

# Suggested Indices of Teacher Quality for Arkansas: A Position Paper

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# Purpose of Paper

To suggest a variety of objective indices that state legislators and other policy makers could use for determining if the academic quality of the state's teaching force is increasing over time and to what extent.

# Indices that are easy to develop

1. The number and percentage of prospective teachers in each licensure field passing their subject area test(s) on the first try and subsequent tries, broken down by traditional or alternative routes to licensure
2. The number and percentage of career-technical education teachers in each occupational area with a permit completing Arkansas Department of Education-sponsored pedagogical coursework for licensure on an annual basis
3. The number and percentage of middle school teachers with a subject area license for grades 7-12
4. The number and percentage of grade 8 teachers passing the PRAXIS Middle School Mathematics test for an Algebra I endorsement, from test administration to test administration and from year to year
5. The number of full-time elementary mathematics and science teachers as a percentage of all P-4 and 4-8 teachers
6. The total number of academic and career-technical teachers teaching in each subject area or field on an annual basis, as well as the number holding a waiver
7. The number and percentage of teachers annually who take or retake and pass an ABCTE subject area test or a NBPTS subject area test as part of a certificate program to attain master teacher status in a particular subject

# Indices that *could* be developed

These measures require changes in current licensure policies or an examination of the content of the reading methods and mathematics coursework that prospective teachers now take.

8. The number and percentage of elementary teachers who have taken appropriate mathematics courses and/or passed a licensure test that adequately assesses relevant mathematics knowledge
9. The number and percentage of elementary teachers who have taken coursework on research-based reading instructional knowledge and/or passed a dedicated test of research-based reading instructional knowledge
10. The number and percentage of test-takers achieving a passing score on relevant required subject area licensure test(s) after an increase in the passing score, announced two years in advance

# Information that *could* be made available on the ADE website

1. Results for each test administration in all subject areas: number of test-takers, percentage passing, number taking each test for a second or more time, percentage passing
2. Number of multiple choice questions and percentage of constructed response items required to be correct for a passing score on each licensure test required
3. Number of academic and career-technical teachers receiving an initial license in each subject each year according to route taken (traditional or alternative certification)
4. Number of full-time elementary mathematics and science teachers employed each year
5. Number of middle school teachers employed each year holding a grades 7-12 license
6. Number of middle school teachers employed each year holding an Algebra 1 endorsement

# Information that *could* be made available on the ADE website

7. Total number of academic and career-technical teachers employed each year by subject area, and the total number of those on waiver by subject area
8. Syllabi of required mathematics courses for prospective elementary, middle school, and special education teachers
9. Syllabi of required reading instructional methods courses for prospective elementary, middle school, and special education teachers
10. Copies of evaluation forms used by each teacher training institution for student teachers
11. Criteria used for evaluating new teachers on the dimensions listed in PRAXIS II, as well as the criteria used for evaluating teachers for standard license on the dimensions listed in PRAXIS III
12. Number of teachers annually who have tried to pass a NBPTS or ABCTE subject area test for master teacher status, and the number who have passed