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N.Y. 'FLUNKS' ON TEACH STANDARD

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December 25, 2004 -- New York state's plan to meet federal teaching standards by the end of next school year has received an "F" from a teacher advocacy group.

A new report by the National Council on Teacher Quality found the state is failing in its effort to place a "highly qualified teacher" in every classroom by 2005-06.

The standard is a requirement of President Bush's No Child Left Behind Law, which defines "highly qualified teachers" as those with strong knowledge in a subject.

But New York's point system is "too eager" to hand out credit to veteran teachers, the report says. *David Andreatta*

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