



## Teacher Quality and Improvement

*e-Newsletter of the CCSSO Teacher Quality Network*

The Teacher Quality and Improvement e-newsletter is a free, 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](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/TQINewsletter24Mar04.pdf>. The PDF version of the previous issue is available at <http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/TQINewsletter09Mar04.pdf>.

### **DON'T MISS ED WEEK'S PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE ONLINE CHAT, MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>**

Education Week is hosting an online chat about Denver's new teacher pay-for-performance program on:

**Wednesday, March 24, 2004**  
**3:00 – 4:00 pm (Eastern time)**

Three panelists will discuss the plan and answer questions from the audience: Becky Wissink, president of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association; University of Wisconsin Professor Allan Odden, who specializes in school finance; and Brad Jupp, a Denver teacher who helped develop the new pay plan.

Ed Week encourages you to submit questions ahead of time to:  
<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a99908a177346279a30>

This link will allow you to join the online chat at 3:00:  
<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a99908a177346279a33>

### **FEDERAL UPDATE**

#### **Changes to highly qualified teacher provisions of NCLB**

On March 15, 2004, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced three policy changes to the highly qualified teacher provisions of No Child Left Behind:

1. Teachers in small, rural, and isolated districts will be given an extra year (end of the 2006-2007 school year) to attain highly qualified status in all of the core academic subjects that they teach, as long as they are highly qualified in at least one of the subjects. (New teachers in these districts will have three years from the time that they are hired to meet the requirements in all subjects that they teach.) However, teachers must still be reported as non-highly qualified in any subject in which they have not yet met the federal definition. In

- addition, districts are still required to send letters home to inform parents that their child's teacher has not yet met the highly qualified teacher requirements for that particular subject.
2. Science teachers in states that certify teachers in the general field of science, rather than in specific science subjects such as biology and chemistry, will be allowed to demonstrate subject matter competence through a "broad field test or major."
  3. Veteran teachers of multiple subjects will be allowed to demonstrate subject matter competence in all of the subjects they teach through one, rather than multiple, HOUSSE procedures.

N.B.: Twenty-six states have had conditions placed on their grant awards because they did not report complete data to the U.S. Department of Education on the percentages of classes taught by highly qualified teachers. Secretary Paige has warned that USDE may delay the release of July 1<sup>st</sup> funding if states do not fully comply with the reporting requirements. For further details, see the U.S. Department of Education's press release and fact sheet, as well as the extensive press coverage that followed:

- U.S. Department of Education. ["New, flexible policies help teachers become highly qualified."](#) Press release, March 15, 2004.
- U.S. Department of Education. ["New No Child Left Behind flexibility: Highly qualified teachers."](#) Fact sheet, March 15, 2004.
- Alpert, B. ["Feds cut teachers some slack on professional qualifications."](#) *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, March 16, 2004.
- Associated Press. [" 'Highly qualified' rules eased for some teachers."](#) *CNN.com*, March 15, 2004.
- Associated Press. ["Paige eases new teacher requirements."](#) *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, March 16, 2004.
- Associated Press. ["Teachers get time to show expertise."](#) *St. Petersburg Times*, March 16, 2004.
- Associated Press. ["With BC – Teacher quality."](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 15, 2004.
- Chaddock, G.R. ["Softening of 'No Child Left Behind,'"](#) *Christian Science Monitor*, March 16, 2004.
- Davis, M.R. ["Paige stresses flexibility of education law."](#) *Education Week*, March 17, 2004.
- Dell'Angela, T. ["Schools get break on reform deadline."](#) *Chicago Tribune*, March 16, 2004.
- Dillon, S. ["Administration pledges to soften No Child Left Behind rules."](#) *Seattle Times/New York Times*, March 14, 2004.
- Dillon, S. ["Pressure forcing 'No Child' changes."](#) *St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press/New York Times*, March 14, 2004.
- Dillon, S. ["U.S. set to ease some provisions of school law."](#) *New York Times*, March 14, 2004.
- Dobbs, M. ["Federal rules for teachers relaxed."](#) *Washington Post*, March 16, 2004.
- Dodge, R. ["Teachers get time, flexibility to meet No Child Left Behind rule."](#) *Dallas Morning News*, March 16, 2004.

