



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/TQINewsletter25May04.pdf>. The PDF version of the previous issue is available at <http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/TQINewsletter05May04.pdf>.

RESEARCH UPDATE

The Southeast Center for Teaching Quality is examining how 24 schools, 12 districts, and 4 states (Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee) are implementing the teacher quality requirements of No Child Left Behind. Research findings from the Center's case studies have been released in three issues of a four-part series thus far: *NCLB Teaching Quality Mandates: Findings and Themes from the Field*. The final issue is scheduled for release in June 2004, and will describe overall implementation of the highly-qualified teacher requirements of NCLB and alignment with state and district priorities.

- ["Highly Qualified" Defined](#)
Best Practices & Policies, 3(4), December 2003
- [Recruitment and Retention](#)
Best Practices & Policies, 3(5), March 2004
- [Funding the Mandate](#)
Best Practices & Policies, 3(6), April 2004

REMINDER: URBAN INSTITUTE SURVEY ABOUT PARAPROFESSIONALS

Thanks to all SEA staff who returned the Urban Institute's survey about state efforts to meet the new paraprofessional requirements of No Child Left Behind. If you forgot to fill yours out and return it, there's still time to participate in this important study. For more information about the survey, or if you need another copy, please contact Clemencia Cosentino at the Urban Institute, at CCosenti@ui.urban.org.

BILL COSBY LENDS SUPPORT TO TEACHERS WHO WORK IN HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOLS

On Sunday, May 23, 2004, comedian, actor, and educator Bill Cosby performed a benefit at Stanford University to raise money for fellowships for teachers-in-training who commit to work in high-poverty schools after graduation. The all-day event, [Cosby on Campus: Celebrating Teachers](#), also included a professional development conference and a fund-raising dinner hosted by news anchor Tom Brokaw as master of ceremonies. Planning for the event began a year ago, when Mr. Cosby phoned Stanford University President John Hennessy and offered to perform a benefit and donate all proceeds to the Stanford School of Education. Mr. Cosby has also volunteered to serve as a creative consultant for the Philadelphia Public Schools' local-access television station and will appear on several shows with messages about homework and SAT preparation.

- Vigil, D. ["Better schools a cause for Cosby,"](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 24, 2004.
- Ramroop, T. ["Cosby salutes 150 local teachers,"](#) *Oakland Tribune*, May 24, 2004.
- Ramroop, T. ["Cosby highlights Stanford forum,"](#) *Tri-Valley Herald*, May 24, 2004.
- Stipek, D. ["In praise of good teachers,"](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 23, 2004.

- Snyder, S. ["Cosby will act to help Phila. schools,"](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 19, 2004.
- Associated Press. ["Bill Cosby takes role with Philly school district,"](#) *Pocono Record*, May 21, 2004.
- Associated Press. ["Bill Cosby to help Philadelphia learn,"](#) *MSNBC News.com*, May 19, 2004.
- Associated Press. ["Bill Cosby is heading back to school as TV consultant,"](#) *Arizona Republic*, May 20, 2004.

U.S. SENATOR JOHN KERRY PROPOSES TO IMPROVE TEACHER RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, PREPARATION, AND PAY

- Halbfinger, D. ["Kerry wants \\$30 billion for teachers,"](#) *New York Times*, May 7, 2004.
- Marinucci, C. ["I will offer teachers more': Kerry trumpets \\$30 billion plan to bolster education system,"](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 7, 2004.
- Robelen, E.W. ["Kerry unveils plans on graduation rates, teachers,"](#) *Education Week*, May 12, 2004.

VIRGINIA GOVERNOR MARK WARNER PROPOSES STRATEGIES TO PROVIDE QUALITY TEACHERS IN HARD-TO-STAFF SCHOOLS

- Warner, Governor Mark, ["Improving student achievement reforms that work."](#) Speech presented at the Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference, May 5, 2004. ECS Speech, Hard-to-Staff Schools.
- Helderman, R. ["Warner would pay more to top teachers at needy schools,"](#) *Washington Post*, May 6, 2004.
- Holly, D. ["Warner urges fresh look at staffing some schools: He supports rewarding teachers who commit to struggling divisions,"](#) *Richmond Times-Dispatch/Associated Press*, May 12, 2004.

