



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/TQINewsletter24Jun05.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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Teacher Induction Standards in Washington State

The Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession (CSTP) recently unveiled the results of a collaborative project aimed at helping Washington school districts establish effective teacher induction programs. In cooperation with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, CSTP convened teachers, mentors, administrators, and human resources professionals from across the state to define the elements of high-quality induction, identify the needs of new teachers, and craft standards to address them. The result is a set of standards, assessment tools, and other resources designed to assist districts of varying size and capacity implement top-notch induction programs. Also included are guidelines for hiring mentors and a description of the knowledge and skills critical for mentors of new teachers. The tool, [Effective Support for New Teachers in Washington State: Standards for Beginning Teacher Induction](#), is available through CSTP's Web site, www.cstp-wa.org.

SOME OF THE TOP STORIES

Virginia replaces PRAXIS I basic skills test with more rigorous literacy and communications skills test; drops math testing for those who do not teach math

- Helderman, R. "[Va. alters test for teacher licensing.](#)" *Washington Post*, June 23, 2005, B01.
- Jeter, A. "[For teachers, just two R's now: reading and writing.](#)" *The (Hampton Roads) Virginian-Pilot*, June 23, 2005.

Deadline extended for paraprofessionals to meet NCLB requirements

- U.S. Department of Education. "[Simon issues statement regarding No Child Left Behind requirements for paraprofessionals.](#)" Press release, June 17, 2005.
- Associated Press. "[Teacher aides win extra time to qualify.](#)" *New York Times*, June 15, 2005.

Also:

- Feller, B. "[Teacher aides win extra time to qualify.](#)" *San Francisco Chronicle/Associated Press*, June 15, 2005.
- Feller, B. "[Teacher aides win extra time to qualify.](#)" *Boston Globe/Associated Press*, June 15, 2005.

Nearly 1/3 of new teachers say that communicating with and involving parents is their greatest challenge

Unsatisfactory relationships with parents, principals, and students are all associated with increased likelihood of teacher attrition

- [MetLife Survey of the American Teacher, 2004-2005: Transitions and the Role of Supportive Relationships](#)
Markow, D., & Martin, S., MetLife, Inc., 2005, 149 pp.
- MetLife, Inc. "[National MetLife survey shows new teachers feel their biggest challenge is parent engagement.](#)" Press release, June 14, 2005.

FEDERAL UPDATE

Congressional rep. from Utah reintroduces bill to alter federal requirements for highly-qualified teachers

- Burr, T. "[Matheson wants to modify NCLB's teacher guidelines.](#)" *Salt Lake Tribune*, June 24, 2005.

Teacher Incentive Fund

- U.S. Department of Education. "[Spellings praises House action on teacher merit pay, Pell Grants.](#)" Press release, June 17, 2005.

Highly-qualified special education teacher requirements

- Samuels, C. "[Ed. Dept. seeks comment on IDEA rules: Proposed regulations address discipline, teacher qualifications.](#)" *Education Week*, June 22, 2005.
- [The revised law: Proposed regulations.](#) *Education Week*, June 22, 2005.

Teacher Excellence for All Children (TEACH) Act

- Murray, C. "[Dems. float \\$3.4B in new teacher aid.](#)" *eSchool News*, June 21, 2005.

IN THE NEWS

Teacher preparation, higher ed

- Jaschik, S. "[Challenge to teacher ed.](#)" *Inside Higher Ed*, June 14, 2005.
- Miller, K. "[Teaching degrees decrease.](#)" *Miami Herald/Palm Beach Post*, June 16, 2005.

Alternative routes to teaching

- Snyder, S. "[Midcareer teachers get passing marks.](#)" *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 15, 2005.

Teacher recruitment, hiring

- Doolittle, A. "[Shortage of teachers forces global search.](#)" *Washington Times*, June 16, 2005.
- Nelson, R. "[Teacher recruiters end N.O. deal.](#)" *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, June 16, 2005.
- Sugameli, J. "[Future teachers get sneak peek.](#)" *Detroit News*, June 20, 2005.
- Stockton, P. "[To reflect students, town woos minority teachers.](#)" *Boston Globe*, June 23, 2005.
- Marimow, A., & Partlow, J. "[Summer no recess for school leaders: Hiring frenzied amid teacher losses.](#)" *Washington Post*, June 24, 2005.

