



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/TQINewsletter30Mar05pdf>. 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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REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

- New Jersey Department of Education. [“Commissioner Librera announces creation of Quality Teaching and Learning Task Force.”](#) News release, March 2, 2005.
- Wade, C. [“News in Brief: A State Capitals Roundup – N.J. forms teacher panel.”](#) *Education Week*, March 23, 2005.

New Jersey has established a state task force on Quality Teaching and Learning to recommend ways to recognize accomplished teachers, support teachers to improve practice, and strengthen professional development. The task force is interested in regulatory and policy solutions that can be used to advance these goals, and is seeking information from other states on specific issues such as collective bargaining agreements that address helping struggling teachers, master or advanced teacher recognition programs, recertification rules, etc. if you have information to share, please contact Stephanie Hirsh of the National Staff Development Council, who is a member of the task force, at (972) 818-1450, NSDCHIRSH@aol.com. Thank you.

SOME OF THE TOP STORIES

North Carolina bill would exempt out-of-state teachers from teacher testing requirements

- Associated Press. [“Bill would speed N.C. teacher certifications.”](#) *NBC17.com* (Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill), March 16, 2005.

- Hui, T.K. [“Bill would drop test to attract teachers.”](#) *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, March 17, 2005.
- Durhams, S. [“Bill would change rules for teachers.”](#) *Charlotte Observer*, March 17, 2005.

Licensure changes under consideration in Alaska would require teachers to pass content tests and video assessments to obtain state license

- Grimes, M. [“Teacher licensing may get overhaul.”](#) *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, March 18, 2005.
- Associated Press. [“State Board to look at license requirements.”](#) *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, March 18, 2005.
- Associated Press. [“Education Board considers license requirements.”](#) *Anchorage Daily News*, March 19, 2005.

Study finds teacher retention better than expected in Washington, but turnover disproportionately high in schools that serve poor and limited English proficient students

- Shaw, L., & Solomon, C. [“Teacher turnover rate not so bad, study says.”](#) *Seattle Times*, March 18, 2005.
- Thompson, L. [“Teacher turnover an issue.”](#) *Seattle Times*, March 30, 2005.
- [Teacher Retention and Mobility: A Look Inside and Across Districts and Schools in Washington State](#)
Plecki, M., Elfers, A., Loeb, H., Zahir, A., & Knapp, M., University of Washington, Report prepared for the Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession, March 2005, 124 pp.
- [Teacher Retention – A Problem in Your District? A Guide to Analyzing Teacher Retention](#)
Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession, March 2005, 12 pp.
- [Slide presentation](#), 22 pp.

Second state report from SECTQ links teacher working conditions and student achievement, teacher retention in South Carolina

- [Listening to the Experts: A Report on the 2004 South Carolina Teacher Working Conditions Survey](#)
Hirsch, E., Southeast Center for Teaching Quality, March 2005, 56 pp.

See also:

- [Teacher Working Conditions are Student Learning Conditions: A Report to Governor Mike Easley on the 2004 North Carolina Working Conditions Survey](#)
Hirsch, E., Southeast Center on Teaching Quality, March 2005, 53 pp.
- Southeast Center for Teaching Quality. [“Research reveals teacher working conditions key to improving student achievement.”](#) Press release, March 22, 2005.
- Jacobson, L. [“States scrutinize teacher working conditions.”](#) *Education Week*, March 30, 2005.
 - [Teachers’ tool kit](#)

FEDERAL UPDATE

[Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants for States](#) – applications due **May 2, 2005**

Purpose: “to afford an opportunity for States and partnerships receiving grants to address the challenge of America's teacher shortage by making significant and lasting systemic changes in the way that teachers are recruited, prepared and supported to teach in high-need schools.”

Eligible applicants are states (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the insular areas) and partnerships that comprise, at a minimum, an institution of higher education with an eligible teacher preparation program, a school of arts and sciences, and a high-need LEA. States and partnerships that previously received a grant under this program are not eligible for a FY 2005 grant.

For further information, contact: Luretha Kelley, U.S. Department of Education, (202) 502-7645, luretha.kelley@ed.gov.

