



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/TQINewsletter23Jun06.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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NEW TOOL AVAILABLE ONLINE TO HELP STATES DEVELOP TEACHER EQUITY PLANS

CCSSO has developed a new tool to help SEAs take stock of activities currently underway in their states to achieve an equitable distribution of teachers. CCSSO's State Teacher Quality Network has compiled a list of ten federally funded partnership programs designed to help states and districts prepare, recruit, develop, and retain teachers in high-need schools.

The tool provides links to existing partnerships that have been funded in each state, so that SEAs can include these among the strategies that they list in their state plans to close teacher equity gaps. Strategic partners participating in the programs include colleges of education, colleges of arts and sciences, community colleges, Indian tribes and tribal colleges, state agencies for higher education, for-profit and non-profit organizations, and high-need LEAs.

For the first time, states can find all of this information in a single place. The tool, [Partnerships for State Teacher Equity Plans](#), is posted on the CCSSO website. For more information, contact Cindy Prince at (202) 312-6868, cindyp@ccsso.org.

SOME OF THE TOP STORIES

Merit pay under discussion in South Dakota

- Woster, T. ["Official: Teacher pay lags trend,"](#) *The (Sioux Falls, SD) Argus Leader*, June 19, 2006.

Record numbers of college graduates apply to Teach for America

- Keller, B. [“Math, science graduates sign on to teach,”](#) *Education Week*, June 14, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“Teach for America surges in popularity,”](#) *CNN.com*, June 17, 2006.

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- *Chicago Tribune* staff. [“Recruiting the best,”](#) *Chicago Tribune*, June 19, 2006.

Texas withholds teacher bonuses in 14 high-poverty schools while state investigates testing irregularities

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Teachers in a Minnesota district that was formerly hailed for its innovative merit pay plan vote to discontinue it

- Associated Press. [“Pioneering district moves away from new teacher pay strategy.”](#) *The Duluth (MN) News Tribune*, June 12, 2006.
- Draper, N. [“Will more teachers accept merit pay?”](#) *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, June 12, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“Waseca scraps teacher merit pay program.”](#) *WCCO News (Minneapolis)*, June 12, 2006.

Michigan to issue report card on college and university teacher preparation programs

- Jun, C. [“Teacher colleges may get own grade.”](#) *Detroit News*, June 13, 2006.
- Walsh-Sarnecki, P. [“Education schools to be graded.”](#) *Detroit Free Press*, June 14, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“State to grade universities on graduation rates, teaching.”](#) *MLive.com (Ann Arbor, MI)/Detroit Free Press*, June 14, 2006.
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Arkansas to launch online professional development this fall

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FEDERAL UPDATE

Iowa will begin testing new elementary teachers to avoid federal sanctions

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- Boyce, B. [“Not all welcome teacher testing.”](#) *The Daily Nonpareil (Council Bluffs, IA)*, June 21, 2006.

Connecticut and USDE come to terms on state’s procedures for evaluating teachers’ highly qualified teacher status

- Frahm, R. [“U.S., state reach accord.”](#) *Hartford Courant*, June 21, 2006.

IN THE NEWS

Teacher preparation, higher ed

- Gelpi, G. [“ASU offers new master’s degree.”](#) *Augusta (GA) Chronicle*, June 10, 2006.
- *Rocky Mountain News* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Malpractice in teacher training.”](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, June 12, 2006.
- *Business Journal* staff. [“Gift endows UNGC teacher education.”](#) *The Business Journal (Greensboro, NC)*, June 12, 2006.
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Alternative routes to teaching

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Teacher certification and licensure

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Teacher supply and demand

- Arambulo, M. [“Staggering teacher shortage in Clark County.”](#) *KLAS TV News (Las Vegas)*, May 19, 2006.
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- Zequeira, C. [“Thousands hit job fair for teachers.”](#) *Orlando Sentinel*, June 8, 2006.
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- Grossman, K. [“Principal works overtime to find best teachers.”](#) *Chicago Sun-Times*, June 9, 2006.

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- Rodriguez, N. [“Teacher diversity a growing concern.”](#) *The (Louisville, KY) Courier-Journal*, June 19, 2006.
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Teacher mentoring, induction, support, coaching

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Professional development

☆ **To teach math and science**

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☆ **To teach history**

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☆ **To teach linguistically and culturally diverse students**

- Associated Press. [“New course will help teachers relate to American Indian students.”](#) *Yankton (SD) Daily Press & Dakotan/Lincoln (NE) Journal Star*, June 19, 2006.

Teacher compensation, incentives

☆ **Alaska**

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☆ **Arkansas**

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☆ **District of Columbia**

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☆ **Florida**

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☆ **Illinois**

- Rossi, R. [“Meeks: \\$50K could lure teachers to bad schools,”](#) *Chicago Sun-Times*, June 22, 2006.

☆ **Massachusetts**

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☆ **Michigan**

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☆ **Minnesota**

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☆ **Nevada**

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- Blaize, A. [“Many Clark County teachers work two jobs.”](#) *KLAS TV News (Las Vegas)*, June 7, 2006.

☆ **Texas**

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Teachers of hard-to-fill subjects and specializations

☆ **Math and science**

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

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Rural teachers

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

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RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND REPORTS

Teacher preparation, higher ed

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Alternative routes to teaching

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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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