.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle/Associated Press*, November 9, 2004.
- Feller, B. [“Education coalition pushes for more minority teachers.”](#) *Detroit News/Associated Press*, November 10, 2004.
- Feller, B. [“More diverse teaching force sought by education groups.”](#) *Houston Chronicle/Associated Press*, November 10, 2004.
- Thompson, L. [“A celebration of education.”](#) *Seattle Times*, November 10, 2004.

### **Alternative routes to teaching**

- New Mexico Public Education Department. [“NM Transition to Teaching a statewide program offers a unique pathway to recruit exceptional new teachers.”](#) News release, October 5, 2004.
- Jacobson, L. [“Expansion of licensing test hits new bumps.”](#) *Education Week*, November 3, 2004.

### **Teacher and principal hiring, rehiring**

- Gootman, E. [“An all-out push to find principals finds slow progress instead.”](#) *New York Times*, October 30, 2004.
- Knight, H. [“Ackerman’s ‘dream’ ruffles some factions: Forced to reapply for jobs, teachers say they’re insulted.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 9, 2004.
- Knight, H. [“Ackerman’s Dream Schools in spotlight: Backers, opponents jam board meeting to debate plan.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 10, 2004.

### **Teacher residency rules**

- Gewertz, C. [“News in Brief: A National Roundup – Residency rules.”](#) *Education Week*, November 3, 2004.

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

- Herszenhorn, D. [“Veteran teachers in City schools help colleagues sharpen skills.”](#) *New York Times*, November 1, 2004.
- Davis, G. [“Pilot program designed to mentor new teachers.”](#) *Baltimore Sun*, November 5, 2004.

### **Professional development**

- Campbell Union School District. [“California school district launches new model for professional development; other districts invited to participate.”](#) News release, October 27, 2004.

#### ☆ **To teach academic content**

- Breen, K. [“Schools take hands-on approach to science.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, November 4, 2004.

#### ☆ **Standards**

- Vermont Department of Education. [“VSBPE standards for staff development.”](#) adopted October 15, 2004.

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

- Delaware Department of Education. [“Governor Minner announces Delaware Teacher Corps program to help with teacher shortages: Education loans up to \\$5,000 annually could be ‘forgiven’.”](#) News release, September 8, 2004.

### **Teacher absenteeism**

- *Los Angeles Times* staff. [“EDITORIAL: The dog ate my car keys.”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, October 28, 2004.

## Teachers of hard-to-fill subjects and specializations

- Zehr, M.A. "[New Mexico joins California in looking south for teachers.](#)" *Education Week*, November 3, 2004.

## Paraprofessionals

- Bhatt, S. "[Teaching often out of reach for minority aides.](#)" *Seattle Times*, November 8, 2004.

## RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND REPORTS

### Higher education, teacher preparation

- [Accountability and Misplaced Trust in the Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs](#)  
Adams, A., *Teachers College Record*, ID Number 11391, October 31, 2004

### Mentoring, induction, support

- [The Support Gap: New Teachers' Early Experiences in High-Income and Low-Income Schools](#)  
Moore Johnson, S., Kardos, S., Kauffman, D., Liu, E., & Donaldson, M., *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 12(61), October 29, 2004, 25 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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