- Feller, B. [“Bush retreats on No Child Left Behind law.”](#) *Chicago Sun-Times/Associated Press*, March 16, 2004.
- Feller, B. [“Federal teacher quality rules eased for rural, science, multisubject teachers.”](#) *San Diego Union-Tribune/Associated Press*, March 16, 2004.
- Feller, B. [“‘No Child’ requirements eased for rural teachers.”](#) *Washington Post/Associated Press*, March 15, 2004.
- Feller, B. [“Teachers get some leeway in new rules.”](#) *Minneapolis Star Tribune/Associated Press*, March 16, 2004.
- Leonard, M., & Vaishnav, A. [“Bush relaxes rules on teacher standards.”](#) *Boston Globe*, March 16, 2004.
- *Los Angeles Times* staff. [“EDITORIAL: Wrong education reform.”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, March 18, 2004.
- Lynn, R. [“Feds relax education rules a bit.”](#) *Salt Lake Tribune*, March 16, 2004.
- MacDonald, C. [“Some teachers get leeway in proving their competence.”](#) *Detroit News*, March 16, 2004.
- *New York Times* editorial. [“OPINION: A few children left behind.”](#) *New York Times*, March 16, 2004.
- Paige, R. [“EDITORIAL: A qualified teacher in every classroom.”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, March 23, 2004.
- Robelen, E.W. [“Federal rules for teachers are relaxed.”](#) *Education Week*, March 24, 2004.
- Schemo, D.J. [“Rules eased on upgrading U.S. schools.”](#) *New York Times*, March 16, 2004.
- Schemo, D.J. [“U.S. eases teacher guidelines.”](#) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution/New York Times*, March 16, 2004.
- *Seattle Times* news services. [“Teacher-quality requirements relaxed a little.”](#) *Seattle Times*, March 16, 2004.
- Shogren, E., & Helfand, D. [“New teaching rules eased.”](#) *St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press/Los Angeles Times*, March 16, 2004.
- Shogren, E., & Helfand, D. [“‘No Child Left Behind’ rules eased for some teachers.”](#) *Baltimore Sun/Los Angeles Times*, March 16, 2004.
- Shogren, E., & Helfand, D. [“U.S. further revises ‘No Child’ law.”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, March 16, 2004.
- Toppo, G. [“‘Highly qualified’ teacher rules get wiggle room.”](#) *USA Today*, March 15, 2004.
- Ustinova, A. [“Education chief eases some teacher-training standards.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer/Knight Ridder*, March 16, 2004.
- Ustinova, A. [“Training rule for teachers relaxed.”](#) *Houston Chronicle/Knight Ridder*, March 15, 2004.

## OTHER NEWS

### Higher education, teacher preparation

- Cavanagh, S. "[Teacher training grants for American Indians questioned.](#)" *Education Week*, March 17, 2004.
- Slivka, J. "[Community colleges may offer 4-year degrees.](#)" *Arizona Republic*, March 18, 2004.

### Teacher certification and licensure, alternative routes to teaching

- Galley, M. "[Texas model: Go directly to class without teacher training.](#)" *Education Week*, March 10, 2004.

#### ◆ American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence

- Jacobson, L. "[Education Dept. ignored reviewers in issuing grant for teachers' test.](#)" *Education Week*, March 17, 2004.

#### ◆ National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

- Silberman, T. "[Study links high scores, national certificate.](#)" *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, March 10, 2004.
- Jacobson, L. "[First major study suggests worth of national 'seal.'](#)" *Education Week*, March 17, 2004.
- Wooten, J. "[OPINION: Teacher certification too pricey.](#)" *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, March 23, 2004.
- Richard, A. "[Nationally certified teachers thrive in South.](#)" *Education Week*, March 24, 2004.

### Teacher testing

- Snyder, S., & Mezzacappa, D. "[Teachers come up short in testing.](#)" *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 23, 2004.

### Teacher and principal assignment, distribution

- Levenson, M.C. "[Romney plan would loosen rules on teacher firings.](#)" *Boston Globe*, March 17, 2004.
- Hendrie, C. "[News in Brief: A National Roundup – Phila. teacher assignments questioned in complaint.](#)" *Education Week*, March 17, 2004.
- Rothstein, K. "[Teachers' pact includes 10 percent raise.](#)" *Boston Herald*, March 19, 2004.
- Tench, M., & Vaishnav, A. "[Teachers, Payzant gain in tentative settlement.](#)" *Boston Globe*, March 19, 2004.
- *News & Observer* staff. "[OPINION: Targeted teaching.](#)" *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, March 22, 2004.

