

## **HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS/EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF TEACHERS**

The Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) rate for Wyoming continues to improve. The HQT rate is the percentage of core content classes taught by highly qualified teachers. The state rate for the 2009-2010 school year was 97.6%, a .3% improvement over the 2008-2009 school year when the rate was 97.3%.

A highly qualified teacher:

- 1) Holds at least a bachelors degree,
- 2) Is fully licensed (standard certification) by the state, and
- 3) Has demonstrated content knowledge in the subject to which he/she is assigned.

More than half of the districts in the state had a rate at or above the state rate. All classes in sixteen districts were taught by highly qualified teachers. Twenty districts had a HQT rate below the state rate, and of those twenty, only three had a rate below 90%.

Foreign Language classes had the highest percentage of classes taught by teachers who were not highly qualified (5.02%), followed by Special Education (4.17%), the Social Studies (3.91%), the Sciences (2.85%), and English/Language Arts (2.02%).

No Child Left Behind requires the equitable distribution of highly qualified and experienced teachers. This requirement means that steps must be taken to “ensure that poor and minority children are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers”. The statewide analysis of the equitable distribution of teachers was completed for the 2009-2010 school year using [1] the previously discussed HQT data and experienced teacher (more than three years experience) data, and [2] student poverty data based on the percent of students eligible for free and reduced lunch, and student minority data based on the percent of students reported as other than white.

The results of the statewide analysis of the equitable distribution of teachers follows.

Elementary Percentage by Poverty:

- 98.3 % of classes were taught by **highly qualified teachers** in Low Poverty Schools
- 99.2 % of classes were taught by **highly qualified teachers** in High Poverty Schools
- 86.0 % of classes were taught by **experienced teachers** in Low Poverty Schools
- 84.6% of classes were taught by **experienced teachers** in High Poverty Schools

#### Elementary Percentage by Minority:

- 98.7 % of classes were taught by **highly qualified teachers** in Low Minority Schools
- 99.5 % of classes were taught by **highly qualified teachers** in High Minority Schools
- 88.5 % of classes were taught by **experienced teachers** in Low Minority Schools
- 83.9 % of classes were taught by **experienced teachers** in High Minority Schools

As is evident in the data presented, **highly qualified teachers** are equitably distributed across Wyoming elementary schools. There is a small inequity relative to **experienced** teachers in both the poverty and minority subgroups.

#### Secondary Percentage by Poverty:

- 97.6 % of classes were taught by **highly qualified teachers** in Low Poverty Schools
- 97.0 % of classes were taught by **highly qualified teachers** in High Poverty Schools
- 86.9 % of classes were taught by **experienced teachers** in Low Poverty Schools
- 87.2 % of classes were taught by **experienced teachers** in High Poverty Schools

#### Secondary Percentage by Minority:

- 96.7 % of classes were taught by **highly qualified teachers** in Low Minority Schools
- 96.4 % of classes were taught by **highly qualified teachers** in High Minority Schools
- 85.7 % of classes were taught by **experienced** teachers in Low Minority Schools
- 87.2 % of classes were taught by **experienced** teachers in High Minority Schools

In both the poverty and minority categories at the secondary level, the statewide data indicates that **highly qualified teachers** and **experienced teachers** are equitably distributed.