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DELAWARE GETS LOW MARKS FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT-- LABELED 'IN NEED OF SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT'

—Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia on states' teacher policies, concluding that many of Delaware's teacher 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 Delaware'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 three Cs and three Ds.

"Delaware'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:

- Delaware neglects the preparation of special education teachers, failing to ensure that these teachers are prepared to teach students with disabilities.
- The state has lax oversight of its education schools; doing little to ensure the quality of students going in and teachers coming out.
- The state pays insufficient attention to the content preparation of elementary teachers, with flawed guidelines that are likely producing teachers with gaps in essential core subject areas such as American history.

Despite the bleak overall findings, there are a few bright spots. Delaware does a good job ensuring that its secondary education teachers are prepared in their subject area. The state is also developing a "student growth model" reporting student achievement gains over time.

To download copies of the Delaware 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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