



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/TQINewsletter27Jul04.pdf>. The PDF version of the previous issue is available at <http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/TQINewsletter10Jun04.pdf>.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPIC OF CHIEFS' SUMMER INSTITUTE

Forty of the nation's chief state school officers assembled in Cambridge, Massachusetts in July for CCSSO's 2004 Summer Institute. The focus of this year's annual meeting was *Improving Instructional Practice: A New Commitment to Students and Teachers*. During the Institute, Chiefs discussed ideas for state level actions to strengthen overall systems of teacher professional development and to create partnerships to improve instructional practice. Speakers included former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, and Raymond Simon, USDE's Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education. [Readings](#) posted on CCSSO's website include papers by Robert Reich and Richard Elmore, as well as reports from organizations such as The Finance Project and the Learning First Alliance.

NEW WEBSITE OF INTEREST

The North Central Regional Educational Laboratory and the Education Commission of the States have developed a new website, [TQ Source](#), which provides links to information on teacher preparation, recruitment, and retention. Users can access information on state policy, data, publications, and teaching quality initiatives and programs.

CONTROVERSIAL FINDINGS: STUDENTS OF TEACH FOR AMERICA GRADS PERFORMED BETTER IN MATH, SAME IN READING, COMPARED TO NON-TFA TEACHERS

- [The Effects of Teach for America on Students: Findings from a National Evaluation](#)
Decker, P., Mayer, D., & Glazerman, S., Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., 82 pp., June 2004
 - [Press release](#)
- Viadero, D. "[Study finds benefits in Teach for America.](#)" *Education Week*, June 16, 2004.

- *Education Week* Talkback. "[Grading Teach for America.](#)" *Education Week*, June 21, 2004.
 - [Read the Responses.](#)
- Archibald, G. "[Teacher corps makes grade, study finds.](#)" *Washington Times*, June 22, 2004.
- Mathews, J. "[When good isn't good enough: Study highlights success – and failure – of Teach for America program.](#)" *Washington Post*, July 13, 2004.
- Southeast Center for Teaching Quality. "[Commentary: Teach for America study reports some gains, but obscures failed teaching policies in urban schools.](#)"
- Letters to the editor. "[Teach for America.](#)" *Education Week*, July 14, 2004. (scroll down)
- [Teacher Quality Back in the News](#)
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, *EDPolicy Update*, 2(7), July 2004

ECS SAYS NO STATE IS ON TRACK TO ENSURE A HIGHLY-QUALIFIED TEACHER IN EVERY CLASSROOM BY 2005-06

- [ECS Report to the Nation: State Implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act](#)
Education Commission of the States, July 2004
- Associated Press. "[Study: States progressing with new school law.](#)" *CNN.com*, July 14, 2004.

Also:

- Associated Press. "[Study says states making progress with new school law, but major work ahead.](#)" *Hartford Courant*, July 15, 2004.
- Feller, B. "[Study says states making progress with new school law, but major work ahead.](#)" *Boston Globe/Associated Press*, July 15, 2004.
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- Russell Chaddock, G. "[How school reform is altering classrooms.](#)" *Christian Science Monitor*, July 15, 2004.

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- Toppo, G. "[More states adopt No Child provisions.](#)" *Detroit News/USA Today*, July 15, 2004.

MINNEAPOLIS RULE PERMITS REASSIGNING TEACHERS TO SUBJECTS THEY ARE LICENSED (BUT NOT NECESSARILY EXPERIENCED) TO TEACH

- Brandt, S. "[Minneapolis teachers in for a bumpy ride.](#)" *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, July 8, 2004.
- *Star Tribune* staff. "[Editorial: Musical chairs/Tons of teacher shifts hurt kids.](#)" *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, July 12, 2004.
- Brandt, S. "[School board shifts gears on moving around teachers.](#)" *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, July 14, 2004.
- Brandt, S. "[School board seeks relief from teacher-shifting rule.](#)" *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, July 25, 2004.

SCORING ERROR CAUSES 4,100 CANDIDATES TO FAIL TEACHER LICENSING EXAM

- Arenson, K. [“Grading mistakes caused more than 4,000 would-be teachers to fail a licensing exam.”](#) *New York Times*, July 13, 2004.
- Stewart, T. [“Aspiring teachers falsely flunked out.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, July 13, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Testing company says it mistakenly failed 4,100 prospective teachers.”](#) *Boston Globe*, July 14, 2004.
- Campisi, G. [“Oops! Testing firm flopped by flunking would-be teachers.”](#) *Philadelphia Daily News*, July 14, 2004.
- Patrick, K. [“Faulty testing stymied potential Pa. teachers.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 14, 2004.
- Rucker, P. [“Test service for teachers fails many by mistake.”](#) *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, July 15, 2004.
- Stephens, S. [“Teacher candidates victims of grading goof.”](#) *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*, July 15, 2004.
- Caruso, D. [“Pa. teacher sues over grade error.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer/Associated Press*, July 17, 2004.