### Teacher compensation, incentives

- Cohen, J.S. "[Teacher scholarship funds cut.](#)" *Chicago Tribune*, March 10, 2004.
- Sanchez, R. "[DPS pay proposal up in air.](#)" *Rocky Mountain News*, March 10, 2004.
- Mitchell, N. "[Q&A with Brad Jupp: Teacher: Performance pay plan a win for everyone.](#)" *Rocky Mountain News*, March 15, 2004.

- Stutz, T. [“Panel offers options on school funding.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, March 16, 2004.
- Keller, B. [“Teacher vote on merit pay down to wire.”](#) *Education Week*, March 17, 2004.
- D’Ambrosio, D. [“Denver teachers ok student-based raises.”](#) *Washington Post/Associated Press*, March 19, 2004.
- D’Ambrosio, D. [“Denver teachers vote on payment plan.”](#) *Boston Globe/Associated Press*, March 19, 2004.
- D’Ambrosio, D. [“Denver teachers vote on plan to base pay raises on student performance.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle/Associated Press*, March 19, 2004.
- Sanchez, R. [“Close vote likely on teacher pay.”](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, March 19, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Denver plan would base teacher raises on student achievement.”](#) *San Diego Union-Tribune*, March 20, 2004.
- Mitchell, N. [“Pay plan gets a gold star.”](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, March 20, 2004.
- *Rocky Mountain News* staff. [“OPINION: Denver teachers take the plunge.”](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, March 20, 2004.
- Poppen, J. [“Douglas celebrates decade-old pay plan.”](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, March 20, 2004.
- Keller, B. [“Denver teachers approve pay-for-performance plan.”](#) *Education Week*, March 23, 2004.

### **Professional development and support**

- Dell’Angela, T. [“Extra teacher training urged.”](#) *Chicago Tribune*, March 22, 2004.

### **Teacher evaluation, effectiveness**

- Silberman, T. [“Idea put to test: A statistical tool could use students’ end-of-grade tests to judge their teachers.”](#) *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, March 10, 2004.
- Raffaele, M. [“Schools see ‘value-added’ test analysis as beneficial.”](#) *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/Associated Press*, March 17, 2004.

### **Teacher shortages in hard-to-fill subjects**

- Cholo, A.B. [“City unveils teachers plan.”](#) *Chicago Tribune*, March 18, 2004.
- Ihejirika, M. [“Help wanted: Teachers in math, science, special ed.”](#) *Chicago Sun-Times*, March 21, 2004.

### **Highly qualified teachers**

- Dobbs, M. [“Montana’s top teacher not good enough.”](#) *Washington Post*, March 14, 2004, A07.
- Smith, C. [“Bush’s award recognizes Utah teachers’ excellence.”](#) *Salt Lake Tribune*, March 19, 2004.

### **Working conditions**

- Patterson, S. [“Union gives teachers chance to rate principals.”](#) *Chicago Sun-Times*, March 14, 2004.

## State progress toward the requirement that all teachers must be highly qualified

- Borg, L. "[State struggles to meet standard for teacher quality.](#)" *Providence Journal*, March 19, 2004.

## Paraprofessionals

- Keller, B. "[News in Brief: Ed. Dept. clarifies rules on classroom aides.](#)" *Education Week*, March 24, 2004.

## RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND REPORTS

### Teacher recruitment, hiring

- Essay: [Attracting the Best Teachers](#)  
Hill, P.T., Hoover Institution Weekly Essays, March 1, 2004

### Teacher certification and licensure, alternative routes to teaching

- [Can Teacher Quality Be Effectively Assessed?](#)  
Goldhaber, D., and Anthony, E., Urban Institute, 43 pp., March 2004
- [SREB States Continue to Lead the Nation in Teachers with National Board Certification](#)  
Andrews, H., Southern Regional Education Board, 4 pp., January 2004

### Teacher compensation, incentives

- [Teaching Poor Students: How to Make It a Prestigious, Desirable Career](#)  
Miller, M., *American Educator*, Winter 2003-2004
- [Pension Tension](#)  
Edmunds, L., *Teacher Magazine*, 15(5), 15-16, March 2004

### Teacher and principal assignment, distribution

- [Complaint to the Office for Civil Rights Concerning Teacher Distribution in The Philadelphia School District](#)  
Education Law Center, 26 pp., March 2004
- [Help Your Child Get Fair Access To a Qualified Teacher](#)  
Education Law Center and Pennsylvania School Reform Network, 3 pp., March 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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