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## **MISSOURI SHOULD DO MORE TO ALIGN TEACHER PREPARATION WITH COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS**

**Some Missouri teacher preparation policies are on the right track for ensuring that new teachers are ready to help students achieve to the high levels necessary for college and careers; others fall short.**

December 10, 2014 (Washington, DC) — The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) today released its eighth annual *State Teacher Policy Yearbook*. This year's edition focuses on Missouri's efforts to align its requirements for teacher preparation and licensure with the skills needed to prepare students for college and careers.

NCTQ Vice President and Managing Director for State Policy Sandi Jacobs said, "With such a profound change occurring in K-12 student standards across the country, it would stand to reason that parallel changes would occur on the teacher side. Missouri needs to ensure that teachers are adequately supported in the transition and beyond. And there is no better place to start than where new teachers begin to learn their craft—in teacher preparation programs."

### **Key Yearbook Findings:**

#### **Missouri's teacher preparation requirements are not explicit about preparing teachers for college- and career-readiness standards.**

- Missouri's standards for new teachers don't sufficiently articulate the instructional requirements of college- and career-readiness standards, including the use of informational texts, cross-disciplinary literacy and support for struggling readers..

#### **State content knowledge requirements for prospective teachers in Missouri are stronger than in most states.**

- Missouri is one of only 21 states that requires elementary teaching candidates to pass a content test with separate scores in each of the four core subject areas.
- Missouri is one of just 5 states in the nation that requires all secondary teachers to pass a content test in every licensed subject.
- However, Missouri does not ensure that prospective elementary teachers demonstrate their knowledge of the science of reading.

#### **Missouri's preparation for special education teachers is also stronger than in most states.**

- Missouri is one of only 17 states in the nation that does not grant K-12 special education teacher licenses. Missouri also requires elementary and secondary special education teachers to demonstrate subject matter knowledge as a condition of licensure.

**Missouri's teacher preparation admissions requirements are not selective.**

- With no minimum GPA and an academic proficiency test not normed to the college-bound population (such as the ACT or SAT) required for admission to teacher prep programs required, Missouri sets a relatively low bar for the academic performance of the state's prospective teachers.

**Missouri neither collects meaningful data about the quality of teacher prep programs nor holds programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.**

- Missouri is one of 41 states in the nation that does not connect student achievement data to teacher preparation programs.
- Missouri also does not set explicit minimum performance standards for teacher preparation programs in the state.

**Looking at NCTQ's traditional *Yearbook* metrics, Missouri earns an overall grade of B- for teacher preparation.**

- The average grade for all states for teacher preparation in 2014 is a C, up from a D in 2011.

The [2014 Missouri State Teacher Policy Yearbook](#) is immediately available for free download. The redesigned website also provides searchable access to the entire *Yearbook* dataset, including topical pages with up-to-date data on state teacher policy, a customized search tool and user-friendly options for generating graphic results that can be exported and shared.

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