

June 27, 2007

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## **CONNECTICUT RECEIVES LOW MARKS FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT—TERMED “IN NEED OF SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT”**

—Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia on states’ teacher policies, concluding that while Connecticut takes a leadership role in some areas, many policies are counterproductive to the nation’s teacher quality goals —

Washington, DC -- The *State Teacher Policy Yearbook 2007* 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 Connecticut’s relative ranking was in the upper half of states, its overall performance was poor. In the six areas of teacher policy assessed, the state earned four “C” grades, one “D” grades, and an “F” grade.

“Connecticut’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:

- Connecticut neglects the preparation of special education teachers, failing to ensure that these teachers are prepared to teach students with disabilities.
- The state fails to ensure that elementary teachers know how to teach reading as a condition for licensure.

Despite these findings, Connecticut has some bright spots. It offers one of the few reasonably good non-traditional routes to certification, allowing qualified candidates to change careers and enter the teaching profession. In addition, Connecticut does a better job than most states collecting and reporting data on the equitable distribution of teachers.

To download copies of the Connecticut report, which includes national comparisons, or to purchase printed copies of the report, visit the NCTQ website, [www.nctq.org](http://www.nctq.org). For

questions about the report, please contact Lisa Cohen at (310) 395-2544 or [lisa@lisacohen.org](mailto:lisa@lisacohen.org) or Molly Jackman at (202) 393-0020 (ext. 15) or [mjackman@nctq.org](mailto: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.

*Funding for the State Teacher Policy Yearbook was provided by many private foundations, including the Achelis and Bodman Foundations, Bradley Foundation, Daniels Fund, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Gleason Foundation, Joyce Foundation, IBM Foundation, Koret Foundation, Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Milken Family Foundation, and Thomas B. Fordham Foundation. NCTQ accepts no government funding.*