

Summary of Tennessee Teacher Policies:



2015	2013
B	B
2011	2009
B-	C-

- ★ Best Practice
- Meets Goal
- ◐ Nearly Meets Goal
- ◑ Partly Meets Goal
- ◒ Meets a Small Part of Goal
- Does Not Meet Goal

Progress on Goals Since 2015

- ↑ Progress Increased: 1
- ↓ Progress Decreased: 0

A state's progress on policy was tracked solely for goals that remained constant between 2015 and 2017.

AREA 1: General Teacher Preparation	A-
Program Entry	◐
Teacher Shortages and Surpluses	◐
Program Performance Measures	●
Program Reporting Requirements	★
Student Teaching/Clinical Practice	★
AREA 2: Elementary Teacher Preparation	D
Content Knowledge	○
Teaching Mathematics	○
Teaching Reading	◐
Licensure Deficiencies	◐ ↑
AREA 3: Secondary Teacher Preparation	B+
Middle School Content Knowledge	◐
Middle School Licensure Deficiencies	●
Adolescent Literacy	◐
Secondary Content Knowledge	◐
Secondary Licensure Deficiencies	●
AREA 4: Special Education Teacher Preparation	C
Content Knowledge	○
Teaching Reading	◐
Licensure Deficiencies	●
AREA 5: Alternate Route Teacher Preparation	D-
Program Entry	◐
Preparation for the Classroom	◐

AREA 6: Hiring	C
Requirements for Out-of-State Teachers	◐
Provisional and Emergency Licensure	◐
AREA 7: Teacher and Principal Evaluation	B
Measures of Student Growth	◐
Measures of Professional Practice	◐
Frequency of Evaluation and Observation	◐
Linking Evaluation to Professional Growth	◐
Data Systems Needed for Evaluation	◐
Distributing Teacher Talent Equitably	◐
Principal Effectiveness	◐
Principal Evaluation and Observation	●
AREA 8: Teacher Compensation	C+
Performance	◐
High-Need Schools and Subjects	●
Prior Work	○
AREA 9: Retaining Effective Teachers	C+
Licensure Advancement	◐
Tenure	◐
Leadership Opportunities	◐
Dismissal	◐
Layoffs	◐

Teacher Policy Strengths and Areas for Growth Tennessee

POLICY AREA	TENNESSEE'S STRENGTHS	TENNESSEE'S OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH
AREA 1: GENERAL TEACHER PREPARATION		
Program Entry	The state is implementing a program designed to increase the diversity of its teacher candidates.	
Teacher Shortages and Surpluses	The state publishes teacher production data and connects program completion, certification, and district hiring statistics.	
Program Performance Measures	The state connects program graduates' student growth data to their teacher preparation programs.	
Program Reporting Requirements	The state holds teacher preparation programs accountable for meeting performance standards and for the quality of teachers they produce.	
Student Teaching/ Clinical Practice	The state requires that cooperating teachers are selected based on evidence of effectiveness and that the clinical practice experience is at least 10 weeks, full time, and takes place in the setting of the license sought.	
AREA 2: ELEMENTARY TEACHER PREPARATION		
Content Knowledge		The state should require elementary teacher candidates to pass as a condition of initial licensure, regardless of the content area of the BA held by the candidate, a content test with individually scored subtests in each of the core content areas and to complete a content specialization in an academic subject area.
Teaching Mathematics		The state should require all elementary teacher candidates to pass as a condition of initial licensure, regardless of the content area of the BA held by the candidate, a rigorous elementary math content exam.
Teaching Reading		The state should require all elementary teacher candidates to pass as a condition of initial licensure, regardless of the content area of the BA held by the candidate, a science of reading test.
Licensure Deficiencies		The state should require early childhood education teachers who are eligible to teach elementary grades to pass as a condition of initial licensure, regardless of the content area of the BA held by the candidate, an elementary content test with individually scored subtests in each of the core content areas and pass a science of reading test.
AREA 3: SECONDARY TEACHER PREPARATION		
Middle School Content Knowledge	The state requires middle school teachers to pass a rigorous single-subject content test.	
Middle School Licensure Deficiencies	The state does not allow middle school teachers to teach on a K-8 generalist license.	
Adolescent Literacy	The state requires that middle school and secondary candidates are fully prepared to meet the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards.	
Secondary Content Knowledge	The state requires all secondary teachers to pass a single-subject content test as a condition of initial licensure.	
Secondary Licensure Deficiencies	The state does not offer general science or general social studies licenses.	
AREA 4: SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION		
Content Knowledge		The state should require elementary special education teachers to pass as a condition of initial licensure, regardless of the content area of the BA held by the candidate, the same content test as general elementary education teachers and that secondary special education teachers demonstrate content knowledge in core subjects at the secondary level.

