



# 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/TQINewsletter31Aug04.pdf>. The PDF version of the previous issue is available at <http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/TQINewsletter12Aug04.pdf>.

## **CCSSO RECEIVES GRANT TO HELP STATES STRENGTHEN TEACHER QUALITY**

The Joyce Foundation has awarded a two-year grant to the Council of Chief State School Officers to establish a State Teacher Quality Network. The purpose of this network is to help state education agencies analyze, plan, and implement strategies to strengthen teacher quality, particularly in high-poverty, low-performing schools. Twenty-four states have already expressed interest in joining the network.

The Council project will provide information, support, and technical assistance to help states carry out new teacher quality responsibilities under NCLB, and will provide opportunities for states to collaborate and share expertise. The grant enables the Council to carry out the following activities:

1. Continue disseminating information to states through the Teacher Quality and Improvement electronic newsletter and listserv.
2. Produce and disseminate policy analyses and issue briefs that analyze the relative merits of various strategies to improve teaching quality and that identify barriers that hinder state and district efforts to attract and retain effective teachers in hard-to-staff schools.
3. Convene meetings of the network to provide opportunities for states to develop common solutions to teacher quality implementation challenges and to highlight innovative programs and successful strategies.
4. Provide customized technical assistance support to Illinois, Ohio, and Wisconsin to develop NCLB-required plans to improve teaching quality in low-performing schools.

For more information, please contact Cindy Prince at (202) 312-6868, or [cindyp@ccsso.org](mailto:cindyp@ccsso.org).

## SOME OF THE TOP STORIES

### Philadelphia teachers oppose proposed changes to seniority-based transfers

- Mezzacappa, D. [“Teachers tell of morale issue over changes.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 22, 2004.
- Dean, M. [“City leaders: Allow principals to fill vacancies.”](#) *Philadelphia Daily News*, August 26, 2004.
- Snyder, S. [“Assigning of city teachers is urged.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 26, 2004.
- Dean, M. [“Teachers not ready to give up seniority rights.”](#) *Philadelphia Daily News*, August 30, 2004.
- Snyder, S. [“Teachers weigh plans if talks fail.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 30, 2004.
- Mezzacappa, D., & Snyder, S. [“Sides remain far apart on teacher pact.”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 31, 2004.

### Site-based selection permits New Orleans principals to reject portions of teacher applicants

- Waller, M. [“Teacher union backs contract.”](#) *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, August 31, 2004.

### Seattle contract offers variety of incentives to attract teachers to hard-to-staff schools

- Bhatt, S. [“Seattle teachers to vote on five-year contract.”](#) *Seattle Times*, August 31, 2004.

### Miami Supt. Crew reassigns teachers working in central office to low-performing schools

- Pinzur, M. [“Teachers sent from office back to the classrooms.”](#) *Miami Herald*, August 15, 2004.

### Illinois reports more teachers-in-training, stable retention rate

- Grossman, K. [“More people training to be teachers.”](#) *Chicago Tribune*, August 17, 2004.
- Banchemo, S., with Cholo, A.B., & Cohen, J. [“More teachers stay in schools.”](#) *Chicago Tribune*, August 19, 2004.
- Illinois State Board of Education. [“Retention rates for Illinois public school teachers remain high: State Board releases annual educator report.”](#) Press release, August 20, 2004.
- [Educator Supply and Demand in Illinois: 2003 Annual Report](#)  
Illinois State Board of Education, August 2004, 33 pp.

### North Carolina, Maryland, and Virginia continue to struggle to meet demand for teachers

- N.C. Center for Public Policy Research. [“Center says shortage of teachers an impending crisis – state action needed.”](#) Press release, August 20, 2004.
- Hartsoe, S. [“Teacher shortage near crisis, report says.”](#) *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer/Associated Press*, August 24, 2004.
- Wagner, A., & Ward, J. [“Teacher positions still hard to fill.”](#) *Washington Times*, August 27, 2004.

