

NCATEThe Standard of Excellence
in Teacher Preparation

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About NCATE

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About NCATE:

Teaching children—to recognize letters, to read for the first time, to understand how a tree grows—is one of the most important jobs in America. The nation's future depends, in large part, on how well it is done.

NCATE is the profession's mechanism to help establish high quality teacher preparation. Through the process of professional accreditation of schools, colleges and departments of education, NCATE works to make a difference in the quality of teaching and teacher preparation today, tomorrow, and for the next century. NCATE's performance-based system of accreditation fosters competent classroom teachers and other educators who work to improve the education of all P-12 students. NCATE believes every student deserves a caring, competent, and highly qualified teacher.

NCATE was founded in 1954. Five groups were instrumental in the creation of NCATE: the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC), the National Education Association (NEA), the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), and the National School Boards Association (NSBA). When NCATE was founded as an independent accrediting body, it replaced AACTE as the agency responsible for accreditation in teacher education. These groups represented the field at large at that time. They recognized the need for a strong, independent, quality assurance mechanism composed of all key stakeholders in education.

- [NCATE's Mission](#)
- [NCATE Makes A Difference in Teacher Preparation](#)

NCATE is the teaching profession's mechanism to help to establish high quality teacher, specialist, and administrator preparation. Through the process of professional accreditation of schools, colleges and departments of education, NCATE works to make a difference in the quality of teaching, teachers, school specialists and administrators. NCATE believes every student deserves a caring, competent and highly qualified teacher.

- [NCATE's Strategic Goals and Objectives](#) chart the course for its performance-based accreditation system.

NCATE currently accredits **652 colleges of education** with nearly 100 more seeking NCATE accreditation.

✓ NCATE is a coalition of [33 Member Organizations](#) of teachers, teacher educators, content specialists, and local and state policy makers. All are committed to quality teaching, and together, the coalition represents over 3 million individuals.

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NCATE works to make a difference in the quality of teaching and teacher preparation today, tomorrow, and for the next century.

• [more testimonials](#)

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✓ The [U. S. Department of Education](#) and the [Council for Higher Education Accreditation](#) recognize NCATE as a professional accrediting body for teacher preparation.

Contact our [publication department](#) if you would like a copy of our brochure.

-  [NCATE's Role in a System of Quality Assurance for the Teaching Profession: The Continuum of Teacher Preparation and Development \(graphic presentation\)](#)
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NCATE is the professional accrediting organization for schools, colleges, and departments of education in the United States. It is a coalition of over 30 organizations representing teachers, teacher educators, policymakers, and the public.