



# Teacher Quality and Improvement

*e-Newsletter of the CCSSO Teacher Quality Network*

February 28, 2005, Vol. 2, No. 4

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](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/TQINewsletter28Feb05.pdf>. All previous issues are posted on the CCSSO website at [http://www.ccsso.org/whats\\_new/newsletters/teacher\\_quality\\_and\\_improvement/index.cfm](http://www.ccsso.org/whats_new/newsletters/teacher_quality_and_improvement/index.cfm).

The Teacher Quality and Improvement newsletter is made possible through generous funding from the Joyce Foundation.

## SOME OF THE TOP STORIES

### **Following change of opinion in North Dakota, USDE reverses decision on highly-qualified status of Utah teachers**

- Lynn, R. [“Deal possible on ‘No Child’ law.”](#) *Salt Lake Tribune*, February 16, 2005.
- Lynn, R. [“Feds yield to Utah educators.”](#) *Salt Lake Tribune*, February 24, 2005.

### **California districts spend the least on teacher salaries in high-poverty, high-minority schools; new report documents size of spending disparities within the same districts**

- *California’s Hidden Teacher Spending Gap: How State and District Budgeting Practices Shortchange Poor and Minority Students and Their Schools*  
The Education Trust-West, February 2005, 20 pp.
  - [Executive summary](#), 2 pp.
  - [Full report](#), 20 pp.
    - Hull, D. [“Teachers paid less at poor schools.”](#) *The (San Jose) Mercury News*, February 16, 2005.
    - Rosenhall, L. [“Teacher pay gap debate fueled.”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, February 16, 2005.
    - Schrag, P. [“OPINION: Study could trigger meaningful talk on teacher pay.”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, February 16, 2005.

- Sturrock, C. [“Schools’ great divide: No incentive for more-experienced teachers to go where they’re needed most,”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 16, 2005.
- Archer, J. [“Salary totals found lower in poor schools,”](#) *Education Week*, February 16, 2005.
  - Table: [Exploring the Salary Gap](#)
- Magee, M. [“Study: Teachers at needy schools earn less,”](#) *San Diego Union-Tribune*, February 20, 2005.

### **New Texas study contradicts previous findings that the teachers most likely to leave inner-city schools are also the most highly-skilled**

- Viadero, D. [“Teacher turnover tracked in city district; Educators who move on are not necessarily the best and brightest,”](#) *Education Week*, February 23, 2005.
  - Table: [Teacher transitions by teacher experience](#)

### **Florida Gov. Jeb Bush’s new education package includes mandatory pay increases for teachers in low-performing schools, in high-crime areas, and who teach hard-to-fill subjects**

- Johnson, C. [“Measure would expand vouchers,”](#) *St. Petersburg Times*, February 23, 2005.
- Johnson, C. [“Vouchers big part of Bush package,”](#) *St. Petersburg Times*, February 24, 2005.
- Fineout, G. [“New vouchers ‘as American as apple pie,’ Gov. Bush says,”](#) *Miami Herald*, February 24, 2005.

## **FEDERAL UPDATE**

### **School Leadership Program for high-need schools**

- Deadlines: Notice of intent to apply -- **March 24, 2005**  
Transmittal of applications – **April 15, 2005**
- [Federal register notice](#)  
Purpose: “to assist high-need LEAs in the development, enhancement, or expansion of innovative programs to recruit, train, and mentor principals (including assistant principals) to serve in high-need schools through such activities as:
  - Providing financial incentives to aspiring new principals;
  - Providing stipends to principals who mentor new principals;
  - Carrying out professional development programs in instructional leadership and management; and
  - Providing incentives that are appropriate for teachers or individuals from other fields who want to become principals and that are effective in retaining new principals.”
- [Applicant information – School Leadership Program](#), U.S. Department of Education  
For more information, contact Peggi Zelinko, U.S. Department of Education, at (202) 260-2614, [SLP@ed.gov](mailto:SLP@ed.gov).

## Update on expanded loan forgiveness program for math, science, and special ed teachers in Title I schools

- U.S. Department of Education. "[New changes to the teacher loan program.](#)" Teacher Update, January 24, 2005.
- U.S. Department of Education, Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Library. [Enactment of the Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act of 2004.](#) December 2004.

## INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

- Maiden, S. "[Inquiry puts teachers to the test.](#)" *The Australian*, February 18, 2005.

## IN THE NEWS

### Teacher preparation, higher ed

- Wineburg, S. "[OPINION: A history of flawed teaching.](#)" *Los Angeles Times*, February 24, 2005.

### Alternative routes to teaching

- McCormick, S. "[TAMU-T touts alternative teacher certification program.](#)" *Texarkana Gazette*, January 30, 2005.
- Matus, R. "[Wanted: 30,000 teachers.](#)" *St. Petersburg Times*, February 16, 2005.
  - Florida Department of Education. "[A summary of the sections of SB2986 that relate to the community college role in teacher preparation.](#)" 4 pp.
- Woodall, M. "[Taking own paths to teaching.](#)" *Philadelphia Inquirer*, February 22, 2005.
- Jacobson, L. "[Alternative routes attracting unlikely candidates.](#)" *Education Week*, February 23, 2005.
  - Charts: [Alternative certification: Who trains and who pays](#)

### Teacher certification and licensure

- Stephens, S. "[Charters use teachers not fully certified.](#)" *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*, February 24, 2005.

### Teacher recruitment

- DePledge, D. "[Help sought in finding teachers.](#)" *Honolulu Advertiser*, January 22, 2005.
- Smydo, J. "[Educator sees black teacher shortage risk.](#)" *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, February 13, 2005.
- Manzo, K.K. "[Radio host, NEA set up fund to train minority teachers.](#)" *Education Week*, February 16, 2005.

### Principal recruitment and training

- Toppo, G. "[Grant eases way for upcoming principals.](#)" *USA Today*, February 14, 2005.
- Gewertz, C. "[News in Brief: Philadelphia lands grant for principal-training effort.](#)" *Education Week*, February 16, 2005.

- Loh, L. [“Initiative targets school leaders.”](#) *Baltimore Sun*, February 22, 2005.

### **Teacher hiring (and rehiring)**

- Mitchell, N. [“DPS requiring some teachers to reapply for jobs.”](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, February 18, 2005.

### **Teacher assignment**

- Breen, K. [“As student body diversifies, Plano ISD shifts gears.”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, February 20, 2005.

### **Teacher retention**

- Lawrence, M. [“OPINION: A how-to on keeping teachers in class.”](#) *Chicago Tribune*, February 22, 2005.

### **Teacher and principal evaluation**

- Archer, J. [“R.I. state commissioner imposes plan of action on Providence school.”](#) *Education Week*, February 16, 2005.

### **Working conditions**

- Winn, P. [“Board weighs demands on teachers.”](#) *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, February 15, 2005.
- Sack, J. [“Voicing complaints: Calif. students join rallies seeking enforcement of state legal settlement.”](#) *Education Week*, February 16, 2005.
- Davis, G. [“Council submits ideas to improve working conditions of district teachers.”](#) *Baltimore Sun*, February 22, 2005.
- Gehring, J. [“S.F. eyes cutting prep time for AP.”](#) *Education Week*, February 23, 2005.
- Polaneczky, R. [“Does your school have textbooks, certified teachers, a librarian, computers...?”](#) *Philadelphia Daily News*, February 23, 2005.
- Harrison, S. [“Smaller classes often exist only on paper.”](#) *Miami Herald*, February 25, 2005.

### **Teacher and principal compensation, incentives**

- Letters to the editor. [“OPINION: How about merit pay for parents and students?”](#) *Education Week*, February 23, 2005.

#### **☆ California**

- Coleman, J. [“Governor rallies educators to fight critics of his school plan.”](#) *The (San Jose) Mercury News/ Associated Press*, February 16, 2005.
- *Mercury News* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Close gaps in paychecks, close gaps in schools.”](#) *The (San Jose) Mercury News*, February 17, 2005.
- *Sacramento Bee* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Get serious about pay.”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, February 22, 2005.
- *San Francisco Chronicle* editorial staff. [“OPINION: Reprieve for teachers.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 24, 2005.