ONLINE PRESENTATION – STAFFING LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS

California State University at Sacramento Professor Ken Futernick has developed a standardized rating system, the Teacher Qualification Index, that can be used to report the distribution of teachers in California public schools by credential status and experience. He recently discussed the Teacher Qualification Index during an online presentation for WestEd. A recorded archive of the presentation is available on WestEd's SchoolsMovingUp website.

- [Staffing Low-Performing Schools with Highly Qualified Teachers](#) (4/14/04)

FEDERAL UPDATE

Transition to Teaching Grant Program

The [Transition to Teaching Grant Program](#) provides federal funds to develop alternative pathways to teacher certification and to attract and retain recent college graduates and mid-career professionals as teachers in high-need schools. State and local education agencies, institutions of higher education, and for-profit and nonprofit organizations working in partnership with SEAs and LEAs are eligible to apply. Deadline for transmittal of applications is **June 14, 2004**. For more details, see the April 30, 2004 [Federal Register announcement](#).

U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative

- Robelen, E.W., & Davis, M.R. "[Department initiative seeks to help teachers share ideas,](#)" *Education Week*, April 28, 2004.
- Keller, B. "[News in Brief: A Washington Roundup: Department to sponsor sessions for teachers,](#)" *Education Week*, May 12, 2004. (*scroll down*)

IN THE NEWS

Higher education, teacher preparation

- ❖ *Questionable online teacher degrees*
 - Jacobson, L. "[News in Brief: A National Roundup: Georgia teachers penalized for buying bogus degrees,](#)" *Education Week*, March 31, 2004. (*scroll down*)
 - Associated Press. "[Teachers net pay hike with bogus degrees,](#)" *CNN.com*, May 4, 2004.
 - Trotter, A. "[Educators' degrees earned on Internet raise fraud issues,](#)" *Education Week*, May 5, 2004.
 - Trotter, A. "[Investigation, hearings target online 'diploma mills,'](#)" *Education Week*, May 5, 2004.
 - Trotter, A. "[Federal investigators target 'diploma mills,'](#)" *Education Week*, May 19, 2004.
 - Trotter, A. "[Evaluator reverses position on degrees from Saint Regis,](#)" *Education Week*, May 19, 2004.
- Jacobson, L. "[Accrediting body for teacher prep streamlines system,](#)" *Education Week*, May 19, 2004.
- Galley, M. "[Studies suggest science education neglected,](#)" *Education Week*, May 19, 2004.

Teacher certification and licensure, alternative routes to teaching

- Hanover, L. [“Teachers taking alternate route,”](#) *The (Trenton, N.J.) Times*, May 6, 2004.
- Fields, M. [“First year fulfilling for new teacher,”](#) *St. Petersburg Times*, May 17, 2004.
- Spencer, J. [“HISD’s alternative certification path called smoother than most,”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, May 22, 2004.
- Spencer, J. [“Teaching interns say they can make grade,”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, May 23, 2004.

Teacher and principal recruitment, hiring

- Kotler, E., & Weiner, D. [“Letters to the Editor: Teacher-hiring policy won’t solve all issues,”](#) *Education Week*, May 12, 2004.
- Rothstein, K. [“By cutting application red tape, Hub public schools’ aim: Hire,”](#) *Boston Herald*, May 14, 2004.
- Keller, B. [“Schools employing online talent tests to screen prospects,”](#) *Education Week*, May 19, 2004.

Teacher and principal assignment, distribution

- Brown, M. [“St. John starts color-coding schoolteachers,”](#) *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, May 14, 2004.
- Diamond, L., & Tamman, M. [“Minorities miss quality teachers: Black schools lack senior educators,”](#) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, May 17, 2004.