### Louisiana considers linking student achievement to teachers’ preparation programs

- Sentell, W. [“La. may be first to draw link: Plan ties student success, teacher training.”](#) *The (Baton Rouge, La.) Advocate*, August 26, 2004.

## **Delaware moves to pilot teacher pay-for-performance plans in selected districts**

- Fuetsch, M. [“Pilot plan to evaluate teachers OK’d.”](#) *The (Delaware) News Journal*, August 20, 2004.
- *New York Times* staff. [“School district ties pay to performance.”](#) *New York Times*, August 25, 2004.

## **IN THE NEWS**

### **Teacher and principal preparation, higher ed**

- Pinzur, M. [“Schools to team up with UM for training.”](#) *Miami Herald*, August 19, 2004.
- Badie, R. [“Gwinnett may grow its own teachers.”](#) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, August 26, 2004.

### **Teacher certification and licensure**

- Domaskin, A. [“Teacher licenses will reflect new state standards.”](#) *Bismarck (N.D.) Tribune*, August 13, 2004.
- *Detroit News* staff. [“EDITORIAL: State must improve teacher training checks.”](#) *Detroit News*, August 29, 2004.

### **Alternative routes to teaching**

- Doss Helms, A. [“Crash course trains rookies for new role.”](#) *Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*, August 14, 2004.
- *Arizona Republic* staff. [“OPINION: Fast track to classroom.”](#) *Arizona Republic*, August 17, 2004.

### **Teacher hiring**

- Mitchell, N. [“Hustling for teachers.”](#) *Rocky Mountain News*, August 13, 2004.

### **Teacher and principal assignment, distribution**

- Bates, C. [“OPINION: Teacher realignments: Special ed kids will pay for board’s fear of union.”](#) *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, August 14, 2004.
- Brandt, S. [“Minneapolis teachers get offer to settle suit.”](#) *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, August 15, 2004.
- Brandt, S. [“Teachers to seek accord with Minneapolis.”](#) *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, August 21, 2004.

### **Novice teachers and principals**

- Martinez, V. [“It’s back to school for teachers, too.”](#) *El Paso Times*, July 18, 2004.
- Cronin, M. [“New teacher has the prowess of a veteran.”](#) *Salt Lake Tribune*, August 24, 2004.
- Davis, G. [“Ready to teach – and to learn.”](#) *Baltimore Sun*, August 24, 2004.
- Tench, M. [“City’s leaders welcome new teachers.”](#) *Boston Globe*, August 26, 2004.

### **Mentoring, induction, coaching**

- Villalobos, L. [“Rookie teachers get a guiding hand.”](#) *Arizona Republic*, August 16, 2004.

- Villalobos, L., & Dunlap, K. [“Districts give new teachers helping hands,”](#) *Arizona Republic*, August 18, 2004.
- Mallants Rodriguez, E. [“Support network aims to keep teachers teaching,”](#) *Miami Herald*, August 21, 2004.
- Pasciak, M. [“Plan to split principal’s duties rejected,”](#) *Buffalo News*, August 24, 2004.

### **Professional development**

#### ☆ **To teach diverse groups of students**

- Perlstein, L. [“Schools seek to boost test scores of special education students,”](#) *Washington Post*, August 26, 2004, GZ18.

#### ☆ **To teach academic content**

- Mercury News staff. [“EDITORIAL: A textbook program for helping teachers,”](#) *The (San Jose) Mercury News*, August 17, 2004.
- Jacobs, J. [“The Internet offers teachers online help with lesson plans,”](#) *Christian Science Monitor*, August 24, 2004.
- Vaishnav, A. [“Teachers now the latest target for math tutors,”](#) *Boston Globe*, August 29, 2004.

#### ☆ **To use data to inform instruction and guide decisions**

- Mendoza, M. [“AIMS failures put teachers to test,”](#) *Arizona Republic*, August 26, 2004.

