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ALASKA RECEIVES FAILING MARKS FOR ITS TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT— LABELED ‘LAST IN CLASS’

—Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia on states’ teacher policies, concluding that many Alaska’s policies are counterproductive to the nation’s teacher quality goals—

Alaska falls dead last among all 50 states and the District of Columbia in rankings.

Washington, DC -- The *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* is the first project of its kind to provide a 360-degree detailed analysis of how states are hurting or helping teacher quality--and what they can do to fix broken and anachronistic policies.

Across six areas of teacher policy from recruitment to compensation, Alaska ranks at the VERY bottom of states with no grade higher than a “D” in any of the six areas NCTQ assessed. The state earned an “F” grade in three of the areas.

“Alaska’s policies are in need of a massive overhaul,” said Kate Walsh, president of NCTQ. “It’s time to turn in the gas-guzzling clunker in exchange for the hybrid.”

Among the findings:

- Unlike most states, Alaska does not even claim to offer a route into the profession for “non traditional” candidates, such as career changers.
- The state has lax oversight of its education schools; doing little to ensure the quality of students going in and teachers coming out of these programs.
- Across the board, Alaska neglects the preparation of special education teachers for teaching students with disabilities.

Despite the overall bleak findings, Alaska gets favorable mention for piloting a three-year performance pay program in which teachers can earn up to \$5,000 when working in schools where student performance improves.

To download copies of the Alaska report, which includes national comparisons, or to purchase printed copies of the report, visit the NCTQ website, www.nctq.org. For questions about the report, please contact Lisa Cohen at (310) 395-2544 or lisa@lisacohen.org or Molly Jackman at (202) 393-0020 (ext. 15) or mjackman@nctq.org.

NCTQ -- comprised of reform-minded Democrats, Republicans, and Independents -- advocates for reforms in a broad range of teacher policies and seeks to lend transparency and accountability to the three institutions that have the greatest impact on teacher quality: state governments, colleges of education, and teachers' unions.

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