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**MASSACHUSETTS TEACHER POLICIES  
EARN HIGH RANKING  
BUT STILL GET MEDIOCRE MARKS IN NEW REPORT--**

–Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia on states’ teacher policies, concluding that while Massachusetts takes a leadership role, some 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.

Although Massachusetts is in an elite group of four states, overall performance shows how much work is still ahead. In the six areas of teacher policy reviewed, including admission standards into teaching, licensure and compensation reform, Massachusetts earned mixed grades of two Bs, two Cs, and two D.

“As is true for all states, Massachusetts’ approach to the teaching profession needs an overhaul,” said Kate Walsh, president of NCTQ. “Unlike many states, Massachusetts does appear to recognize this need and is showing real signs of progress. ”

Among the findings:

- Massachusetts appears to have the strongest policy in the country to ensure that aspiring elementary teachers take the right kinds of courses in preparation for the content they’ll need to teach in the classroom.
- Massachusetts has some of the country’s strongest licensure policies. The state does not license elementary teacher teachers unless they can demonstrate sufficient knowledge of reading instruction. Unlike many states, all new teachers must pass licensure exams before being allowed in the classroom. The state is also particularly accommodating to teachers transferring from out of state seeking licensure portability.

To download copies of the Massachusetts 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.

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