Teacher assignment, distribution, "realignment"

- Epstein, K. "[OPINION: Schools without teachers – a hidden scandal.](#)" *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 15, 2005.
- Brandt, S. "[Fewer Minneapolis teachers getting pink slips this year.](#)" *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, June 16, 2005.

Principal recruitment, hiring, training

- Hobbs, T. "[Study: Bilingual principals not vital.](#)" *Dallas Morning News*, June 17, 2005.

Professional development

- *Washington Post* staff. "[Md. history seminars.](#)" *Washington Post*, June 5, 2005, SM07.
- Spencer, J. "[Teachers learn by example.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, June 10, 2005.
- Coleman, K. "[Debate captures institute's stirring approach to history.](#)" *Waco (Tex.) Tribune-Herald*, June 11, 2005.
- Ramirez, E. "[Teachers get a lesson in literacy.](#)" *St. Petersburg Times*, June 13, 2005.
- *St. Petersburg Times* editorial staff. "[OPINION: Coaching teachers in reading has many benefits.](#)" *St. Petersburg Times*, June 14, 2005.
- Ismail, R. "[Constitution focus of teacher training.](#)" *Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader*, June 14, 2005.
- Diamond, L. "[Teachers getting schooled in new curriculum.](#)" *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, June 16, 2005.
- Herszenhorn, D. "[City schools and teachers revise plan on workday.](#)" *New York Times*, June 17, 2005.
- Bailey, P. "[Dade teachers return to classroom — as students.](#)" *Miami Herald*, June 20, 2005.

- Hannah-Jones, N. [“Teachers trek to the temple.”](#) *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, June 22, 2005.

Teacher compensation, incentives

- Dotinga, R. [“Calls to commend teachers – with cash.”](#) *Christian Science Monitor*, June 14, 2005.
- Feller, B. [“Survey: Average teacher’s salary \\$46,752.”](#) *Boston Globe/Associated Press*, June 23, 2005.

Also:

- Feller, B. [“Teacher wages not keeping up with inflation.”](#) *Salt Lake Tribune/Associated Press*, June 24, 2005.

☆ **California**

▪ **State**

- Enriquez, S. [“Teachers at state-run schools seek pay parity.”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, June 20, 2005.

▪ **San Jose (housing incentives)**

- Steinmetz, J.A. [“‘Teacher’ complex a bold statement.”](#) *The (San Jose) Mercury News*, June 21, 2005.

☆ **Colorado**

▪ **Denver**

- Mitchell, N. [“Voters will decide on innovative DPS pay plan.”](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, June 17, 2005.

☆ **North Carolina**

▪ **Durham County**

- *News & Observer* editorial staff. [“OPINION: ...and keeping teachers.”](#) *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, June 17, 2005.

☆ **Texas**

▪ **State**

- Brooks, K. [“State: Looks like teachers get raise.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, June 10, 2005.
- Elliott, J. [“Teachers on low end of state’s pay raises.”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, June 15, 2005.
- Fredericks, J. [“OPINION: Honor excellence in teaching with more pay, not just platitudes.”](#) *The (Conroe, Tex.) Courier*, June 15, 2005.
- Elliott, J., & Robison, C. [“Perry’s plan to juggle taxes draws criticism.”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, June 22, 2005.

▪ **Houston**

- Radcliffe, J. “HISD budget plans include incentive pay,” *Houston Chronicle*, June 17, 2005.

☆ **Washington, DC metropolitan area (housing incentives)**

- de Vise, D. [“Housing costs pushing teachers far from school.”](#) *Washington Post*, June 12, 2005, C01.

- Anderson, N. [“5 teachers get free rent at troubled Md. complex,”](#) *Washington Post*, June 24, 2005, A01.

Working conditions

☆ **Resources, facilities**

- Snyder, S. [“School district hopes to flush bad restrooms,”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 11, 2005.
- Gewertz, C. [“N.J. panel recommends expanding number of ‘special needs’ districts,”](#) *Education Week*, June 22, 2005.
- Bailey, A. [“House increases per-student funding, gives more to poor districts,”](#) *Detroit News/Associated Press*, June 22, 2005.
- Klawonn, A. [“Settlement generates fixes at local schools,”](#) *San Diego Union-Tribune*, June 23, 2005.
- Cholo, A.B. [“Pupils give restrooms ‘F,’”](#) *Chicago Tribune*, June 23, 2005.

