



For Immediate Release

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Statement on 2014 National Council on Teacher Quality Report on Teacher Preparation Programs

New York, NY (June 17, 2014) - Teach For America released the following statement on today's National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) second annual evaluation of teacher preparation programs. This year's report includes a pilot study on the effectiveness of alternative certification programs:

"We appreciate NCTQ's recent effort to review alternative certification programs. In this pilot year, NCTQ rated 85 alternative programs, including 8 TFA regions, against three standards.

"All eight TFA regions received the highest rating for how we admit talented individuals into teaching. As the field as a whole works to bring more diverse talent into our classrooms, we share NCTQ's belief that the focus on setting high and holistic admissions requirements is critical. Additionally all eight regions received high ratings in supervised practice, though we invest heavily in supporting our teachers before and after they become teachers of record, continuously evolve our training and support, and agree with NCTQ that this is an area where everyone should be investing deeply. Finally, while all eight TFA regions met or exceeded state standards for subject matter expertise, they received varied ratings based on NCTQ's view of the quality of each state's standards. While we appreciate NCTQ's push to have programs exceed state standards, and plan to examine what more we can do to have our teachers demonstrate subject-area proficiency, we hope in future years this standard is better tied to measures of student growth in subjects examined. Overall, TFA's Massachusetts program received the only A among the 85 programs evaluated, 4 TFA regions received a B, and 3 received a C due squarely to NCTQ's assessment of those states' standards.

"We're eager to see how this pilot study evolves in future years as standards are refined and as more states have access to data showing what models and practices contribute to student growth. Like many traditional teacher education programs and other alternative certification programs, we look to continuously improve our work, and appreciate the efforts of NCTQ and others seeking to help teacher preparation programs build on strengths and learn from one another."

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About Teach For America

Teach For America works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunity for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding individuals of all academic disciplines to commit two years to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity. Today, more than 11,000 corps members are teaching in 48 urban and rural regions across the country while over 32,000 alumni work from across sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).