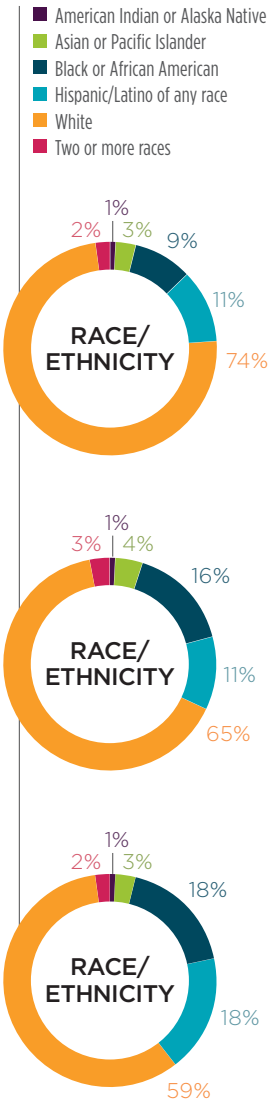
The U.S. Teacher Shortage

DISAGGREGATING THE DATA

For decades, alarm bells have been ringing over the presumed teacher shortage across the United States' K-12 school systems. While it's true that specific states and certain school systems struggle to attract and retain highly qualified teachers who want to stay in the profession, the numbers of teachers nationwide does not differ that much over the past five years. But a deep dive into the data does show some trends. What does today's population of teacher candidates look like? Which states produce the most teachers, and in which subject areas are they most in demand? How many enroll in training programs—and how many complete those programs? Let's check the numbers.

WHAT DOES TODAY'S POPULATION OF TEACHER CANDIDATES LOOK LIKE?

Individuals Enrolled in Teacher Preparation Programs, AY* 2012–13



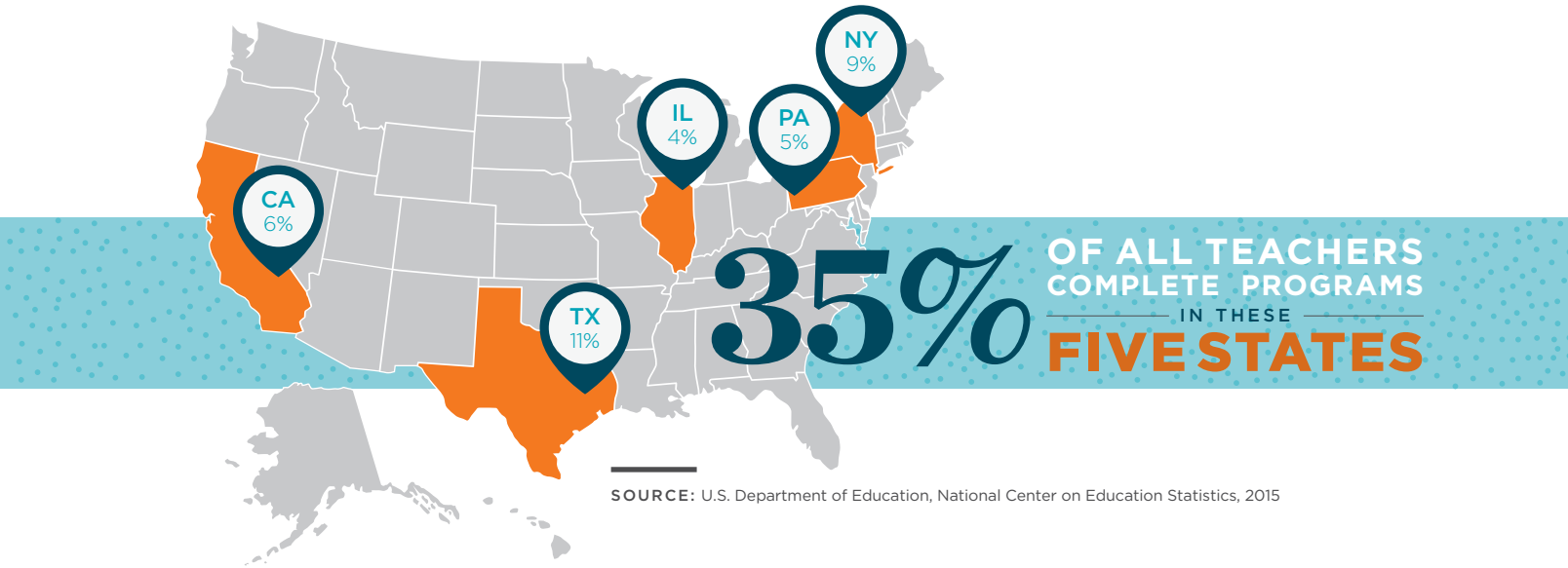
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, 2015

NOTE: Data on enrollment by gender and race/ethnicity were not available for all teacher preparation programs. Some teacher preparation programs provided only the total number of students enrolled; thus, the sum of the number of students enrolled by characteristic will not equal the total. Percentages may not sum to 100. The 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, and Virgin Islands submitted a state *Title II* report in 2014.

* AY = Assessment Year; IHE = Institutes of Higher Learning

WHICH STATES PRODUCE THE MOST TEACHERS?

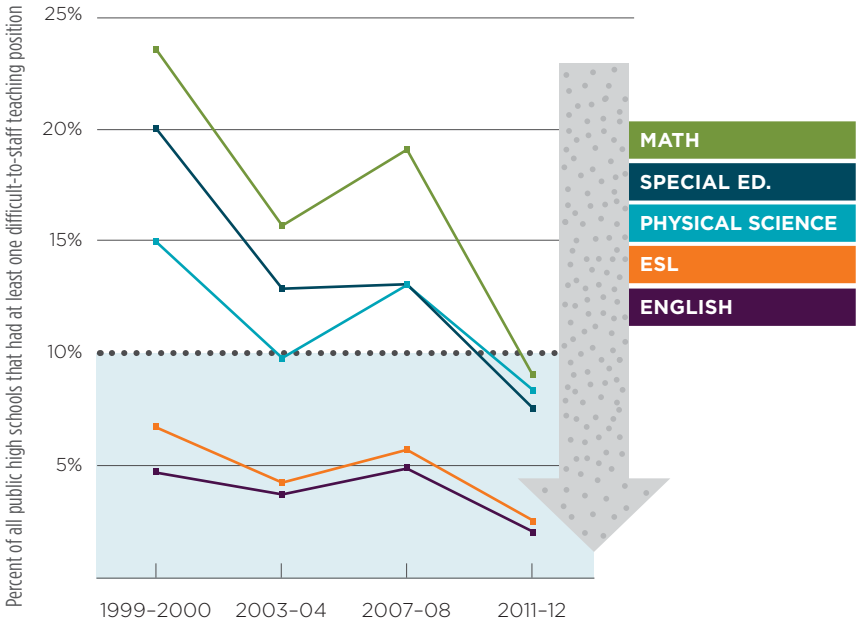
Top 5 Teacher-Producing States, 2013



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center on Education Statistics, 2015

IN WHICH SUBJECT AREAS ARE TEACHERS MOST IN DEMAND?

Percent of All Public High Schools with Hard-to-Fill Teacher Positions by Subject



SOURCE: Malkus, Mulvaney Hoyer, & Sparks, 2015

HOW MANY ENROLL—AND HOW MANY COMPLETE TRAINING PROGRAMS?

Teacher Preparation Enrollment and Completion Numbers, 2010–2014*

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center on Education Statistics, 2015

*Includes state and territories. Enrollees include all state-approved teacher preparation programs, traditional, and university-based and non-university-based alternative programs.