IN THE NEWS

Alternative routes to teaching

- Fu, J. “[New recruiting efforts by Teach for America yield record applicants](#),” *Education Week*, March 16, 2005.
- Snyder, S. “[Midyear replacements find thrills, difficulties](#),” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 29, 2005.
- *Boston Globe* editorial staff. “[OPINION: School-wise teachers](#),” *Boston Globe*, March 30, 2005.

Teacher certification and licensure

- Guzman, G. “[Nationally certified teachers scarce](#),” *Albuquerque Journal*, March 8, 2005.

Teacher recruitment and hiring

- Hupp, S., & Renze-Rhodes, L. “[Schools intensify hunt for minority teachers](#),” *Indianapolis Star*, March 27, 2005.

Principal recruitment and training

- Archer, J. “[Study blasts leadership preparation](#),” *Education Week*, March 16, 2005.
- Feller, B. “[Report: Nation's school administrators aren't properly schooled](#),” *Salt Lake Tribune/Associated Press*, March 17, 2005.
- Stephens, S. “[Training for school administrators fails to make the grade, study finds](#),” *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*, March 20, 2005.
- *News & Observer* staff. “[School leaders' training lacks rigor, study finds](#),” *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, March 21, 2005.
- *Detroit News* editorial staff. “[OPINION: Education needs better leadership training](#),” *Detroit News*, March 24, 2005.
- *Hartford Courant* editorial staff. “[OPINION: Re-educating the educators](#),” *Hartford Courant*, March 24, 2005.

Teacher assignment, distribution

- Keller, B. [“Conferees mull best use of NBPTS teachers.”](#) *Education Week*, March 23, 2005.
- Rotherham, A. [“OPINION: Credit where it’s due.”](#) *Education Week*, March 30, 2005.

Teacher retention

- Keller, B. [“Report Roundup- Factors influencing retention analyzed.”](#) *Education Week*, March 16, 2005.

Rural teacher retention

- [What Teachers Want](#)
Education Week Chat Transcript, March 23, 2005
GUEST: Superintendent John Parker, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina

Teacher evaluation

- Associated Press. [“Governor to push for standards for evaluating teachers.”](#) *Boston Globe*, March 18, 2005.
- Mayerowitz, S. [“Carciari changes bill on teachers.”](#) *Providence Journal*, March 18, 2005.
- Associated Press. [“Study criticizes teacher contract process with R.I. teachers.”](#) *Boston Globe*, March 20, 2005.

Teacher mentoring, induction, support, coaching

- Tiede, D. [“PDC \[Professional Development Center\]: Matching new teachers with mentors.”](#) *Keloland.com (Sioux Falls, S.D.)*, February 7, 2005.
- Silberman, T. [“Mentors switch into high gear.”](#) *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, March 16, 2005.
- Gao, H. [“Lost positions may cost district funding.”](#) *San Diego Union-Tribune*, March 29, 2005.

Professional development

- Jurich, M. [“Teachers take time to master their art.”](#) *The (San Jose) Mercury News*, March 17, 2005.
- Goode, S. [“Grant puts kids in touch with American history.”](#) *Hartford Courant*, March 17, 2005.
- Bach, D. [“Senators who know the struggle aim bills at helping dyslexic students.”](#) *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, March 21, 2005.
- Brandt, S. [“Audit of Minneapolis schools makes a call for tighter control.”](#) *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune*, March 21, 2005.
- Harrison, S. [“Early release plan is debated.”](#) *Miami Herald*, March 30, 2005.

Working conditions

☆Facilities

- Gehring, J. [“City to take over upkeep of Baltimore schools.”](#) *Education Week*, March 23, 2005.
- Loh, L. [“City Hall takes control over upkeep of schools.”](#) *Baltimore Sun*, March 23, 2005.
- Richard, A. [“Documented dilapidation.”](#) *Education Week*, March 30, 2005.

Teacher and principal compensation, incentives

☆ California

- Hendrie, C. "[Schwarzenegger takes school plans to voters.](#)" *Education Week*, March 16, 2005.
- *San Diego Union-Tribune* editorial staff. "[OPINION: Calcified system: Merit should trump seniority in teacher pay.](#)" *San Diego Union-Tribune*, March 28, 2005.
- Sack, J. "[School groups in 'dogfight' with California governor.](#)" *Education Week*, March 30, 2005.

☆ Denver

- *Rocky Mountain News* staff. "[Bonus plan aims to draw teachers.](#)" *Rocky Mountain News*, March 28, 2005.