#### **☆ Denver**

- Jacobson, L. [“Teacher-pay plan in Denver gets foundation boost.”](#) *Education Week*, February 16, 2004.

☆ **Indiana**

- Neal, A. "[OPINION: Judge teacher competence, and pay accordingly.](#)" *Indianapolis Star*, February 23, 2005.

☆ **Louisiana**

- Anderson, E. "[Blanco wants 'substantial pay raise' for teachers.](#)" *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, February 24, 2005.

☆ **Texas**

- Elliott, J. "[Pay hikes for teachers backed, but how much is the question; Polls also show Texans oppose tying the salaries to student scores.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, February 25, 2005.

☆ **Utah**

- Lynn, R. "[New-teacher pay raise is axed.](#)" *Salt Lake Tribune*, February 15, 2005.
- *Salt Lake Tribune* editorial staff. "[OPINION: Boosting teacher pay.](#)" *Salt Lake Tribune*, February 16, 2005.

☆ **Virginia**

- Helderman, R. "[Teacher raises dwindle in state formula.](#)" *Washington Post*, February 18, 2005, B01.
- Robertson, G. "[Teachers, nurses to get help.](#)" *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, February 24, 2005.

**Teacher turnover, mobility**

- Reed, E. "[District's money woes leave teacher gaps.](#)" *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*, February 21, 2005.

**Teachers of hard-to-fill subjects and specializations**

- Samuels, C. "[Subject qualification vexing for teachers in special education.](#)" *Education Week*, February 16, 2005.

**Rehiring retired teachers and principals**

- Nelson, R. "[Stiff return rules proposed for retired school officials.](#)" *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, February 15, 2005.

**Teacher quality in hard-to-staff schools**

- Richard, A. "[Groups tackle teacher quality in needy schools.](#)" *Education Week*, February 16, 2004.

**RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND REPORTS**

**Teacher testing**

- [There Is Another Way: The Faculty-developed Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Assessment for K-8 Pre-Service Teachers](#)  
Squires, D., Canney, G., & Trevisan, M., *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 12(62), November 9, 2004, 19 pp.

## Teacher mentoring and induction

- [What the World Can Teach Us About New Teacher Induction](#)  
Wong, H., Britton, T., & Ganser, T., *Phi Delta Kappan*, 86(5), January 2005, pp. 379-384

## Professional development

- [Teacher Leaders for Mathematics Success \(TL=MS\): Final Evaluation Report](#)  
Fancsali, C., Academy for Educational Development, Fall 2004, 60 pp.
  - Summary: [At-risk students show math gains, AED finds](#)  
Academy for Educational Development
    - Cavanagh, S. ["Teacher training leads to higher test scores."](#) *Education Week*, February 16, 2005.
- [Factors Affecting the Impact of Professional Development Programs on Teachers' Knowledge, Practice, Student Outcomes & Efficacy](#)  
Ingvarson, L., Meiers, M., & Beavis, A., *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 13(10), January 29, 2005, 28 pp.

## Teacher and principal compensation, incentives

- [Catching Up With the Vaughn Express: Six Years of Standards-Based Teacher Evaluation and Performance Pay](#)  
Kellor, E., *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 13(7), January 23, 2005, 27 pp.
- [Weighing the Merits](#)  
McCabe, M., *Teacher Magazine*, 16(5), March 1, 2005, p. 22

## Rural teacher shortages

- [Greener Pastures](#)  
Buchanan, B., *Teacher Magazine*, 16(5), March 1, 2005, pp. 16-19

## Teachers in high-poverty, low-performing schools

- [Teacher of the Year](#) web log  
Rogers, B., *Teacher Magazine*, 16(5), March 1, 2005 (entries from February 10<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005)

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

- [Meeting NCLB Goals for Highly Qualified Teachers: Estimates by State from Survey Data](#)  
Blank, R., Langesen, D., Laird, E., Toye, C., & Bandeira de Mello, V., *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 12(70), December 20, 2004, 25 pp.

## Teacher views about NCLB

- [No Child Left Behind: A Survey of Its Impact on IRA Members](#)  
International Reading Association, February 2004
  - Manzo, K.K. ["Reading teachers see few changes under NCLB law."](#) *Education Week*, February 16, 2004.

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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