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

- Ruelas, R. [“OPINION: Free market answer to teacher shortage: Better salaries,”](#) *Arizona Republic*, August 18, 2004.
- Associated Press. [“Teachers’ extra duty means extra pay,”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 30, 2004.

### **Working conditions**

- Bland, K. [“Educators tackle classroom discipline,”](#) *Arizona Republic*, August 13, 2004.
- MacDonald, M. [“State lifts limit on size of science classes to 30,”](#) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, August 13, 2004.
- Garrett, H. [“OPINION: Numbers forced state’s hand on class size,”](#) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, August 17, 2004.
- Garza, C. [“Survey: Young students are increasingly violent, disrespectful,”](#) *Miami Herald/Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, August 22, 2004.

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

- Rothschild, S., & Henrikson, A. [“Districts scramble to fill special-education posts,”](#) *Lawrence (Kan.) Journal-World*, August 18, 2004.

### **Teaching quality in high-poverty schools**

- Madigan, N. [“California will spend more to help its poorest schools,”](#) *New York Times*, August 13, 2004.
- Rodriguez, J. [“OPINION: Settlement hands a lifeline to poor schools,”](#) *The (San Jose) Mercury News*, August 17, 2004.

- Schrag, P. "[A small step forward for poor schools.](#)" *San Diego Union-Tribune/Sacramento Bee*, August 20, 2004.
- Parnet, S. "[Schools in poor areas sweat out test scores.](#)" *San Diego Union-Tribune*, August 30, 2004.

### **Substitute teacher quality**

- Gammill, A. "[Permanent substitute teachers are help schools can count on.](#)" *Indianapolis Star*, August 30, 2004.

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

- Reid, S.A. "[Teachers clear 'highly qualified' benchmark.](#)" *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, August 18, 2004.
- The Advertiser staff. "[Picard: Higher ACT scores could correlate with certified teachers.](#)" *The (Lafayette, La.) Advertiser*, August 20, 2004.

## **RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND REPORTS**

### **Teacher preparation**

- *Teacher Preparation Cost Study: A Comparative Analysis of Select Alabama and National Programs*  
Hirsch, E., Emerick, S., Barnes, G., & Berry, B., Southeast Center for Teaching Quality, June 2004
  - [Summary](#), 1 p.
  - [Full report](#), 56 pp.
- [Who Teaches Reading in Public Elementary Schools? The Assignments and Educational Preparation of Reading Teachers](#)  
U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, NCES 2004-034, August 2004, 4 pp.

### **Mentoring and induction**

- [New Teacher Mentoring and Induction](#)  
*The SECTQ View*, August 17, 2004

### **Professional development**

- [School-Based Coaching](#)  
Russo, A., *Harvard Education Letter Research Online*, July/August 2004

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

- [Focus on Teacher Pay and Incentives: Recent Legislative Actions and Update on Salary Averages](#)  
Gaines, G., Southern Regional Education Board, July 2004, 6 pp.
- *How Does Teacher Pay Compare? Methodological Challenges and Answers*  
Allegretto, S., Corcoran, S., & Mishel, L., Economic Policy Institute, August 2004, 58 pp.
  - [Introduction](#)
  - [Press release](#)

- [Teacher pay falls behind that of other workers over last ten years](#)  
Economic Policy Institute, *Economic Snapshots*, August 25, 2004, 1 page

**Working conditions: Administrative support and leadership**

- [Progress Being Made in Getting a Quality Leader in Every School](#)  
Bottoms, G., Fry, B., & O'Neill, K., Southern Regional Education Board, July 2004, 32 pp.

**State and district progress toward the requirement that all teachers must be highly qualified**

- [Resolve and Resources to Get a Qualified Teacher in Every Classroom](#)  
Cornett, L., Southern Regional Education Board, July 2004, 31 pp.

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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