



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/TQINewsletter3Feb06.pdf>. All previous issues are posted on the CCSSO website at http://www.ccsso.org/whats_new/newsletters/teacher_quality_and_improvement/index.cfm.

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CORRECTION

In the January 20, 2006 issue, we reported that applications for the newly-approved Teacher Incentive Fund would likely be due sometime this spring, with funds available before the school year begins in the fall of 2006. However, the latest update is that the applications will be due sometime after spring, with the expectation that grants will be given out by the fall of 2007. We will continue to keep you informed about the application process and program guidelines as they are developed.

SOME OF THE TOP STORIES

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush proposes \$239M incentive program to recruit, retain teachers

Possibilities include laptops, signing bonuses, loan forgiveness, housing assistance, and differential pay for teachers in high-need schools or critical shortage areas

- Postal, L. [“Gov. Bush to unveil proposals to help fill 32,000 teaching jobs.”](#) *The (Fort Lauderdale, FL) Sun-Sentinel*, January 23, 2006.
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- *Tampa Bay Business Journal* staff. [“Bush: Spend \\$239M to recruit and retain teachers.”](#) *Tampa Bay Business Journal*, January 23, 2006.
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- Susca, M. "[Gov. Bush's plan may solve St. Lucie teacher shortage.](#)" *The (Fort Pierce, FL) TCPalm*, January 24, 2006.
- Tyko, K., with Susca, M. "[Bush unveils \\$239M teacher incentive plan.](#)" *The (Fort Pierce, FL) TC Palm*, January 24, 2006.
- Sainz, A. "[Laptops used as lure for teachers.](#)" *The (Bradenton, FL) Herald*, January 24, 2006.
- Breitendtein, D. "[Bill targets need for educators: Jeb outlines grant program for teachers.](#)" *The (Fort Myers, FL) News-Press*, January 24, 2006.
- Freeman, M. "[Palm Beach County teachers deride Gov. Bush's incentive plan.](#)" *The (Fort Lauderdale, FL) Sun-Sentinel*, January 24, 2006.
- Taylor, A. "[More money for teachers may still not be enough.](#)" *Hernando Today (Hernando County, FL)*, January 24, 2006.
- Ledger editorial staff. "[OPINION: How to attract teachers to Florida.](#)" *The (Lakeland, FL) Ledger*, January 28, 2006.
- Letters to the editor. "[OPINION: Teachers want higher pay, not computers.](#)" *Miami Herald*, January 29, 2006.
- Tallahassee Democrat editorial staff. "[OPINION: Calling all teachers: Governor's plan has promise.](#)" *Tallahassee Democrat*, January 30, 2006.
- Bush, J. (Gov.) "[OPINION: Governor: Recruit, reward teachers.](#)" *Miami Herald*, February 2, 2006.
- Maxwell, L. "[Gov. Bush proposes incentives for teachers.](#)" *Education Week*, February 1, 2006.

Texas Education Agency issues performance pay guidelines for teachers who raise student achievement in 100 high-poverty schools

- Embry, J. "[Teacher groups: Incentive plan lacking.](#)" *The (Austin, TX) American-Statesman*, January 30, 2006.
- Dyer, R.A. "[Some teachers in poor schools could get raise.](#)" *The (Forth Worth, TX) Star-Telegram*, February 1, 2006.
- Associated Press. "[TEA releases teacher bonus pay plan.](#)" *KRISTV News (Corpus Christi, TX)*, February 1, 2006.
- Associated Press. "[Those who teach poor children stand to receive bonuses.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, February 1, 2006.
- KXAN News staff. "[Teacher pay increase program criticized.](#)" *KXAN News (Austin, TX)*, February 1, 2006.
- Doerr, D. "[New program could mean incentive pay for Waco teachers.](#)" *The Waco (TX) Tribune-Herald*, February 2, 2006.
- Pierson, E. "[State releases rules for teacher bonuses.](#)" *The Brownsville (TX) Herald*, February 2, 2006.