Teaching Reading	The state requires that special education candidates are prepared to meet the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards.	
Licensure Deficiencies	The state requires elementary or secondary special education certification.	
AREA 5: ALTERNATE ROUTE TEACHER PREPARATION		
Program Entry		The state should increase alternate route admissions requirements by requiring a rigorous test or a GPA of 3.0 or higher and requiring all candidates to pass a subject-matter test.
Preparation for the Classroom		The state should require that all alternate route programs prepare new teachers for the classroom through manageable and relevant coursework, intensive mentoring and induction, and a supervised practice teaching experience.
AREA 6: HIRING		
Requirements for Out-of-State Teachers		The state should require evidence of effective teaching during previous employment for licensure reciprocity, and ensure out-of-state teachers pass a full criminal background check.
Provisional and Emergency Licensure	The state does not offer emergency or provisional licenses.	
AREA 7: EVALUATION		
Measures of Student Growth		The state should ensure objective evidence of student growth is the determinative factor in teacher evaluations.
Measures of Professional Practice	The state requires that all teacher evaluations include observations, and be conducted by trained and certified teacher evaluators; student survey data are explicitly allowed.	
Frequency of Evaluation and Observation	The state requires that all teachers are evaluated annually, and that new teachers are supported with feedback early in the year.	
Linking Evaluation to Professional Growth	The state requires that teachers are supported with adequate evaluation feedback and aligned professional development, under a system with five rating categories.	
Data Systems Needed for Evaluation		The state should formalize its definition of teacher of record and its process for teacher roster verification, and publish teacher mobility data.
Distributing Teacher Talent Equitably	The state reports school-level data about teacher performance to help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.	
Principal Effectiveness	The state requires that principal effectiveness is determined, in part, by objective measures of student growth, teacher effectiveness/instructional leadership, and survey data.	
Principal Evaluation and Observation	The state requires all principals to be annually evaluated by trained and certified evaluators, and requires all principals to be observed/visited on-site.	
AREA 8: TEACHER COMPENSATION		
Performance	The state's performance pay policy rewards effective teachers.	
High-Need Schools and Subjects	The state enables teachers to earn additional pay for working in high-need schools and teaching in shortage subject areas.	
Prior Work		The state should encourage additional compensation for new teachers with relevant prior work experience.
AREA 9: RETAINING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS		
Licensure Advancement		The state should base licensure advancement and renewal on teacher effectiveness.
Tenure	The state requires tenure decisions to be connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness.	
Leadership Opportunities	The state supports teacher leadership opportunities.	
Dismissal	The state enables ineffective classroom performance to be a basis for dismissal.	
Layoffs	The state requires districts to consider evidence of effectiveness when determining which teachers to lay off during reductions in force.	

