



November 2006

**AN OPEN LETTER TO STATE SCHOOL CHIEFS**

Last May, the National Council on Teacher Quality released a groundbreaking study, *What Education Schools Aren't Teaching About Reading—and What Elementary Teachers Aren't Learning* ([www.nctq.org/nctq/images/nctq\\_reading\\_study\\_exec\\_summ.pdf](http://www.nctq.org/nctq/images/nctq_reading_study_exec_summ.pdf)). The primary findings were disheartening: in a representative sampling of education schools in 35 states, only 15 percent appear to provide future elementary teachers with the most basic knowledge of effective reading instruction.

Overall we are pleased with the response to this important study, particularly from the many schools of education who view our study as an opportunity to examine their own curricula. We have received a number of requests from groups asking us to apply our methodology to their programs.

**In that regard, we would like to formally offer a similar comprehensive analysis of reading courses taught in all teacher preparation programs in your state.** As in the May 2006 study, our goal would be to examine the syllabi and all of the required texts in required reading courses to assess the degree to which these courses reflect scientifically based principles of reading instruction. *Unless the state chooses otherwise, these reviews will be private, with results not released to the public.*

Because we already have the methodology, expertise, and database in place, we can offer this service to you at a relatively low cost. In addition, we are likely to have already evaluated most of the textbooks currently required in many of the courses. There would be relatively little work for your staff other than to supply us with the most current syllabi for all required reading courses at as many institutions as you wish to examine. We would prepare a short report for you and your board summarizing the results.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity further, please contact us. Improving reading instruction for tomorrow's teachers is crucial work, as you know. Too many of our children, especially poor and minority students, are not getting the help they need in learning to read. This is an easy and inexpensive way for you to make sure that your state's schools of education are doing their part to improve public education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Walsh".

Kate Walsh  
President