

Table V

Functions of Technical Staff and Failure Rates

The staffing of minimum competency offices in state education agencies follows the pattern of state assessment offices and often includes the same personnel. Thirteen states reported technical staff employed to upgrade tests, and 10 employed testing personnel to provide local assistance. Technical assistance is provided to local school districts in interpreting test scores and using the results by 26 states, and in the administration of tests by 22 states.

Local education agency personnel receiving assistance from the state agency include principals (19 states), local education agency administrators (24 states), and teachers (17 states). The Texas Education Agency reported that its personnel give workshops to regional educational service center personnel, who in turn provide in-service and other assistance to local or local education agency personnel.

Minimum Competency
 Table V
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State	Part: Functions of Technical Staff							11th Grade					
	Technical Staff Emplo Upgrade tests	Technical Staff to: Provide local assistance	Local Assistance Given		Groups Receiving Assistance			Part 11 : Failure Rates					
			Administer tests	Interpret scores using results	each teacher	Principals	LEA admin	Overall Initial	1984-85	Minority	Non-minority		
Alabama	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2%	2%	4%	1%	Of a possible four attempts	
Alaska - No program													
Arizona	N	N	N	Y: Law	N	N	Y: Law	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Arkansas	Y	Y	Y: Test Coordinator	Y Workshops	Y	Y	Y Usually test coordi- nator's principals and counselors	NA	NA	NA	NA		
California	N	N	Y Primarily during 1977-78	N	N	N	N	NR	NR	12th : 9%	6%	11th : 78%	64%
Colorado	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No data	- - -				
Connecticut	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Reading : 4%	N	N	N		
Delaware	Does not apply		Provide suggestion on how to use item bank in putting together test	N	N	N	hen tern bank first came out	NA	NA	NA	NA		
District of Columbia	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	50%	50%	N	N		

SOURCE : Data Compiled for the Office of Technology Assessment by Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 1985.

Minimum Competency

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State	Part I: Functions of Technical Staff				Groups Receiving Assistance			Part 11: Failure Rates			
	Technical Staff Employed to:		Local Assistance Given	Interpret scores using results				Overall		1984-85	
	Upgrade tests	Provide local assistance	Administer tests					Initial 1984-85	Minority	Non-minority	
Florida (Communication reading and writing combined)	N	N	Y	Y	Trailing workshops			8% 3 6	12% 1 6	White 7 Black 26 Hispanic 20	Math : White 10 Black 32 Hispanic 22
	SEA staff may only be hired if the legislature authorized positions; the legislature has authorized positions, but not with specific charge to do either of these.										
Georgia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Reading 8 Math 13%	Reading 5% Math 119	Reading 16% Math 29%	Reading 2 Math 4
Hawaii	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Idaho	Y	Y	Y	Y	: Also counselors	N	: Test administrators	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	Not applicable										
Indiana	No program										
Iowa	No program										
Kansas	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Will possibly collect this data near; at present they only report percentage of students who meet and exceed standard in two subject areas.			
Kentucky	Y: Changed	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	NA	NA	NA	NA
Louisiana	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NR	NR	NR	NR
Maine	No program										
Maryland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NR	NR	NR	NR
Massachusetts	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	NA	NA	NA
				Workshops							

Minimum Competency
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State	I Part I: Function of Technical Staff							Part II: Failure Rates				
	Technical Staff		Meal Assistance		Groups Receiving							
	Empl. Upgrade tests	to: Provide local assistance	Mdnubuster tests	n t e r scores being results	Teachers	rincipal	LEA admin	Overall		1984-85		
								Initial	1904-85	Minority	bon-minority	
Michigan - No program												
Minnesota - No program												
Mississippi	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Too soon for data - - - - -				
Missouri	Y: Has tapered off as need decline	N	N	Y conferences---	Y	Y	N	36%	23%	NR	NR	
Montana - No program												
Nebraska	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Nevada	Y: 5-6 years ago. Review by ACT, panel of experts	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Writing 18%	Writing 2-3% Math 3: 20% Math 11: 10%	No data	No data	
New Hampshire	- No program							Reading has changed although test more difficult				
New Jersey	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	NR	8%	NR	NR	
New Mexico	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	24%	10%	14%	2	
New York	N	N	N	f: If LEA's Request it.	N	N	Y	Pupil Evaluation Test (Qes 3,5,6,8,9) lot 25% Very different I Regents Comety , Test Slight- Reading 10% better Writing 20% Math 30 Regents Exams Stayed English he & Math same 20% ,				

(1) Minority figure is unweighted average of figures for Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans (14%, 9a, 21% respectively) . "Other" minority groups failure rate is 110.

Minimum Competency
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	Technical Staff Employed to:		Local Assistance Given		Groups Receiving Assistance			Overall		19134-135	
	Provide tests	local assistance	Administer tests	using results	Teachers	Principals	LEA admin.	Initial	19134-85	Minority	Non-minority
North Carolina	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	17%	10%	NA	NA
North Dakota - No program											
Ohio		N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Oklahoma - No program											
Oregon	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pennsylvania	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Available from State Summary of Results 1984, Tables 7-18			
Rhode Island - No program											
South Carolina	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Grade 1 Reading 30% Math: 32%	Grade 1 leading 20% Math: 19%	NR	NR
South Dakota - No program											
Tennessee - Not available for Interview											
Texas	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	34%	24% ¹	32%	10%

(1) Failure rates reported are for 9th grade only. Other grades are not scored pass/fail. Minority figure is estimated averaging Hispanic and Black scores across reading and math. Minority scores for writing were not available. Average of reading and math failure rates in 1985 for Blacks was 35, for Hispanics, 25. Steady improvement has been shown in all races, the greatest improvement being among blacks. In 1980 Blacks scored 409 below whites. Now the difference is 25. Overall scores showed a drop in 1985. This was attributed to the simultaneous pilot testing of next year's test (which is harder). The combined affects of a harder test and a longer test probably resulted in lower scores on the TABS portion.

Minimum competency

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	Technical Staff Employed to to:		Local Assistance Given		Groups Receiving Assistance			Overall		1984-85	
	Upgrade tests	Provide local assistance	Administer test	interpret scores using results	Teachers	Principals	LEA admin.	Initial	1984-85	Minority	Non-minority
Utah	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	NA	NA	NA	NA
Vermont	N	N	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA
Virginia (10th Grade)	Y	N	N	N	NA	NA	NA	18%	5%	10%	3%
Washington-	No program										
West Virginia	- No program yet in place; see Table VIII										
Wisconsin	-Not available for interview										
Wyoming	- No state data; district required to assess										