CALIF. MOVES TO SETTLE SUIT OVER INEQUITIES IN TEACHER QUALITY, RESOURCES

- Folmar, K., & Marimow, A. [“Governor pledges to settle suit over school conditions.”](#) *The (San Jose) Mercury News*, June 30, 2004.
- Sanders, J. [“School lawsuit may be settled.”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, June 30, 2004.
- Sack, J. [“Settlement of school equity case caught up in Calif. budget battle.”](#) *Education Week*, July 14, 2004.

ALL ARIZONA TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS TO RECEIVE TRAINING IN STRUCTURED ENGLISH IMMERSION

- Arizona Department of Education. [“State board adopts Horne proposal to train teachers and administrators in structured English immersion.”](#) Press release, June 28, 2004.
- Sterba, J. [“All educators must get English immersion training.”](#) *Arizona Daily Star*, July 6, 2004.
- Zehr, M. [“News in Brief: A State Capitals Roundup – Ariz. teachers targeted for English immersion.”](#) *Education Week*, July 14, 2004.

SOCIAL SECURITY LAW CHANGE PROMPTS EARLY TEACHER RETIREMENTS IN TEXAS

- Associated Press. [“Teachers wash windows for Social Security.”](#) *CNN.com*, June 29, 2004.

Also:

- Associated Press. [“Teachers rush to beat closing loophole.”](#) *New York Times*, June 30, 2004.
- Austin, L. [“Bell to ring on loophole for teachers.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer/Associated Press*, June 30, 2004.

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- Stewart, T. [“Schools plan for wave of teacher retirements.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, July 22, 2004.
- Stutz, T. [“Teacher exodus stings.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, July 22, 2004.
- Razzuk, M. [“Richardson ISD among districts hit hard by retirements.”](#) *Dallas Morning News/WFAA TV*, July 22, 2004.

AFT SAYS NONCOMPETITIVE TEACHER SALARIES NOT KEEPING PACE WITH EXPENSES

- [2003 Survey & Analysis of Teacher Salary Trends](#)
American Federation of Teachers, July 2004
- Associated Press. [“Teacher pay lags, union contends.”](#) *St. Petersburg Times*, July 15, 2004.

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- Jacobson, L. [“Teacher salary gains tempered by health-benefit costs, says AFT.”](#) *Education Week*, July 15, 2004.
- Williams, J. [“Teacher salaries fall below average.”](#) *St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press/Associated Press*, July 15, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Texas ranks 30th in pay for teachers.”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, July 15, 2004.
- Feller, B. [“Michigan teachers earn country’s second-best pay.”](#) *Detroit News/Associated Press*, July 15, 2004.
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- Rothstein, K. [“Mass. Teachers eighth in pay among all states.”](#) *Boston Herald*, July 16, 2004.
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FEDERAL UPDATE

GAO: USDE must improve coordination, help states identify implementation strategies to ensure highly-qualified special education teachers

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United States Government Accountability Office, July 2004
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- Carter, S. [“Federal education secretary cites progress.”](#) *The Oregonian*, June 30, 2004.
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- Archibald, G. [“Schools act gets high marks at summit.”](#) *Washington Times*, July 21, 2004.
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USDE awards grants for teacher professional development in American history

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- Sullivan, O. [“Institute helps teachers bring history to life for their students.”](#) *The (Kansas) Morning Sun*, June 22, 2004.
- Falkenhagen, A. [“Grant to help history teachers.”](#) *Casper Star-Tribune*, June 29, 2004.
- Kent, R. [“History studies get \\$2 million boost.”](#) *The (Ohio) News Journal*, June 29, 2004.
- *Indiana Gazette* staff. [“The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a grant of \\$349,253 to the Indiana Area School District to improve the teaching of American history.”](#) *The Indiana (Pa.) Gazette*, July 3, 2004.
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Extra year for rural teachers to become highly qualified, but few LEAs in South benefit

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☆ **Pennsylvania**

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☆ **Utah**

- Del Giudice, A. [“Teachers go back to school.”](#) *BYU NewsNet*, June 8, 2004.

Alternative routes to teaching

☆ **Florida**

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Professional development and support

☆ To teach diverse groups of students

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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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