

GIVE TEACHERS A BREAK: Cutting Red Tape to Unleash the Potential of America's Great Teachers

TOP TAKEAWAYS

Teacher Licensure Reform

THE PROBLEM

- Many aspects of current licensing requirements have less to do with qualifying teachers in their subjects or classroom management and more to do with ideological gatekeeping and ever-evolving progressive pedagogy techniques.
- Would-be teachers are indoctrinated with bad ideas, both political (such as gender ideology or critical race theory) and pedagogical, when states mandate education degrees and/or certification programs for licensure.
- Many of our current licensure requirements are the result of both ideological and professional centralization, both of which have made our school systems worse.

THE WAY FORWARD

Cutting red tape and decentralizing education not only allows for more teachers, but it allows for better teachers.

- **Focus on Subject-Matter Exams:** States should emphasize high-quality teacher licensure exams, especially in math and science, over education degrees or credentials like master's degrees.
- **Expand the Teaching Force by Relaxing Degree Requirements:** More states should emulate approaches taken by states like [Louisiana](#), which allows people with associate's degrees in a subject to teach while pursuing a bachelor's in education. This allows states to fill shortages and teachers to get more from their bachelor's degrees, as they are studying and working at the same time.
- **Open the Profession to Second-Career Teachers:** States can pursue policies like [Virginia's](#), which has a career switcher program for experienced professionals who meet certain exam and training requirements.
- **Establish Licensure Reciprocity:** States should expand interstate licensure reciprocity to minimize burdens for good teachers who are moving between states and to give states access to a broader pool of talent.
- **Excise Ideology From Teacher Licensure:** States should use their authority to ensure that the teacher training programs they are relying on are not spreading pernicious and partisan ideologies in the teaching profession.

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