



Teacher Quality and Improvement

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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/TQINewsletter14Dec05.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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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

After a short break, the Teacher Quality and Improvement newsletter will resume publication in January. We wish you a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

SOME OF THE TOP STORIES

California reduces percentage of teachers with emergency credentials, but report warns that neediest schools' staffing problems are likely to increase as teacher shortage worsens

- *Teaching and California's Future: The Status of the Teaching Profession 2005*
Esch, C.E., Chang-Ross, C.M., Guha, R., Humphrey, D.C., Shields, P.M., Tiffany-Morales, J.D., Wechsler, M.E., & Woodworth, K.R., The Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning, December 2005
 - [Press release](#)
 - [Summary report](#), 12 pp.
 - [Full report](#), 175 pp.
- Williams, J. "[Report: California teacher shortage coincides with fewer trainees.](#)" *The (San Jose) Mercury News/Associated Press*, December 7, 2005.

Also:

- Williams, J. "[California headed for a teacher shortage.](#)" *(Torrance, CA) Daily Breeze/Associated Press*, December 8, 2005.

- Williams, J. "[Report: California teacher shortage coincides with fewer trainees.](#)" *San Diego Chronicle/Associated Press*, December 8, 2005.
- Rosenhall, L. "[Poor students, green teachers.](#)" *Sacramento Bee*, December 8, 2005.
- Sheppard, H. "[Teacher exodus growing.](#)" *Los Angeles Daily News*, December 8, 2005.
- Sheppard, H. "[Report says teacher shortage imminent.](#)" *The (Ontario, CA) Daily Bulletin*, December 8, 2005.
- Tucker, J. "[Alarm sounds once again on teachers.](#)" *(Woodland, CA) Daily Democrat*, December 8, 2005.
- Huang, B. "[Demand for teachers on the rise.](#)" *The (Tracy, CA) Press*, December 12, 2005.

South Dakota helps teachers earn advanced degrees

Percentage of teachers with at least a master's degree is substantially below national average, and those with lowest levels of experience and education tend to be in highest-poverty schools

- Wade Schmidt, B. "[S.D. helps teachers pursue master's.](#)" *The (Sioux Falls, SD) Argus Leader*, November 27, 2005.
- Wade Schmidt, B. "[Experience, degrees vary among schools.](#)" *The (Sioux Falls, SD) Argus Leader*, November 27, 2005.

Study claims firing tenured teachers in Illinois is almost impossible

- Reeder, S. "[Tenure frustrates drive for teacher accountability.](#)" *The Small Newspaper Group (Springfield, IL, bureau)*, November 2005.
- Reeder, S. "[The hidden costs of tenure.](#)" *The Small Newspaper Group (Springfield, IL, bureau)*, December 2005.
- Associated Press. "[Investigation: Illinois public schools rarely fire tenured teachers.](#)" *The (San Jose) Mercury News*, December 4, 2005.
- Associated Press. "[Study: Tenure means job security.](#)" *The Peoria (IL) Journal Star*, December 5, 2005.
- *Chicago Tribune* staff. "[Protecting mediocre teachers.](#)" *Chicago Tribune*, December 9, 2005.
- Associated Press. "[Teachers who undergo evaluation rarely get poor ratings.](#)" *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, December 11, 2005.

New report examines research on alternative teacher compensation systems, presents district and state models

- [Diversifying Teacher Compensation](#)
Azordegan, J., Byrnett, P., Campbell, K., Greenman, J., & Coulter, T., Education Commission of the States and The Teaching Commission, November 2005, 26 pp.
 - Education Commission of the States. "[Diversifying teacher compensation.](#)" Press release, December 1, 2005.
 - The Teaching Commission. "[Teaching Commission and Education Commission of the States release report on modernizing teacher pay.](#)" Press release, December 7, 2005.

- Tonn, J. [“Education moving away from traditional pay systems, report says.”](#) *Education Week*, December 9, 2005.