☆ Louisiana

- Barbier, S. "[Free rides offered as lure to teachers; Benefit may help staff remote schools.](#)" *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, March 22, 2005.

☆ Oregon

- Carter, S. "[Education bills a study in shift of state politics.](#)" *The Oregonian*, March 19, 2005.
- Associated Press. "[Education bills suggest drastic policy changes.](#)" *The (Salem, Ore.) Statesman-Journal*, March 21, 2005.

☆ Texas

- Stutz, T. "[Educators balk at school-reform bill.](#)" *Dallas Morning News*, March 21, 2005.
- Associated Press. "[Educators take a stand in Austin.](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, March 21, 2005.

Substitute teachers

- Brannon, J. "[Substitute teachers seeking a voice.](#)" *Honolulu Advertiser*, March 21, 2005.
- Lynn, R. "[Kids miss teacher, don't miss a beat with aide in charge.](#)" *Salt Lake Tribune*, March 21, 2005.

Teacher turnover, mobility

- Macris, G. "[One-fifth of Hope High teachers ask for transfers.](#)" *Providence Journal*, March 12, 2005.
- *Education Week* staff. "[Correction re: Long commutes seen influencing teacher job choices.](#)" *Education Week*, March 16, 2005.

Teacher residency rules

- *Chicago Tribune* staff. "[OPINION: Teachers' tricks.](#)" *Chicago Tribune*, March 18, 2005.

Teachers of hard-to-fill subjects and specializations

- Associated Press. "[Teachers lacking for non-English speakers.](#)" *St. Petersburg Times*, March 20, 2005.
- Associated Press. "[State looks to Mexico for bilingual teachers.](#)" *Las Cruces (N.M.) Sun-News*, March 23, 2005.

- Chen Sampson, Z. [“More districts in market for ESL,”](#) *Washington Post/Associated Press*, March 24, 2005, VA06.
- Berggoetz, B. [“Panel votes for tougher courses; New graduation policy would require more teachers, groups say,”](#) *Indianapolis Star*, March 24, 2005.
- McCarron, B. [“State to seek leeway on special ed.,”](#) *The (Newark, N.J.) Star-Ledger*, March 25, 2005.

Rehiring retired teachers and principals

- Rice, D. [“Bill to extend retire/rehire proviso advances,”](#) *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, March 17, 2005.
- Barbier, S. [“Educators cry foul over retirement overhaul,”](#) *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, March 30, 2005.

Teachers in high-poverty, low-performing schools

- Winerip, M. [“Looking at improvement, not miracles,”](#) *New York Times*, March 23, 2005.

RECENT BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND REPORTS

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

- *From the Capital to the Classroom: Year 3 of the No Child Left Behind Act*
Center on Education Policy, March 2005
 - [Full report](#), 228 pp.
 - [Press release](#), 3 pp.
- Sack, J. [“Progress report on ‘No Child’ law shows hits and misses,”](#) *Education Week*, March 23, 2005.
- Feller, B. [“No Child Left Behind gets mixed review,”](#) *Rocky Mountain News/Associated Press*, March 23, 2005.
- Gest, J. [“Education measure receives mixed grades,”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, March 23, 2005.
- Peterson, K. [“Test scores up, but some students still being left behind,”](#) *Stateline.org*, March 23, 2005.
- *Washington Post* staff, from news services. [“Washington in Brief: Report says law provokes schools to help needy students,”](#) *Washington Post*, March 24, 2005, A06.
- Stephens, S. [“Some schools left behind, study finds,”](#) *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*, March 24, 2005.
- Carroll, D. [“Report finds pluses, minuses in school law,”](#) *Kansas City Star*, March 24, 2005.
- Feller, B. [“Study: No Child law produces mixed signs,”](#) *Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader/Associated Press*, March 24, 2005.

- Winter, G. "[States worry about meeting requirements of education law.](#)" *New York Times*, March 24, 2005.
- Silberman, T. "['No Child' study finds mixed bag.](#)" *The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer*, March 24, 2005.
- Morrison, K. "[Gains being seen in schools; white-minority gap narrows.](#)" *San Diego Union-Tribune/Knight Ridder*, March 24, 2005.
- Morrison, K. "[Study of education law finds rising scores, lingering doubts.](#)" *Seattle Times/Knight Ridder*, March 24, 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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