☆ **Administrative support, leadership**

- Mehta, S. [“O.C. principal’s memo stirs teachers, district,”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, June 15, 2005.
- Associated Press. [“Principal urges teachers to pass students to meet federal quota,”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, June 15, 2005.
- Associated Press. [“Calif. teachers urged to pass students,”](#) *Boston Globe*, June 15, 2005.

Also:

- Associated Press. [“Calif. teachers urged to pass students,”](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, June 15, 2005.
- Associated Press. [“Calif. teachers urged to pass students,”](#) *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, June 15, 2005.

☆ **School safety, discipline**

- Herszenhorn, D. [“Crime is down in 6 schools on city’s most-troubled list,”](#) *New York Times*, June 23, 2005.

☆ **Planning time**

- Winn, P. [“Late-start days to aid teachers in planning,”](#) *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, June 17, 2005.

☆ **Class size**

- Petty, A. [“Union aims to cut class size,”](#) *Juneau Empire*, June 21, 2005.

Teacher tenure, dismissal

☆ **California**

- Freedberg, S. [“OPINION: Carrot or stick for new teachers?”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 13, 2005.
- *Mercury News* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Wrong way to uproot teachers,”](#) *The (San Jose) Mercury News*, June 21, 2005.

- Miller, S. [“New battle in the wars over tenure.”](#) *Christian Science Monitor*, June 22, 2005.

Also:

- Miller, S. [“New battle in the wars over tenure.”](#) *USA Today/Christian Science Monitor*, June 21, 2005.
- Sack, J. [“Schwarzenegger calls '05 special election: Teacher-tenure rules, state education aid will top ballot issues.”](#) *Education Week*, June 22, 2005.
- Wildermuth, J., & Gledhill, L. [“Voters cool toward 2 of 3 ballot initiatives.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 22, 2005.
- Asimov, N. [“Many voters frustrated over tenure for teachers.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 23, 2005.

Teacher turnover, mobility

- Rosenhall, L. [“It’s his final bell.”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, June 16, 2005.

Preschool teacher quality

- Russell, J. [“Pre-K qualification stats don’t add up to success.”](#) *San Antonio Express-News*, June 19, 2005.

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

- Fischer, K. [“Models of success in urban districts.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, June 11, 2005.

Teacher quality

- Hupp, S. [“Education chief lobbies for better teachers.”](#) *Indianapolis Star*, June 15, 2005.

RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND REPORTS

Teacher preparation, higher ed

- [“Studying Teacher Education: The Report of the AERA Panel on Research and Teacher Education”](#)
Cochran-Smith, M., & Zeichner, K. (Eds.), Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, June 2005, 672 pp.
- American Educational Research Association. [“American Educational Research Association releases book on teacher education – proposes new research agenda.”](#)
Press release, June 20, 2005.
- Jaschik, S. [“What they don’t know.”](#) *Inside Higher Ed*, June 21, 2005.
- Viadero, D. [“Review panel turns up little evidence to back teacher ed. practices.”](#)
Education Week, June 22, 2005.

Alternative routes to teaching

- [“Alternative Teacher Certification: A State-by-State Analysis”](#)
Feistritzer, C.E., with Haar, C., Hobar, J., & Scullion, A., National Center for Education Information, 2005
- [“Profile of Alternate Route Teachers”](#)
Feistritzer, C.E., National Center for Education Information, June 2005, 79 pp.

- National Center for Education Information. [“Alternate routes are attracting talented individuals from other careers who otherwise would not become teachers.”](#) Press release, June 2, 2005.
- Jacobson, L. [“More teachers trained in alternative routes.”](#) *Education Week*, June 15, 2005.
- *Teacher Magazine* staff. [“Alternate takes.”](#) *Teacher Magazine*, June 16, 2005.
- Seebach, L. [“OPINION: Teacher certification by a different route has pluses.”](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, June 18, 2005.
- Seebach, L. [“OPINION: Ease the rules for certifying new teachers.”](#) *Detroit News/Rocky Mountain News*, June 21, 2005.

Working conditions

☆ **Resources, facilities**

- [Many a Slip 'tween Cup and Lip: District Fiscal Practices and Their Effect on School Spending](#)
Roza, M., Center on Reinventing Public Education, University of Washington, February 2005, 13 pp.

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

- [A Shared Responsibility: Staffing All High-Poverty, Low-Performing Schools with Effective Teachers and Administrators – A Framework for Action](#)
Learning First Alliance, May 2005, 30 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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