Study says South Carolina has wealth of National Board Certified Teachers, but not at the middle and high school levels

- Moore, G. [“Elementary school teachers earn most national certifications.”](#) *WIS TV News (Columbia, SC)/Associated Press*, December 11, 2005.
- Robinson, B. [“Certified teacher ranks uneven.”](#) *The (Columbia, SC) State*, December 11, 2005.
- Associated Press. [“Fewer certified teachers work at high schools.”](#) *The (Myrtle Beach, SC) Sun News*, December 12, 2005.

South Carolina ponders policy changes to channel National Board Certified Teachers to lowest-performing schools

- Robinson, B. [“Best teachers aren’t going to worst schools.”](#) *The (Columbia, SC) State*, November 30, 2005.

Also:

- Robinson, B. [“Teacher talent not shared wealth.”](#) *The (Myrtle Beach, SC) Sun News/Knight Ridder*, November 30, 2005.
- Associated Press. [“Not many certified teachers in underperforming districts.”](#) *The (Columbia, SC) State*, November 30, 2005.

Also:

- Associated Press. [“Not many certified teachers in underperforming districts.”](#) *The Beaufort (SC) Gazette*, November 30, 2005.

Texas gains only one teacher through new instant certification program

Controversial program allows districts to grant instant certification to college grads with degrees in subject-shortage areas

- Stutz, T. [“Teacher shortage quick fix fails.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, December 11, 2005.
- Associated Press. [“State program turns out 1 certified person.”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, December 12, 2005.
- *Dallas Morning News* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Classrooms in need: Texas is still short on certified teachers.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, December 13, 2005.

North Carolina approves new licensing policies for out-of-state teachers

Not automatically counted as highly qualified, but middle and high school teachers can earn permanent license after three years of successful teaching in NC and positive evaluations. State exam will be local option, not requirement.

- Robertson, G. [“Deal may ease teacher shortage.”](#) *The (Raleigh, NC) News & Observer/Associated Press*, November 29, 2005.

Also:

- Robertson, G. [“N.C may ease teacher licensing criteria.”](#) *The (Myrtle Beach, SC) Sun News/Associated Press*, November 29, 2005.

- Robertson, G. [“Out-of-state teacher licensing compromise reached in N.C.”](#) *WCNC News (Charlotte, NC)/Associated Press*, November 29, 2005.
- *Charlotte Observer* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Filling classrooms,”](#) *Charlotte Observer*, November 30, 2005.
- Durhams, S. [“Vote set on rules to hire teachers,”](#) *Charlotte Observer*, December 1, 2005.
- Fuquay, J. [“Board approves new out-of-state teacher policy,”](#) *The (Fayetteville, NC) Observer*, December 2, 2005.
- Robertson, G. [“Keeping N.C. teachers will take more than pay, licensing efforts,”](#) *The (Raleigh, NC) News & Observer/Associated Press*, December 5, 2005.

Also:

- Robertson, G. [“Keeping N.C. teachers will take more than pay, licensing efforts,”](#) *Charlotte Observer/Associated Press*, December 5, 2005.
- *Fayetteville Observer* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Our view: Teacher licensing compromise will help this region’s schools,”](#) *The (Fayetteville, NC) Observer*, December 5, 2005.
- Deaver, D., & Ingram, D. [“Teacher crunch,”](#) *The Winston-Salem (NC) Journal*, December 11, 2005.

Task force’s recommendations to improve Arkansas schools include rigorous tests of teachers’ subject-matter knowledge and merit pay for teachers

- Sadler, A. [“Report suggests ways to improve state schools,”](#) *Arkansas News Bureau*, December 13, 2005.
- [“Reforming Education in Arkansas: Recommendations from the Koret Task Force, 2005”](#) Koret Task Force on K-12 Education, Hoover Institution, November 2005

Contents include:

- [“Developing Value-Added Measures for Teachers and Schools”](#)
Hanushek, E., & Hoxby, C., 6 pp.
- [“Teacher Preparation and Certification”](#)
Moe, T., 11 pp.
- [“Rewarding Teachers”](#)
Hoxby, C., & Hanushek, E., 12 pp.

