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COLORADO RECEIVES LOW MARKS ON TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT-- LABELED 'IN NEED OF SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT'

–Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia analyzing states' teacher policies, concluding that many Colorado policies are counterproductive to the nation's teacher quality goals –

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.

While Colorado ranks in the upper half of all states, its overall performance was quite low. In the six areas of teacher policy assessed—ranging from teacher admissions standards to compensation—the state earned four “D” grades, two “C” grades and a “B” grade.

“Colorado’s policies, like all states’, are in need of an 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:

- Colorado neglects the preparation of special education teachers, failing to ensure that these teachers are prepared to teach students with disabilities.
- The state does not require that schools evaluate teachers every year nor does it require that a teacher’s classroom effectiveness be the preponderant consideration of an evaluation.
- Colorado grants teachers tenure after only three years experience in the classroom.

Despite these bleak findings, there are bright spots. Unlike many states, Colorado does mandate that all teachers pass required licensing tests in a timely manner. The state is quite accommodating towards teachers from out of state who seek a Colorado teaching license. Furthermore, the state earns a best practice for its professional teaching standards which are both focused and measurable.

To download copies of the Colorado 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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