State Grades

State Grades 2009 – 2017

	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017
ALABAMA	C-	C-	C-	D+	C
ALASKA	D	D	D	D-	D-
ARIZONA	D+	D+	C-	C-	D
ARKANSAS	C-	C	B-	B-	C+
CALIFORNIA	D+	D+	D+	D	D+
COLORADO	D+	C	C+	C	D+
CONNECTICUT	D+	C-	B-	B-	C+
DELAWARE	D	C	C+	B-	B-
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	D-	D	D+	D+	D+
FLORIDA	C	B	B+	B+	B+
GEORGIA	C-	C	B-	B-	B-
HAWAII	D-	D-	D+	D+	D+
IDAHO	D-	D+	D+	C-	C
ILLINOIS	D+	C	C+	C+	C+
INDIANA	D	C+	B-	B	B-
IOWA	D	D	D	D	D+
KANSAS	D-	D	D	D+	D+
KENTUCKY	D+	D+	C	C	C-
LOUISIANA	C-	C-	B	B	B+
MAINE	F	D-	C-	C-	D+
MARYLAND	D	D+	D+	D+	D+
MASSACHUSETTS	D+	C	B-	B-	B-
MICHIGAN	D-	C+	B-	C+	C
MINNESOTA	D-	C-	C-	C-	C-
MISSISSIPPI	D+	D+	C	C	C
MISSOURI	D	D	C-	C-	C
MONTANA	F	F	F	F	F
NEBRASKA	D-	D-	D-	D	D
NEVADA	D-	C-	C-	C-	C-
NEW HAMPSHIRE	D-	D-	D	D	D+
NEW JERSEY	D+	D+	B-	C+	B
NEW MEXICO	D+	D+	D+	C	C
NEW YORK	D+	C	B-	B	B
NORTH CAROLINA	D+	D+	C	C-	C+
NORTH DAKOTA	D-	D	D	D	D
OHIO	D+	C+	B-	B-	B-
OKLAHOMA	D+	B-	B-	B-	D+
OREGON	D-	D-	D	D	D-
PENNSYLVANIA	D	D+	C-	C-	C
RHODE ISLAND	D	B-	B	B-	B
SOUTH CAROLINA	C-	C-	C-	C	C+
SOUTH DAKOTA	D	D	D-	D-	F
TENNESSEE	C-	B-	B	B	B
TEXAS	C-	C-	C-	C-	B-
UTAH	D	C-	C	C+	C
VERMONT	F	D-	D-	D-	D
VIRGINIA	D+	D+	C+	C+	C+
WASHINGTON	D+	C-	C-	C-	C-
WEST VIRGINIA	D+	D+	C-	C-	C+
WISCONSIN	D	D	D+	D	D+
WYOMING	D-	D	D	D	D

Best Practices

AREA 1: General Teacher Preparation

Program Entry - *None*

Teacher Shortages and Surpluses - *None*

Program Performance Measures - *Alabama, Florida*

Program Reporting Requirements - *Delaware, Florida, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas*

Student Teaching/Clinical Practice - *Georgia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Tennessee*

AREA 2: Elementary Teacher Preparation

Content Knowledge - *None*

Teaching Mathematics - *Massachusetts*

Teaching Reading - *Arkansas, California*

Licensure Deficiencies - *None*

AREA 3: Secondary Teacher Preparation

Middle School Content Knowledge - *Arkansas, Georgia, Ohio*

Middle School Licensure Deficiencies - *None*

Adolescent Literacy - *Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana*

Secondary Content Knowledge - *Indiana, Minnesota*

Secondary Licensure Deficiencies - *Minnesota*

AREA 4: Special Education Teacher Preparation

Content Knowledge - *None*

Teaching Reading - *California*

Licensure Deficiencies - *None*

AREA 5: Alternate Route Teacher Preparation

Program Entry - *Illinois, Michigan*

Preparation for the Classroom - *Delaware, New Jersey*

AREA 6: Hiring

Requirements for Out-of-State Teachers - *None*

Provisional and Emergency Licensure - *Mississippi, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Carolina*

AREA 7: Teacher and Principal Evaluation

Measures of Student Growth - *Indiana*

Measures of Professional Practice - *Iowa*

Frequency of Evaluation and Observation - *Idaho, New Jersey, Washington*

Linking Evaluation to Professional Growth - *Louisiana, New York, North Carolina*

Data Systems Needed for Evaluation - *Georgia*

Distributing Teacher Talent Equitably - *None*

Principal Effectiveness - *Connecticut, Florida, South Dakota*

Principal Evaluation and Observation - *New York*

AREA 8: Teacher Compensation

Performance - *None*

High-Need Schools and Subjects - *Florida, New Mexico, Utah*

Prior Work - *Louisiana, North Carolina*

AREA 9: Retaining Effective Teachers

Licensure Advancement - *Louisiana*

Tenure - *Hawaii, Indiana, Nevada, New York*

Leadership Opportunities - *Ohio, Utah*

Dismissal - *Nevada, New York*

Layoffs - *Colorado, Georgia, Louisiana*