



What Works Conference—2006 Selected Tools and Online Resources

Teacher Quality and Student Achievement

American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE)—www.abcte.org

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, ABCTE offers new but rigorous and reliable approaches to teacher certification through its Passport to Teaching and Master Teacher certifications.

Center on Instruction—www.centeroninstruction.org

The Center on Instruction is part of the Comprehensive Center network, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, and—according to its website—includes a collection of scientifically based research and information on K–12 instruction in reading, mathematics, science, special education, and English language learning.

Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ)—www.teachingquality.org

CTQ promotes the advancement of high-quality teaching in the southeastern United States through conducting research, developing and supporting teacher leadership networks, and identifying and supporting effective policy.

Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)—www.ccsso.org

According to its website, CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance on major educational issues. CCSSO seeks member consensus on major educational issues and expresses their views to civic and professional organizations, federal agencies, the U.S. Congress, and the public.

ECS No Child Left Behind—nclb2.ecs.org/Projects_Centers/index.aspx?issueid=gen&IssueName=General

This website provides important state-level information on No Child Left Behind geared toward state policymakers.

Education Commission of the States (ECS) Teaching Quality—www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/ProjectbySubject.asp?issueID=129

This website provides important state-level information on teaching quality geared toward state policymakers.

The Education Trust—www2.edtrust.org/edtrust/

According to its website, The Education Trust works for the high academic achievement of all students and toward forever closing the achievement gaps that separate low-income students and students of color from other youth. The Education Trust provides advocacy for schools and communities, analysis and expert testimony, research on achievement, and assistance to school districts and other organizations.

Florida Center for Reading Research—www.fcrr.org

The Florida Center for Reading Research has four major goals, according to its website: (1) to conduct basic research on reading, reading growth, reading assessment, and reading instruction; (2) to disseminate information about research-based practices related to literacy instruction and assessment for children in Grades PK–12; (3) to conduct applied research that will have an immediate impact on policy and practices related to literacy instruction in Florida; and (4) to provide technical assistance to Florida’s schools and the state department of education for the improvement of literacy outcomes in students Grades PK–12.

Learning Point Associates Teacher and Teaching Quality—www.learningpt.org/page.php?pageID=32

This website provides information on certification, retention and recruitment, professional development, mobility, and quality. It also includes links to the NCLB Implementation Center and the National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality.

National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)—www.nasdse.org

According to its website, the membership and staff of NASDSE are committed to a performance-based educational system responsive to the needs of all children and youth, including those with disabilities. NASDSE accomplishes its goals by establishing and maintaining relations between those responsible for the development of statewide and federal special education programs and those responsible for general curriculum planning at the local, state, and national levels.

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)—www.nbpts.org

NBPTS is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has developed rigorous teaching standards and a system to certify teachers who meet these standards.

National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future (NCTAF)—www.nctaf.org

In addition to providing research-based reports, NCTAF partners and works with states and districts to inform policy decision making and encourage the development of initiatives to improve teaching quality.

National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality (NCCTQ)—www.ncctq.org

NCCTQ is a national resource to which the regional comprehensive assistance centers, states, and other education stakeholders turn for strengthening the quality of teaching and for finding guidance in addressing specific needs, thereby ensuring highly qualified teachers are serving students with special needs. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, NCCTQ is a collaborative effort of ECS, ETS, Learning Point Associates, and Vanderbilt University.

National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ)—www.nctq.org

NCTQ is a nonprofit organization dedicated to teacher quality that provides a clearinghouse of the latest policy and research on key teacher quality issues.

Teaching Quality (TQ) Source—www.tqsource.org

TQ Source is a resource made available by the NCCTQ. The TQ Source is a comprehensive national source on teaching quality, providing a multitude of resources and information for several different teaching quality topics.

Teacher Quality and Teacher Preparation

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)—www.aacte.org

AACTE is a national voluntary organization of higher education institutions that collectively prepare educators. It represents the institutional interests of its members through conducting its own research.

