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MAINE GETS FAILING MARKS FOR 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 Maine's policies are counterproductive to the nation's teacher quality goals–

Maine is tied for dead last place among all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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.

Maine failed to earn any grade higher than D in the six areas NCTQ assessed, including admission standards into teaching, licensure and compensation reform.

“Maine's policies, like 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 many findings:

- Unlike most professions, the state does not require that schools evaluate teachers annually nor does it require that a teacher's classroom effectiveness be the preponderant consideration of an evaluation.
- The state has lax oversight of its education schools; Maine does little to monitor the quality of students going in and the quality of teachers coming out of its programs.
- The state pays little attention to the content preparation of elementary teachers, failing to lay out the specific knowledge needed to teach in the elementary classroom. The state has no specific requirements in any of the core subjects such as American history that elementary teachers need to know.

Despite these bleak findings, Maine has one bright spot in its policies: licensure reciprocity. The state does not place excessive burdens on out-of-state teachers seeking to transfer their licenses to Maine.

To download copies of the Maine 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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