

DIFFICULT

Boston Public Schools (MA)

3/10

The process for dismissing an ineffective veteran teacher in Boston Public Schools is difficult. Although the timeline for dismissal is reasonable in theory, once teachers are granted tenure the decision to dismiss them is highly vulnerable to challenge.

How hard is it to dismiss an ineffective veteran teacher in Boston Public Schools?

FACTOR	INDICATOR		DATA	SCORE
1. Does tenure protect veteran teachers from performance-based dismissal?	1a. Can teachers earn tenure or the equivalent?		Yes.	0/1
	1b. Do tenured teachers revert to probationary status if rated ineffective?		No.	0/1
2. How long does it take to dismiss an ineffective veteran teacher?	2a. What is the shortest amount of time it can take to recommend an ineffective veteran teacher for dismissal?	2ai. How frequently do veteran teachers receive an evaluation rating?	Over a year. (Teachers on “two-year self-directed growth plans” are placed on an “improvement plan” if they are rated “unsatisfactory” at the end of the first year. Improvement plans last for 30 days to a year.)	2/3
		2a.ii. How many times must a veteran teacher be rated ineffective to be placed in remediation?		
		2a.iii. How long must veteran teachers be in remediation before they can be dismissed?		
	2b. How long is the grievance process, excluding arbitration?		Eight to nine months.	0/1
3. How vulnerable is an ineffective veteran teacher's dismissal to challenge?	3a. What is the minimum number of observations required to dismiss an ineffective veteran teacher?		At least five (two to place an ineffective teacher in remediation and at least three during remediation).	1/1
	3b. Can a veteran teacher appeal an evaluation if there are no acknowledged procedural violations?		Yes.	0/1
	3c. Can a veteran teacher appeal a dismissal decision or recommendation more than once, either within the district or externally?		Yes.	0/1
	3d. Can a veteran teacher appeal a dismissal decision beyond the school district?		Yes: to the commissioner for arbitration; this decision is subject to judicial review.	0/1

Total points

3/10

Note: All data were collected from the NCTQ's [teacher-contract database](#), the ECS's [fifty-state comparison of teacher-tenure policies \(2014\)](#), and from other district documents (including teacher contracts, board policies, and employee handbook) during the spring and summer of 2016.