Teacher and principal turnover, layoffs, retirements

- Lynn, R. [“Attrition decimates ranks of teachers,”](#) *Salt Lake Tribune*, May 6, 2004.
- Chavez, E. [“Judge: District should revoke layoff notices,”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, May 11, 2004.
- Chavez, E. [“School district rescinds some layoff notices,”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, May 13, 2004.
- Snyder, S., & Woodall, M. [“50 protest plan to make King High a charter school,”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 13, 2004.
- Dean, M. [“King teachers reject Vallas’ incentive to stay,”](#) *Philadelphia Daily News*, May 13, 2004.
- Snyder, S. [“Retirement deal less sweet for teachers,”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 14, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Retirement plan could cost St. Louis schools years of experience,”](#) *Kansas City Star*, May 18, 2004.
- Galley, M. [“Teachers facing layoff prospects,”](#) *Education Week*, May 19, 2004.
- Lindelof, B. [“Principals graduate to retirees,”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, May 23, 2004.
- Walsh, J., & Nixon, R. [“Teacher contracts contribute to layoffs,”](#) *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, May 23, 2004.
- Jackson, C. [“2,180 teacher layoffs to ease budget crunch,”](#) *Chicago Sun-Times*, May 24, 2004.

Rehiring retired teachers and principals

- Hoff, D.J. [“News in Brief: A State Capitals Roundup: Md. legislative stalemate ends retiree-teaching option,”](#) *Education Week*, April 29, 2004. (scroll down)

Teacher compensation, financial incentives

- Reid, K.S. [“News in Brief: Iowa hopes to launch achievement-gap project,”](#) *Education Week*, March 17, 2004. (*scroll down*)
- Herszenhorn, D. [“A proposal for incentive pay at city’s low-performing schools,”](#) *New York Times*, May 9, 2004.
- Schemo, D.J. [“When students’ gains help teachers’ bottom line,”](#) *New York Times*, May 9, 2004.
- Keller, B. [“News in Brief: A National Roundup: Colo. district backs away from performance-pay plan,”](#) *Education Week*, May 19, 2004. (*scroll down*)
- Borg, L. [“Single state teacher contract poses multiple choices,”](#) *Providence Journal*, May 23, 2004.

Professional development and support

- Jacobson, L. [“Schools enlist specialists to teach science lessons,”](#) *Education Week*, April 7, 2004.
- *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* staff. [“OUR OPINIONS: Before students can learn more math, our teachers must,”](#) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, May 19, 2004.
- Robinson, H. [“OPINION: Equal time: Develop clear expectations for students, teachers,”](#) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, May 19, 2004.

Working conditions

❖ *School safety and discipline*

- Associated Press. [“Survey: Unruly pupils take toll on class, teachers,”](#) *CNN.com*, May 11, 2004.
- Mathews, J. [“Addressing the discipline problem,”](#) *Washington Post*, May 11, 2004.
- Feller, B. [“Unruly students hindering peers,”](#) *Salt Lake Tribune/Associated Press*, May 12, 2004.
- McCown, D. [“Behavior problems hurt teachers, students,”](#) *Washington Times*, May 12, 2004.
- Schouten, F. [“Study: Pupils pay academic price for unruly classrooms,”](#) *USA Today/Gannett*, May 12, 2004.
- Dean, M. [“Vallas sees balanced budget, safer schools: District unveils spending plan to Council,”](#) *Philadelphia Daily News*, May 12, 2004.
- *Los Angeles Times* staff. [“OPINION: Teachers need upper hand,”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, May 13, 2004.
- *Chicago Tribune* staff. [“OPINION: Taming wild classrooms,”](#) *Chicago Tribune*, May 18, 2004.
- Bowman, D.H. [“Report notes impact of student behavior,”](#) *Education Week*, May 19, 2004.
- Rasheed, A. [“Chronic problems cited at most-troubled schools,”](#) *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, May 25, 2004.

❖ *Administrative support and leadership*

- Bradley, A. [“News in Brief: A National Roundup: Teachers give poor marks to many of Chicago’s principals.”](#) *Education Week*, May 19, 2004. (scroll down)

❖ *Resources, facilities*

- Smith, M.S. [“OPINION: State schools with most blacks, Latinos get fewest resources,”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, May 16, 2004.
- Robertson, T. [“In school, Latinos find fewer resources, ethnic isolation,”](#) *Boston Globe*, May 17, 2004.
- Jacobson, L. [“Poll of teachers finds two-tiered system,”](#) *Education Week*, May 19, 2004.
- Sack, J.L. [“Shortages hamper teachers, hurt minorities, survey finds,”](#) *Education Week*, May 19, 2004. (scroll down)
- Sack, J. [“N.J. principals cite unmet facility needs,”](#) *Education Week*, May 19, 2004.
- White, T. [“Too many repairs, too little money for schools,”](#) *Baltimore Sun*, May 25, 2004.