Update on teachers affected by Hurricane Katrina

- Ritea, S. [“Absent school employees face ax,”](#) *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, December 1, 2005.
- Harvey, C. [“Board to review teacher tenures,”](#) *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, December 1, 2005.
- Harvey, C. [“Teacher layoffs averted under plan,”](#) *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, December 2, 2005.
- Waller, M. [“Transfers shake up Jefferson teachers,”](#) *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, December 11, 2005.

FEDERAL UPDATE

Federal report recommends that USDE make information about highly-qualified teacher requirements more accessible to states and districts

- [No Child Left Behind Act: Improved Accessibility to Education's Information Could Help States Further Implement Teacher Qualification Requirements](#)
U.S. Government Accountability Office, November 2005, 62 pp.
- Sarkar, D. ["Teacher info eludes local school districts,"](#) *Federal Computer Week*, December 5, 2005.

USDE allows New Hampshire to exempt veteran elementary teachers from testing

- Rayno, G. ["Just how qualified are teachers?"](#) *The (Manchester, NH) Union Leader*, December 7, 2005.
- Associated Press. ["Feds approve state plan to ensure teachers are highly qualified,"](#) *Boston Globe/Concord (NH) Monitor*, December 10, 2005.

Utah changes special education teacher requirements to comply with NCLB; will require many current teachers to head back to school for additional coursework

- McFarland, S. ["New rules for teachers in special ed,"](#) *Salt Lake Tribune*, December 7, 2005.
- *Salt Lake Tribune* editorial staff. ["OPINION: Qualification policy: Inflexibility of federal law leaves good teachers behind,"](#) *Salt Lake Tribune*, December 12, 2005.

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- Tracy Press staff. ["Future teachers offered speedy admission,"](#) *Tracy (CA) Press*, November 17, 2005.
- Swedlund, E. ["Educators: Training of teachers is paying off,"](#) *Arizona Daily Star*, December 3, 2005.
- Hastings, L. ["UMKC prepares future school teachers,"](#) *The Kansas City Kansan*, December 5, 2005.
- University of Michigan. ["Who understands math well enough to teach it to third graders?"](#) Press release, December 5, 2005.
- *Detroit News* editorial staff. ["OPINION: Teacher colleges key to improving state schools: Schools must produce more math, science teachers,"](#) *Detroit News*, December 12, 2005.
- Commings, J. ["Smaller school districts finding new teachers within easy reach,"](#) *Arizona Daily Star*, December 12, 2005.
- Associated Press. ["Program puts teachers into classrooms,"](#) *Arizona Republic*, December 13, 2005.
- Viadero, D. ["Panel examines teacher training,"](#) *Education Week*, December 14, 2005.
- The National Academies. ["Study of teacher preparation programs in the United States."](#)

Teacher certification and licensure

- Raffaele, M. [“State developing new rules for early-childhood education.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer/Associated Press*, November 25, 2005.
 - Associated Press. [“Guilty plea entered in case of Miami-Dade ‘diploma mill.’”](#) *Education Week*, November 30, 2005.
 - MacEachern, D. [“OPINION: Red tape blocking qualified teachers.”](#) *Arizona Republic*, December 4, 2005.
 - Letter to the editor. [“OPINION: What ‘qualifies’ a teacher?”](#) *Arizona Republic*, December 4, 2005.
 - American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence. [“David W. Saba appointed ABCTE president.”](#) *PR Newswire*, December 5, 2005.
 - Gelpi, G. [“Certification no guarantee of excellence.”](#) *The (Augusta, GA) Chronicle*, December 11, 2005.
 - National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. [“U.S. classrooms gain nearly 7,300 National Board Certified Teachers in 2005.”](#) Press release, November 29, 2005. (click “full story” under “National Press Release.”)
 - [New NBCTs by state](#)
- ☆ **Florida**
- Wixon, C. [“Nine Indian River County teachers certified nationally.”](#) *The TCPalm (Ft. Pierce, FL)*, December 2, 2005.
- ☆ **Georgia**
- Madan, R. [“40 Gwinnett teachers earn top credential.”](#) *Gwinnett (GA) Daily Post*, December 2, 2005.
 - Diamond, L. [“42 get national teaching honors.”](#) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, December 3, 2005.
- ☆ **Iowa**
- McGlynn, A. [“15 Q-C teachers earn national certification.”](#) *The (Quad City, IA) Times*, December 14, 2005.
- ☆ **Louisiana**
- Louisiana Department of Education. [“Louisiana ranks 9th in National Board Certification of teachers.”](#) Press release, November 29, 2005.
 - Lussier, C. [“250 La. teachers earn board certifications.”](#) *The (Baton Rouge, LA) Advocate*, November 30, 2005.
 - *Shreveport Times* editorial staff. [“OPINION: National certification translates to success.”](#) *The Shreveport (LA) Times*, December 6, 2005.
- ☆ **Maryland**
- Anderson, N. [“20 county teachers receive elite certification.”](#) *Washington Post*, December 8, 2005, T06.

