



# 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](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/TQINewsletter29Dec.pdf>. The PDF version of the previous issue is available at <http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/TQINewsletter10Dec.pdf>.

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## SOME OF THE TOP STORIES

### **“Conditionally certified” teachers on the decline in Baltimore County, Md., but still disproportionately concentrated in high-minority and low-performing schools**

- [Report on School Staffing, 2004-2005](#)  
Baltimore County Public Schools, December 2004, 21 pp.
- Neufeld, S. [“Balto. County teachers without full credentials declining, report finds.”](#)  
*Baltimore Sun*, December 22, 2004.

### **Realignment policy prompts Minneapolis teachers to surrender additional teaching licenses to avoid transfers; special ed licenses are among those most frequently dropped**

- Brandt, S. [“License in hand vs. job of choice.”](#) *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, December 27, 2004.

### **Florida newspaper series examines gaps in teaching quality and the challenges of recruiting and retaining qualified teachers in hard-to-staff schools**

- *Herald-Tribune* staff. [“The series.”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 12, 2004.
- *Herald-Tribune* staff. [“How we did this story.”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 12, 2004.
- Davis, C., & Doig, M. [“Teachers who fail.”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 12, 2004.
- Davis C., & Doig, M. [“Trouble at the source.”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 12, 2004.

- Davis C., & Doig, M. [“Poor schools can’t keep good teachers.”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 13, 2004.
- Davis C., & Doig, M. [“Measuring a teacher’s knowledge,”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 14, 2004.
- Davis C., & Doig, M. [“Minority teachers struggle on certification exams,”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 14, 2004.
- *Herald-Tribune* staff. [“STAFF REPORT: Florida teachers must pass 3 exams.”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 14, 2004.
- *Herald-Tribune* staff. [“Test is easy, students say,”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 14, 2004.
- *Herald-Tribune* staff. [“Take the test,”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 14, 2004.
- Doig, M. [“The gap between the haves and the have-nots,”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 15, 2004.
- Davis, C. [“In rural Florida, district struggles to hire, keep teachers,”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 15, 2004.
- Davis C. [“Pinellas school is ‘teacher’s heaven’,”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 15, 2004.
- Davis, C., & Doig, M. [“A problem that won’t fix itself,”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 16, 2004.
- Davis, C., & Doig, M. [“Legislative inertia: Lack of funding often dooms efforts to reward teachers,”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 17, 2004.
- Green, L. [“Student’s poverty offers reality check,”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 17, 2004.
- Robertson, J. [“OPINION: Failure designed into good tests,”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 18, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Neediest kids often get least-qualified teachers,”](#) *Tallahassee Democrat*, December 19, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Report: Neediest children often get least-prepared teachers,”](#) *Daytona Beach (Fla.) News-Journal*, December 19, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Needy schools get poorer teachers,”](#) *St. Petersburg Times*, December 19, 2004.
- *Herald-Tribune* staff. [“OPINION: Grading teachers,”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 19, 2004.

## FEDERAL UPDATE

- U.S. Department of Education. [“Pennsylvania accepts No Child Left Behind e-learning tool as credit toward ‘highly qualified teacher’ requirements.”](#) Press release, December 13, 2004.

## IN THE NEWS

### Higher education, teacher preparation

- Kopkowski, C. [“Teacher training to air on TV,”](#) *Palm Beach (Fl.) Post*, December 9, 2004.
- Miller, K. [“Florida pushes to train more teachers,”](#) *Palm Beach (Fl.) Post*, December 29, 2004.

### Teacher certification and licensure

- Krupa, G. [“New school job: Policing degrees,”](#) *Detroit News*, December 12, 2004.
- Dunn, A. [“Some teachers need certification,”](#) *The (Lakeland, Fl.) Ledger*, December 14, 2004.
- Reese Cravey, B. [“Schools adapting to meet standards,”](#) *Florida Times-Union*, December 15, 2004.
- Steele, K. [“Teachers accomplish National Certification,”](#) *Tampa Tribune*, December 18, 2004.
- Winchester, D. [“48 teachers earn national certification,”](#) *St. Petersburg Times*, December 20, 2004.

### Alternative routes to teaching

- *Los Angeles Times* staff. [“About this series,”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, December 19, 2004.
  - Hayasaki, E. [“Beginning a new chapter in his life,”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, December 19, 2004.
  - Hayasaki, E. [“Demanding students test their teacher’s resolve,”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, December 20, 2004.
  - Hayasaki, E. [“Swamped by depression, feelings of guilt, panic,”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, December 21, 2004.
- Susca, M. [“With help from FAU, local teachers earn degree, experience,”](#) *Ft. Pierce (Fl.) Tribune*, December 19, 2004.
- Freeman, M. [“Making the transition to teacher,”](#) *The (South Florida) Sun-Sentinel*, December 24, 2004.
- Reuters. [“Young teachers help in tough schools: Teach for America making difference,”](#) *CNN.com*, December 27, 2004.
- Elsner, A. [“Young teachers make a difference in tough U.S. schools,”](#) *San Diego Union-Tribune/Reuters*, December 28, 2004.

### Teacher recruitment

- Fellow, J. [“Wanted: Hispanic educators,”](#) *The (Provo, Ut.) Daily Herald*, December 5, 2004.
- Ross, C. [“Schools woo minorities to head up the class,”](#) *Boston Herald*, December 12, 2004.
- *Los Angeles Times* staff. [“OPINION: Building teachers in-house,”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, December 18, 2004.