Substitute teacher standards, preparation, support

- Hui, T.K. [“Wake to hire full-time substitutes,”](#) *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, May 19, 2004.

Preschool teacher quality

- Jenkins, C. [“Care providers polish teaching skills,”](#) *St. Petersburg Times*, May 16, 2004.

Teacher quality in hard-to-staff schools

- Chaddock, G.R. [“Beyond integration: Better teaching is post-‘Brown’ frontier,”](#) *Christian Science Monitor*, May 17, 2004.
- Hoff, D.J. [“Governors study teacher quality,”](#) *Education Week*, May 19, 2004.

Progress toward the goal that all teachers will be highly-qualified

- Benton, J. [“DISD fares poorly in teacher survey: District says numbers on educator quality better than reported,”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, May 19, 2004.

RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND REPORTS

Higher education, teacher preparation

- [“The Bayer Facts of Science Education X: Are The Nation’s Colleges and Universities Adequately Preparing Elementary Schoolteachers of Tomorrow to Teach Science?”](#) Market Research Institute, Inc., Executive Summary, 12 pp., May 2004

Teacher certification and licensure, alternative routes to teaching

- [“Easier Does It”](#)
Kersten, D., *Teacher Magazine*, 15(6), 15, May 2004
- [“Lessons to Learn: Voices from the Front Lines of Teach for America”](#)
Ness, M., Routledge Falmer Press, 240 pp., 2003

Teacher and principal recruitment, hiring, assignment

- [Portfolios the First Phase of New Principal Screening](#)
Myers, J., *Catalyst*, April 2004
- [Philadelphia's Teacher Hiring and School Assignment Practices: Comparisons with Other Districts](#)
Useem, E., & Farley, E., *Research for Action*, 12 pp., April 2004

Novice teachers

- [The Voice of the New Teacher](#)
Public Education Network, 55 pp., Fall 2003
- [Building a Professional Teaching Corps in Boston: Baseline Study of New Teachers in Boston's Public Schools](#) (now available)
McCarthy, M., & Guiney, E., *Boston Plan for Excellence in the Public Schools*, 58 pp., April 2004

Mentoring and induction

- [Induction Programs that Keep New Teachers Teaching and Improving](#)
Wong, H.K., *NASSP Bulletin*, 87(638), 5-27, March 2004
- [Support Systems](#)
O'Neill, L., *Threshold*, 4 pp., Spring 2004
- [Research Summary: Study of the Impact of the California Formative Assessment and Support System for Teachers](#)
Thompson, M., & Paek, P., *Educational Testing Service*, 4 pp., May 2004
 - [Press release](#)

Professional development and support

- [Supporting Teacher Leadership and Professional Growth](#)
Carter, G., *Is It Good for the Kids?*, ASCD, May 2004

Working conditions

❖ **School safety and discipline**

- [Teaching Interrupted: Do Discipline Policies in Today's Public Schools Foster the Common Good?](#)
Public Agenda, 64 pp., May 2004
 - [Executive Summary](#), 7 pp.
 - [Press release](#)
- [Interview: Law and Order](#)
Cech, S.J. *Teacher Magazine*, 15(6), 16-17, May 2004

❖ **Administrative support and leadership**

- [Professional Leadership in the 21st Century: Rising to the Challenge](#) (Part I)
ASCD *SmartBrief Special Report*, May 25, 2004

❖ **Resources, facilities**

- [*Fifty Years After Brown v. Board of Education: A Two-Tiered Education System*](#)
Carroll, T.G., Fulton, K., Abercrombie, K., & Yoon, I., National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, 41 pp., May 2004
- [*The Educational Adequacy of New Jersey Public School Facilities: Results from a Survey of Principals*](#)
Schneider, M., Education Law Center, 18 pp., May 2004

Highly-qualified teachers

- [*The Search for Highly-Qualified Teachers*](#)
Berry, B., Hoke, M., & Hirsch, E., *Phi Delta Kappan*, 85(9), May 2004
(article not available online)
- [*Highly Qualified Teachers: Pretense or Legal Requirement?*](#)
Rebell, M., & Hunter, M., *Phi Delta Kappan*, 85(9), May 2004
(article not available online)

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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