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## What Makes An “A” Teacher? Education Think Tank Releases Booklet Highlighting Most Important Qualities

*New publication challenges common assumptions*

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) this week released *Increasing the Odds*, a publication that summarizes ground-breaking research regarding the qualities shared by effective teachers, revealing some surprising results. This booklet focuses on the impact on teacher effectiveness of factors that are currently hot-button issues of intense debate.

Operating under the belief that well-designed policy should be based on good research, NCTQ aims to arm leaders with the most accurate information to increase our chances of recruiting and retaining good teachers across the country.

*Increasing the Odds* is a valuable tool for policy makers and educators because it provides the straight story on the qualities that make exceptional teachers and demonstrates how good public policy will lead to better teachers. This booklet uniquely addresses the impact on teacher quality of teachers holding advanced degrees, their certification status, how literate they are, the coursework taken in college and even matching teacher and student race. It also recognizes the supreme importance on the hard-to-measure ‘soft attributes’ like critical thinking, leadership and motivational skills.

“Because current state and local policies across the country do not always reflect the best research, it is my firm hope that this information will help educators and policy leaders explore new and better ways to improve teacher quality,” said Kate Walsh, President of NCTQ. “By packaging this research in a comprehensive yet concise manner, it is our goal to help recruit and retain teachers that we would all want for our own children.”

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