Alabama will soon decide whether to require subject matter testing for teachers

- Jafari, S. [“Alabama moves closer to mandatory teacher testing.”](#) *The (San Jose) Mercury News/Associated Press*, January 26, 2006.

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- Jafari, S. [“Alabama closer to mandatory teacher testing.”](#) *The Decatur (AL) Daily/Associated Press*, January 27, 2006.
- Havner, R. [“Aspiring teachers may face new tests.”](#) *The Mobile (AL) Register*, January 27, 2006.
- Dean, C. [“Board eyes procedure for testing teachers.”](#) *The Birmingham (AL) News*, January 27, 2006.
- Mackey, D. [“Educators OK with tests.”](#) *The Cullman (AL) Times*, January 28, 2006.

New York City launches new higher ed/K-12 partnership to build pipeline of highly-qualified teachers prepared to work in city’s schools

- Marotta, J. [“Mayor’s new ed. initiative includes NYU.”](#) *The Washington Square News (New York City)*, January 27, 2006.
- NYC Department of Education. [“Mayor Bloomberg announces new partnership for teacher education.”](#) News release, January 27, 2006.
- Office of the Mayor of New York City. [“Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg delivers 2006 State of the City Address, ‘A Blueprint for New York City’s Future.’”](#) Press release, January 26, 2006. (Go to “January 2006,” then scroll down to January 26, 2006.)

Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle proposes rehiring retired teachers for hard-to-fill positions, offering bonuses to National Board Certified teachers who work in low-performing schools

- Office of the Governor of Hawaii. [“2006 State of the State Address.”](#) January 23, 2006.
- Johnston, R. [“State of the States: Governor targets teacher shortage.”](#) *Education Week*, February 1, 2006.

Rhode Island Gov. Donald Carcieri pushes for targeted investments in professional development for math and science teachers, alternative route program to attract engineers and scientists to teaching

- Office of the Governor of Rhode Island. [“2006 State of the State Address.”](#) January 2006.
- Office of the Governor of Rhode Island. [“Math & science initiatives, efficiencies, and professional development top Governor Carcieri’s education reform agenda.”](#) Press release, February 1, 2006.
- Johnston, R. [“State of the States: Focus will turn to math, science.”](#) *Education Week*, February 1, 2006.
- Jordan, J. [“Math, science top Carcieri’s education plan.”](#) *Providence (RI) Journal*, February 2, 2006.

Ohio Gov. Bob Taft increases press for more math, science, and foreign language teachers by proposing more rigorous coursework requirements in these subjects

- Office of the Governor of Ohio. [“State of the State Address.”](#) January 25, 2006.
- Associated Press. [“Make high school harder: Taft wants tougher requirements for graduation.”](#) *Cincinnati Enquirer*, January 25, 2006.
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FEDERAL UPDATE

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- Davis, M. [“Bush proposes steps to boost math and science teaching.”](#) *Education Week*, February 1, 2006.
- Feller, B. [“Bush says math, science economic tools.”](#) *Boston Globe/Associated Press*, February 1, 2006.
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IN THE NEWS

Teacher preparation, higher ed

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- Dorsey, S. [“With teacher shortages, new program proves faster way to get teachers into classroom.”](#) *WTSP News (Tampa/St. Petersburg, FL)*, January 31, 2006.

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- Robertson, G. [“Report urges better use of board certified teachers in N.C.”](#) *The (Lexington, NC) Dispatch/Associated Press*, January 31, 2006.

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Teacher mentoring, induction, support, coaching

- Carter, S. [“Schools use mentors to aid new teachers.”](#) *The Oregonian*, January 20, 2006.
- Maynor, J. [“Teachers battling burnout: Mentoring programs aim to keep spirits, retention levels up.”](#) *The (Willoughby, OH) News-Herald*, January 27, 2006.
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Teacher evaluation, effectiveness

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Teacher compensation, incentives

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☆ Alaska

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State and district progress toward the goal that all teachers will be highly-qualified

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RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND REPORTS

Professional development

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Twin Cities Public Television
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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.

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