

For Immediate Release
December 18, 2006

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NATIONAL COUNCIL ON TEACHER QUALITY TO LAUNCH FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND RESEARCH TOOL FOR THE EDUCATION COMMUNITY

**-- New Online Resource Will Give Education Journalists, Researchers,
and Policy Makers Easy, Immediate Access to Teacher Contracts and
Agreements for the 50 Largest U.S. School Districts, All in one Place --**

Who: National Council on Teach Quality President, Kate Walsh
Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights President, William Taylor
Independent Journalist, Joe Williams
Education Consultant, Julia Koppich

What: The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) will unveil a first of its kind research tool, "**TEACHER RULES, ROLES AND RIGHTS,**" for education journalists, researchers, and policy makers. For the first time ever, the public will gain access to teacher contracts, personnel handbooks, salary schedules and more.... for the 50 largest school districts in the United States and all in one place. NCTQ developed a web site (www.nctq.org/cb) that posts the full text of these policies but also an incredible database that allows users to sort the contents of these contracts in hundreds of ways.

The database allows users to compare teacher salaries, benefits, school calendars, class size requirements, union rules, leave of absences, evaluations, tenure, transfers, and termination with another district – all in one click. Users can look at only one district or compare data from as many districts as needed. The portal is the first of its kind- empowering users to compare nearly 300 distinct provisions in contracts and handbooks that impact the day-to-day operations of school districts and inform strategic decision-making.

Why: The goal of the National Council on Teacher Quality is to create a user-friendly, transparent source of information to help the public analyze and compare teacher contracts and handbooks in different markets. Despite the fact that contracts and handbooks have an enormous impact on the operations of schools and student learning, they are often hard to find and their contents generally escape public scrutiny.

When: This new tool will be officially launched on:
Thursday, January 4, 2006
10:00am, EST

Where: The Charles Sumner School
1201 17th St. NW
Washington, D.C.

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