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LOUISIANA GETS MEDIOCRE MARKS FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT-- LABELLED AS “WEAK BUT PROGRESSING”

–Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia analyzing states’ teacher policies, concluding that while Louisiana 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* is the first project of its kind to provide a 360-degree detailed analysis of *any and every* policy that states have impacting the quality of teachers, specifically their recruitment, preparation, licensing, evaluation and compensation.

While Louisiana did better than most states, its overall performance shows how much work is still ahead. In the six areas of teacher policy reviewed, the state received grades of four Cs and two Ds.

“Louisiana’s policies, like those in all states, 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:

- Louisiana is neglecting the preparation of its special education teachers. It is doing very little to ensure that special education teachers are well-trained to work with special needs students.
- The state is not doing a good job of evaluating teachers. Louisiana requires that veteran teachers, those with four or more years of experience, be evaluated only once every three years.
- The state allows some teachers who do not pass the state’s required licensing tests to keep their jobs for up to three years.

Despite these bleak findings, Louisiana is doing a better job than most states of ensuring that secondary teachers have the subject matter preparation they need to be effective in the classroom.

To download copies of the Louisiana 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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