



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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CONTACT:  
MARILYN ERRETT: CTC (916) 445-7912  
HILARY MCLEAN: CDE (916) 319-0818

## **87% of New Teachers Retained through BTSA**

SACRAMENTO—Eighty-seven percent of new teachers in California participating in the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) program are still in the classroom in their fourth year of teaching. Nationally, only about fifty-percent of new teachers are still teaching after five years.

The difference? BTSA, a program jointly administered by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) and the California Department of Education (CDE) that provides essential support, assessment, and feedback to beginning teachers during their critical first years in the classroom.

“Beginning teachers are challenged by the realities of teaching students on a full-time basis,” noted P. David Pearson, Chair of the Commission. “The state’s commitment to the BTSA program is really paying off in higher teacher retention during those formative years.”

This year, over 28,000 beginning teachers will participate in the program. There are 150 BTSA programs throughout the state, working in more than 1,000 school districts in California. All newly credentialed teachers are eligible to participate in California’s BTSA program.

"Effective teachers are the most critical component to student success," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell. "Unfortunately, too many new teachers leave the profession after just a few years in the classroom. The BTSA program provides important support and training to help new teachers start their teaching career successfully. As a result, most teachers who participate in BTSA stay in the profession and are well prepared to help students succeed."

In fall 2006, a web-based retention data system was developed to gather the following information about participating teachers. The following data is gathered for each individual participant:

- Is the individual still teaching?
- Is the individual in a leadership position in education?
- Is the individual on leave, but planning to return to the profession?
- Is the individual no longer teaching?

Overall,

- More than 92.2 percent of the 2005-06 participating teachers are teaching after two years and 87 percent of the 2003-04 participating teachers are teaching in the fourth year.
- Teaching status of the participating teachers “Unknown” ranged from 6 percent in 2005-06 to 11 percent in 2003-04.
- Little more than two percent are confirmed as no longer teaching.

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