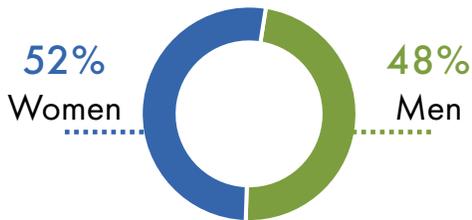


Profiles of Certified Teachers Who Graduated from the College of Micronesia-FSM in the Federated States of Micronesia

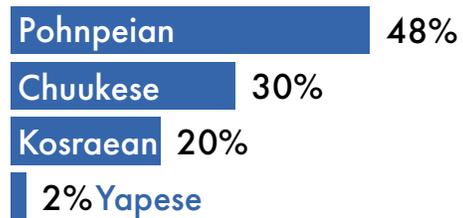
Research outside of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has shown that students of certified teachers may have higher achievement when compared to students of partially or non-certified teachers.^{1, 2} In the FSM, certified teachers must earn at least an associate degree and pass the National Standardized Test for Teachers (NSTT).³ To learn more about certified teachers in the FSM, REL Pacific looked at the demographic and academic profiles of 367 teachers who graduated from the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) and passed the NSTT from 2012 to 2016.⁴

What we know about COM-FSM graduates who passed the NSTT and became certified teachers

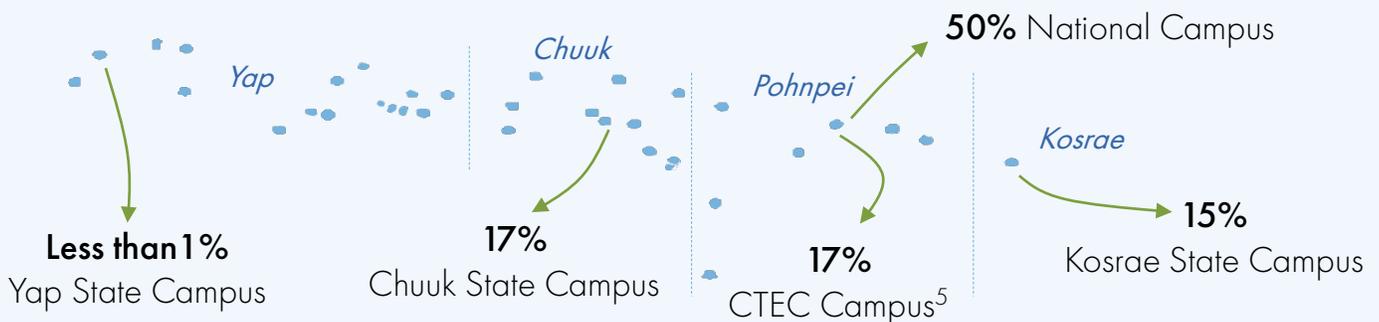
Just over half of teachers were women



Almost half of teachers were Pohnpeian



Teachers graduated from various COM-FSM campuses



Nearly a quarter of teachers earned multiple degrees or certificates from COM-FSM



76%

earned a single degree or certificate from COM-FSM (276 teachers)

✦ 22% earned two degrees or certificates (80 teachers)

✦ 2% earned three degrees or certificates (8 teachers)

6%

earned a certificate of achievement

98%

earned an associate degree

22%

earned a third-year certificate of achievement⁶

Many teachers graduated with an education-related major for at least one degree or certificate of achievement



67%

completed an education-related major for at least one degree or certificate. The most common *non-education* major was Liberal Arts.

- ✦ Most common associate degrees:
- ✦ Teacher Education-Elementary (30%)
 - ✦ Liberal Arts (27%)

- ✦ Most common third-year certificate was Teacher Preparation-Elementary (75%)
- ✦ Most common one-year certificate was Elementary Education (41%)

Certified teachers earned scores of 70% or higher on the NSTT content areas of English, math, and science⁷



English

97%

70%

77%

average score
range 70–97%



Math

98%

70%

80%

average score
range 70–98%



Science

100%

70%

77%

average score
range 70–100%

Teachers in the FSM must earn an associate degree or higher and pass the NSTT to become certified. The 367 teachers in this sample met these requirements. Many exceeded the requirements by earning multiple degrees or certificates and scoring an average of 7 to 10 points higher than the minimum English, math, and science scores needed to pass the NSTT.

Notes

Darling-Hammond, L., Berry, B., & Thoreson, A. (2001). Does teacher certification matter? Evaluating the evidence. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 23(1), 57–77. (Endnote 1)

Wayne, A. J., & Youngs, P. (2003). Teacher characteristics and student achievement gains: A review. *Review of Educational Research*, 73(1), 89–122. (Endnote 2)

The National Standardized Test for Teachers (NSTT) is a national assessment administered throughout the four states of FSM. It assesses both content knowledge (in areas such as English, math, and science) and pedagogy (application of teaching methods). (Endnote 3)

Data sources included teacher demographic, academic experience, and NSTT score data provided by COM-FSM and the FSM Department of Education. (Endnote 4)

The Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) campus on Pohnpei primarily offers hospitality, tourism, technology, and trade programs. (Endnote 5)

Third-year certificates of achievement have a prerequisite of having earned an associate degree in a related field. (Endnote 6)

A minimum score of 70% is required to pass the English, math, and science portions of the NSTT. (Endnote 7)