Association of Teacher Educators (ATE)—www.ate1.org

ATE is the only national, individual-membership educational association that works to improve teacher education.

Holmes Partnership—www.holmespartnership.org

The Holmes Partnership is an alliance of universities and national professional organizations devoted to the reform and enhancement of teacher education in the United States.

Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC)—www.ccsso.org/projects/Interstate_New_Teacher_Assessment_and_Support_Consortium/

A project of CCSSO, INTASC is a consortium of state education agencies and national education organizations that work together to develop model policies for teacher preparation, assessment, licensing, and professional development.

***Teacher Quality Toolkit* (2nd ed., 2005), Patricia A. Lauer, Ceri B. Dean, Mya L. Martin-Glenn, and Margaret L. Asensio—www.mcrel.org/pdf/TeacherPrepRetention/5052IR_TQToolkit.pdf**

The *Teacher Quality Toolkit*, created by the Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning aims provide tools and resources that both institutions of higher education (IHE) and schools can use to improve preservice and in-service teacher education. The toolkit is organized into five chapters. Chapter 1 looks at the background of teacher quality and its importance in the current policy climate. Chapter 2 focuses on assessment and other resources that IHEs use to improve their programs. Chapter 3 looks at the assessments and other resources used by districts and schools to improve professional development. Chapter 4 looks at the assessments and resources for school-university partnerships to improve teacher education. Chapter 5 is a summary of the tools and resources provided in the toolkit and present their conclusions on what is needed to improve teacher quality.

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)—www.ncate.org

NCATE is a coalition of specialty professional associations dedicated to teacher quality and is recognized as the paramount accreditation system for schools, colleges, and departments of education.

Teacher Quality and Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Benwood Initiative, Public Education Foundation (PEF)—www.pefchattanooga.org/www/docs/1/benwood/

According to the PEF website, five years ago, Hamilton County's (Tennessee) eight most challenged elementary schools began a five-year initiative that has achieved dramatic improvements in literacy and teacher effectiveness. The effort has been funded by a \$5 million grant to PEF from the Benwood Foundation of Chattanooga and a \$2.5 million match from PEF. Available for further information are a detailed report, at www.pefchattanooga.org/downloads/challengingmyths.pdf, and an executive summary, at www.pefchattanooga.org/downloads/lessonslearned.pdf.

California Teach Program: One Thousand Teachers, One Million Minds—www.universityofcalifornia.edu/academics/1000teachers/

With its California Teach Program, the University of California annually will put 1,000 new science and mathematics teachers into California classrooms. This initiative will encourage new University of California students interested in science, mathematics, or engineering to consider teaching as a career and create courses to help them become great teachers.

National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA)—www.aarp.org/about_aarp/nrta/

NRTA is a branch of AARP and is, according to its website, a network of 50+ adults and organizations with a passion and affinity for education and learning. NRTA members share a commitment to learning, voluntary service, and civic participation. Members of NRTA are dedicated to continuous educational opportunity, advocacy, and service as a means of safeguarding the economic security, work opportunities, and future well-being of all generations.

Rural School and Community Trust—www.ruraledu.org/site/c.beJMIZOCiRH/b.497215/k.CBA7/Home.htm

According to its website, the Rural School and Community Trust works in some of the poorest, most challenging places in order to involve young people in learning linked to their communities, improves the quality of teaching and school leadership, and advocates in a variety of ways for appropriate state educational policies, including the key issue of equitable and adequate funding for rural schools.

Teach For America—www.teachforamerica.org

According to its website, Teach For America is the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates of all academic majors who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools and become leaders in the effort to expand educational opportunity.

Troops to Teachers (TTT)—www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_Web/troopstoteachers/index.asp

The primary objective of TTT is to help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve students from low-income families throughout America. TTT helps relieve teacher shortages, especially in mathematics, science, special education, and other critical subject areas and assists military personnel in making successful transitions to second careers in teaching.