### **Teacher and principal retention**

- Ott, T. [“Program aims to keep school leaders here.”](#) *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*, December 16, 2004.

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

- Reese Cravey, B. [“Software helps hire teachers.”](#) *Florida Times-Union*, December 8, 2004.
- Ackerman, A. [“OPINION: Underperforming schools – new front in today’s struggle for civil rights.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 20, 2004.

### **Teacher supply and demand**

- Asimov, N. [“State is due to lose qualified teachers.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 8, 2004.
- Chavez, E. [“Schools expect teacher crunch.”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, December 13, 2004.

### **Professional development**

- Shanklin, M. [“School day could lengthen: Orange County weighs trading teacher training for class time.”](#) *Orlando Sentinel*, December 16, 2004.

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

- Sarrio, J. [“Board of education to discuss teacher salaries.”](#) *Gwinnett (Ga.) Daily Post*, December 7, 2004.
- Draper, N. [“Canada officials disagree with Pawlenty on education initiatives.”](#) *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, December 11, 2004.
- Miller, K. [“Principals’ pay tied to ‘complexity’ level.”](#) *Palm Beach Post*, December 12, 2004.
- Gerstner, Jr., L. [“OPINION: Math teacher pay doesn’t add up.”](#) *Christian Science Monitor*, December 13, 2004.
- Carson, L. [“For a teacher, ‘an absolute dream come true.’”](#) *Baltimore Sun*, December 21, 2004.
- Haber, G. [“Teacher dearth is attributed to low salaries.”](#) *Tampa Tribune*, December 27, 2004.
- Parker, R. [“Merit pay plan for Collier teachers moves into third year.”](#) *Naples (Fl.) Daily News*, December 29, 2004.

### **Teacher absenteeism**

- Coulter, D. [“India’s troubling truants: teachers.”](#) *Christian Science Monitor*, December 20, 2004.
- Farrell, J. [“Absent teachers an issue.”](#) *Hartford Courant*, December 28, 2004.

### **Substitute teachers**

- Mitchell, N. [“DPS lacks substitutes.”](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, December 14, 2004.
- Shanklin, M., & Balona, D-M. [“Substitute teachers to get basic training.”](#) *Orlando Sentinel*, December 17, 2004.
- Brooks, R. [“OPINION: Quality subs deserve quality pay.”](#) *Panama City (Fl.) News Herald*, December 20, 2004.

### **Teacher mobility**

- Mitchell, N., & Hubbard, B. [“Districts face revolving door: One in five teachers changes schools each year in state,”](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, December 24, 2004.

### **Teacher effectiveness, evaluation**

- Mathews, J. [“Mining scores for nuances in improvement,”](#) *Washington Post*, December 14, 2004, A12.

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

- Doss Helms, A. [“Special-ed teachers in regular classes,”](#) *Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*, December 6, 2004.
- Diamond, L. [“Effects of new special ed laws remain unclear,”](#) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, December 12, 2004.
- Minugh, K. [“Multicultural – and proud of it,”](#) *Sacramento Bee*, December 16, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Speech pathologists in short supply at schools,”](#) *Dallas Morning News*, December 26, 2004.

#### **Also:**

- Austin, L. [“Speech therapists are in short supply,”](#) *Houston Chronicle/Associated Press*, December 28, 2004.

### **Paraprofessionals**

- Feller, B. [“Another face of teaching: Aides play growing role in the classroom,”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle/Associated Press*, December 27, 2004.

#### **Also:**

- Associated Press. [“Rules put teacher’s aides to the test,”](#) *Baltimore Sun*, December 28, 2004.
- Feller, B. [“As classroom aides proliferate, so do expectations,”](#) *Boston Globe/Associated Press*, December 28, 2004.
- Feller, B. [“Aides play bigger classroom role,”](#) *Detroit News/Associated Press*, December 28, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Hill targets teacher’s aides,”](#) *Washington Times*, December 28, 2004.
- Calhoun, S.B. [“Bay teacher’s aides prepared to meet federal requirements,”](#) *Panama City (Fl.) News Herald*, December 29, 2004.

### **Rural staff shortages**

- Davis, C. [“In rural Florida, district struggles to hire, keep teachers,”](#) *Sarasota (Fl.) Herald-Tribune*, December 15, 2004.

### **Preschool teacher quality**

- Hirth, D. [“4-year-olds deserve better-qualified teachers, education advocates say,”](#) *Tallahassee Democrat*, December 13, 2004.

### **Teaching quality in high-poverty, low-performing schools**

- Ackerman, A. [“OPINION: Closing S.F.’s teaching gap,”](#) *San Francisco Examiner*, December 1, 2004.

- Sacchetti, M. [“Flawed instruction seen at state’s failing schools.”](#) *Boston Globe*, December 7, 2004.
- Pinzur, M. [“District OK’s plan for at-risk schools.”](#) *Miami Herald*, December 16, 2004.

## RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, TOOLS, AND REPORTS

- [Searching the Attic: How States Are Responding to the Nation’s Goal of Placing a Highly Qualified Teacher in Every Classroom](#)  
Walsh, K., & Snyder, E., National Council on Teacher Quality, December 2004, 39 pp.  
(full report now available)
  - Jacobson, L. [“States rate poorly on ensuring veteran teachers are qualified.”](#) *Education Week*, December 21, 2004.
- [SREB-State Teacher Center](#) (website)  
Southern Regional Education Board
- [TQ Update](#) (bimonthly newsletter)  
Education Commission of the States, December 2004-January 2005

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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