☆ **Mississippi**

- Hilsabeck, E. [“19 area teachers gain certification,”](#) *The (Hattiesburg, MS) American*, December 6, 2005.

☆ **Missouri**

- Aguilar, A. [“Several local teachers earn symbol of teaching excellence,”](#) *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, November 29, 2005.
- Anthony, S. [“Teachers here earn symbol of teaching excellence,”](#) *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, December 5, 2005.

☆ **New York**

- Haavie, E. [“8 teachers get national certification,”](#) *The Poughkeepsie (NY) Journal*, December 5, 2005.
- Weiner, R. [“10 teachers in suburban N.Y. earn national certification,”](#) *The (White Plains, NY) Journal News*, December 5, 2005.

☆ **North Carolina**

- North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. [“North Carolina leads nation in new certifications and total number of Board Certified teachers.”](#) News release, November 29, 2005.
- News & Observer staff. [“We’re No. 1 again,”](#) *The (Raleigh, NC) News & Observer*, November 30, 2005.
- Saine, J. [“North Carolina remains No. 1 in National Board Certified Teachers,”](#) *Lincoln (NC) Tribune*, November 30, 2005.
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- Winston-Salem Journal editorial staff. [“OPINION: Out in front,”](#) *Winston-Salem (NC) Journal*, December 5, 2005.

☆ **Oklahoma**

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- Spaulding, C. [“Seven area teachers get national certification,”](#) *The Muskogee (OK) Phoenix*, December 1, 2005.

☆ **Pennsylvania**

- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette staff. [“58 Pennsylvania teachers earn national certification,”](#) *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, December 1, 2005.

☆ **South Carolina**

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- Williams, D. [“Certification adds up for educators,”](#) *The Anderson (SC) Independent-Mail*, November 30, 2005.
- The Sun News staff. [“Schools tout certified educators,”](#) *The (Myrtle Beach, SC) Sun News*, November 30, 2005.

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Alternative routes to teaching

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☆ Teach for America

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- Bland, K. "[Teacher engages needy kids.](#)" *Arizona Republic*, November 27, 2005.
- Hendrick, B. "[Students, mentors getting life lessons.](#)" *Dallas Morning News/Cox News Service*, December 11, 2005.

☆ Arizona

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- Also:**
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☆ Nevada

- Planas, A. "[Program takes aim at teacher shortage.](#)" *The (Las Vegas) Review-Journal*, December 1, 2005.

☆ New Mexico

- Storey, N. "[SFCC: Licensure program gets perfect score.](#)" *The (Santa Fe) New Mexican*, November 27, 2005.

☆ Texas

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- Wheeler, C. [“Texas State teacher recruitment program: Get it only in Round Rock.”](#) *Austin American-Statesman*, December 8, 2005.

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- MacCormack, D.C. [“Teaching diversity a touchy subject: Some schools say good skills are more important than an educator’s ethnicity.”](#) *MetroWest Daily News (a Boston Herald weekly newspaper)*, December 4, 2005.
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Teacher turnover, mobility

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Principal recruitment, hiring, and training

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Teacher mentoring, induction, support, coaching

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- Kovac, A. [“Mentors may make first year easier.”](#) *Herald News (West Paterson, NJ)*, December 12, 2005.
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☆ California

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Council of Chief State School Officers
One Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001-1431
Voice: 202.336.7000 fax: 202.408.8072
www.ccsso.org